



**2019-20**

**CATALOG**

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FLORIDA COASTAL SCHOOL OF LAW

8787 Baypine Road

Jacksonville, Florida 32256

904-680-7700

## ACADEMIC CALENDARS

2019 Fall Intersession		
Monday, July 22, 2019		Last Day to Drop Without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility
Monday, August 12, 2019		Intersession 2 Credit Course Begins
Monday, August 19, 2019		Intersession 1 Credit Course Begins
Friday, August 23, 2019		Intersession Final Exams for Both 1 and 2 Credit Courses
2019 Fall Semester		
Saturday, August 10, 2019		MPRE EXAM
Wednesday, August 21, 2019	- Thursday, August 22, 2019	Orientation (Fall 2019 Admits)
Monday, August 26, 2019		First Day of Class for All Students
Monday, August 26, 2019	- Friday, August 30, 2019	Add/Drop Period
Friday, August 30, 2019		Last Day to Drop without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility
Monday, September 2, 2019		Labor Day - No Classes
Tuesday, September 3, 2019		Tuition and Fee Payment Due
Monday, November 11, 2019		Veterans Day
Tuesday, November 26, 2019		Last Day of Classes (Follow Monday Schedule)
Tuesday, November 26, 2019		Storm Make-up Day (if needed)
Wednesday, November 27, 2019	- Friday, November 29, 2019	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Classes
Wednesday, November 27, 2019	- Sunday, December 1, 2019	Reading Period
Monday, December 2, 2019	- Friday, December 13, 2019	Final Exam Period
2020 Spring Intersession		
Monday, December 23, 2019		Last Day to Drop Without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility
Monday, January 6, 2020		Intersession 2 Credit Course Begins
Monday, January 13, 2020		Intersession 1 Credit Course Begins
Friday, January 17, 2020		Intersession Final Exams for Both 1 and 2 Credit Courses
2020 Spring Semester		
Monday, January 20, 2020		Martin Luther King Holiday
Tuesday, January 21, 2020		First Day of Class for Returning Students Only
Tuesday, January 21, 2020	- Wednesday, January 22, 2020	Orientation (Spring 2020 Admits)
Tuesday, January 21, 2020	- Friday, January 24, 2020	Add/Drop Period for Returning Students
Friday, January 24, 2020		Last Day to Drop without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility for Returning Students
Monday, January 27, 2020		Tuition and Fee Payment Due for Returning Students
Monday, January 27, 2020		First Day of Class for Spring 2020 Admits and Spring 2020 Accelerated Admits Only
Monday, January 27, 2020	- Friday, January 31, 2020	Add/Drop Period for Spring Admits Only
Friday, January 31, 2020		Last Day to Drop without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility for Spring Admits Only
Monday, February 3, 2020		Tuition and Fee Payment Due for Spring Admits Only
Monday, February 17, 2020		Presidents Day - No Classes
Monday, March 16, 2020	- Friday, March 20, 2020	Spring Break - No Classes

Monday, March 23, 2020		Classes Resume
Tuesday, April 28, 2020		Last Day of Classes for Returning Students (Follow Monday Schedule)
Wednesday, April 29, 2020		Storm Make-up Day (if needed)
Wednesday, April 29, 2020	- Sunday, May 3, 2020	Reading Period
Monday, May 4, 2020		Last Day of Classes for Spring Admits Only
Monday, May 4, 2020	- Friday, May 15, 2020	Final Exam Period for Returning Students
Monday, May 11, 2020	- Friday, May 22, 2020	Final Exam Period for Spring Admits
Friday, May 15, 2020		Graduation Ceremony
<b>2020 Summer Intersession</b>		
Monday, May 4, 2020		Last Day to Drop Without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility
Monday, May 18, 2020	- Thursday, May 28, 2020	Intersession 2 Credit Course Begins
Friday, May 29, 2020		Intersession Final Exams
<b>2020 Summer Semester</b>		
Monday, June 1, 2020		First Day of Class for Returning Students
Monday, June 1, 2020	- Friday, June 5, 2020	Add/Drop Period
Friday, June 5, 2020		Last Day to Drop Without a "W" on Transcript and Without Financial Responsibility
Monday, June 8, 2020		Tuition and Fee Payment Due
Friday, July 3, 2020		Observe July 4th Independence Day - No Classes
Tuesday, July 21, 2020		Last Day of Class
Wednesday, July 22, 2020		Storm Make-up Day (if needed)
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	- Sunday, July 26, 2020	Reading Period
Monday, July 27, 2020	- Friday, July 31, 2020	Final Exam Period

## NON-JD PROGRAMS

<b>Fall 2019</b>	
First Day of Class	Monday, August 26
Drop/Add Ends	Friday, August 30
Last Day of Class	Friday, November 29
Final Exam Period	Monday, December 2 – Sunday, December 15
<b>Spring 2020</b>	
First Day of Class	Tuesday, January 21
Drop/Add Ends	Friday, January 24
Last Day of Class	Friday, May 1
Final Exam Period	Monday, May 4 – Sunday, May 17



## MISSION STATEMENT

Florida Coastal School of Law has consciously structured and defined itself on the basis of some significant differentiations from traditional law schools. Florida Coastal sets itself apart on the basis of its culture, a student outcome-centered orientation, a commitment to professional preparation, educational experience, service to underserved communities, and accountability of the faculty for market-leading student outcomes. These distinguishing characteristics aim toward establishing Florida Coastal as the benchmark of inclusive excellence in professional education for the 21st Century. In furtherance of this mission, it is committed to achieving the following objectives:

1. Provide a program of legal education designed to qualify graduates for admission to the Bar and enable them to participate effectively in the legal profession.
2. Offer an educational experience that prepares students to deal with both current and anticipated legal problems, responds to globalization, emphasizes skills training and professionalism, and facilitates appreciation for cultural diversity.
3. Attract a diverse student body, faculty, and staff motivated by the law school community's values and ideals.
4. Create an institutional climate that fosters respect, trust, collaboration, and meaningful interaction among students, faculty, and staff.
5. Provide the physical facilities, law library, and technological capacities to support the educational program, other institutional needs, and community and public service.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Lawyers and the legal profession have always been at the forefront of political, economic and social change. The present is no exception. Indeed, it is a particularly challenging and exciting time to contemplate a legal education. As you consider the pursuit of a legal education and a career in law, the first major decision you will face is the choice of a law school. The basic curriculum and the traditional three-year time period for legal education have remained very constant for over a century. Today, it is more important than ever that a law school take maximum advantage of this limited time to prepare its graduates to enter the profession well equipped to hit the ground running.

Since its founding, Florida Coastal School of Law (Coastal Law) has placed the student at the center of the institution's activities. At Coastal Law the study of law includes: acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of the law and an understanding of the legal system, as well as developing the critical thinking and lawyering skills essential to the practice of law. Consistently focusing on the students insures the proper balance of each of these components. We believe that excellence in teaching, including an emphasis on rigor; infusion of skills-training and multiculturalism into traditional courses; frequent student and faculty assessment with opportunity for feedback; and valuing listening and responding to student needs are essential hallmarks of a successful legal education. We further believe that this approach is essential to success on the Bar exam and will better position our graduates to be successful and inspirational in their legal careers.

The Coastal Law experience is also fostered by the commitment of the faculty to mentoring and creating a climate of collegiality. We believe this operates to eliminate barriers to the student-faculty partnership in the legal education endeavor. All of our faculty have "real world" experience they bring to the classroom and to the rest of the student-centered environment. Some have practiced with large urban law firms, some have judicial experience, some have corporate experience, and others have governmental legal experience. All are committed to mentoring and educating students in a collegial and professional atmosphere.

The information contained in our publications and on our website is designed to assist you in making an informed decision about the study of law and, in particular, whether Florida Coastal School of Law is the right fit for you. We encourage you to talk with our students, graduates, faculty and staff about the school. We welcome visitors and have students and staff ready to provide a tour and big picture presentation about the school. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Scott DeVito

Dean and Professor of Law

## OUR VISION OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Florida Coastal School of Law is founded upon the premise that students are our overarching priority. As you review this catalog, please do so with a critical eye and with attention to questions such as:

- Why not have a faculty that teaches and mentors?
- Why not establish multiculturalism as a norm rather than a mere aspiration?
- Why not build a law school community that regards students as learning partners?
- Why not stress, through effective role modeling, the intrinsic and instrumental value of service?
- Why not infuse ethics, international perspective, and technology throughout the program of study?

Coastal Law aims to distinguish itself as a forward-looking, globally interactive, and culturally diverse institution dedicated to having a positive impact on its students, the community, the legal profession, and the justice system.

We believe the value of your legal education is best assured by closely scrutinizing an institution's commitment to your personal and professional growth. As you contemplate your future, we urge you to challenge any law school you are considering to demonstrate how its programs, systems, and people will impact you and your future.

## FLORIDA COASTAL SCHOOL OF LAW

Florida Coastal School of Law offers a course of study leading to a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree. The program requires the completion of 90 credit hours for graduation. Coastal Law is dedicated to facilitating our students' legal education and pursuit of meaningful careers in traditional or innovative settings. Toward those ends, Coastal Law offers a quality legal education calibrated to the needs of its students, the community, and the profession. Coastal Law has a program that is responsive to concerns about the state of legal education, attentive to technology, premised upon humanistic values, appreciative of multiculturalism, and grounded in real-world experience. It also is dedicated to instilling an appreciation for the ethical demands of the legal profession, factoring the impact of globalization and technology, and serving the community.

Central to the achievement of the institution's purpose is a curriculum relevant to the existing and evolving needs of the community served by the legal profession. Coastal Law is committed to providing a thorough grounding in doctrine and essential skills such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, trial advocacy, and methods of dispute resolution. It also fosters an appreciation for the law's context and history and stresses professional responsibility. Meeting the needs of the profession and society by training attorneys who are well-schooled in essential skills and cognizant of a rapidly changing social and economic order is a hallmark of legal education at Coastal Law. A legal education increasingly has become recognized as crucial training for effective performance in a complex business world and other fields and a means for advancement therein. Coastal Law welcomes qualified students, whether they intend to practice law or not, and believes the educational process benefits from diversity in background and objectives.

### CAMPUS FACILITY AND SECURITY

As northeast Florida's only law school, Florida Coastal School of Law draws from and enhances a vibrant, diverse, and rapidly growing community that has positioned itself to be one of the leading cities of the next century.

Coastal Law campus is housed in an ADA compliant building in the Southside area of Jacksonville. The building, occupying a total of 218,088 square feet, is located at 8787 Baypine Road and is just blocks from I-95 and a short drive to John Turner Butler Boulevard and Phillips Highway (US 1). This location provides easy access to major arteries for Jacksonville and is only 20 minutes from downtown and the beaches.

The building was built in 1990 and was completely remodeled starting in late 2005 to house Coastal Law in 2006. Coastal Law is committed to providing adequate space for our students' needs. Since 2006, portions of the building have been remodeled to better accommodate the use and educational needs of our students. During the summer of 2018 the entrance, lobby, and grand atrium were renovated. The building houses classrooms, faculty offices, student spaces and offices, experiential learning, career services, library, IT, AT, security offices, the Dean's Suite, academic support departments, staff lounges, and a gym.

There is a parking garage attached to the building with 1,360 parking spaces and an additional 29 handicapped parking spaces that are open for all students and employees. There is additional parking on the street and visitors parking steps away from the entrance.

Under the direction of the Director of Security and Facilities, the building and grounds are maintained with a concern for safety and security. The building and grounds are regularly inspected and evaluated for needed repairs affecting safety and security hazards. The Coastal Law Security Department is located on the fourth floor, north wing, in Room #427. The department is open from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days a week unless special hours are notified in advance to the community for holiday closures, etc. Special operating hours are communicated to the Coastal community via email, and posted on the plasmas throughout the building.

Florida Coastal School of Law has been licensed by the Commission for Independent Education, Florida Department of Education. Additional information regarding this institution may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1414, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0400, toll free at 888-224-6684.

In 2002, Coastal Law was fully accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). Since 1952, the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has been approved by the United States Department of Education as the recognized national agency for the accreditation of professional schools of law. Further information may be obtained from the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, 750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611, at 312-988-6738, or at [www.abanet.org/legaled](http://www.abanet.org/legaled).

Florida Coastal School of Law's facilities meet the requirements as set forth in subsection 6E-2.004(9), of the Florida Administrative Code, including all local safety and health standards, such as fire, building, and sanitation. This information shall be made available to students upon request.

Florida Coastal School of Law is owned by Florida Coastal School of Law, Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of InfiLaw Holding, LLC. The members of the Board of Directors of Florida Coastal School of Law, Inc. are James J. Hanks, Jr. and Dennis J. Stone. Florida Coastal School of Law, Inc. is a foreign corporation, which was formed under the laws of the State of Delaware and qualified to transact business in the State of Florida.

## JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

In recent years Jacksonville has been rated among the top ten communities in which to live. With more than one million people on the northeast coast of Florida, and geographically the largest city in the United States (848 square miles), Jacksonville offers an abundance of convenient yet affordable lifestyle options in either urban, rural, river, or beach settings.

Historically an insurance, banking, and transportation center, Jacksonville has become a magnet for major corporations, international trade and technology-driven enterprises. In the field of medicine, the University of Florida and the Mayo Clinic have established a significant presence in the community. Cultural offerings are diverse and numerous, ranging from art museums to symphonies in the park. There are over 22 annual music festivals and over 27 live music venues throughout Jacksonville. Five southern rock bands were formed in Jacksonville including Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Allman Brothers Band.

Jacksonville has the largest urban park system in the United States. There are 1,000 miles of shoreline and 22 miles of beaches. The St. Johns River is one of the few northward-flowing rivers in the world and the longest north flowing river in the U.S. There are 22 reefs in Jacksonville and 33 off our beautiful coast. Finally, drop a line with over 60 fish species in our waters.

Jacksonville is home to the Jacksonville Jaguars and seven other pro sports teams. You can find 264 Jaguar prints on Bay Street from the Main Street Bridge to TIAA Bank Field. Jacksonville also hosts the Taxslayer Bowl, which is the sixth oldest college bowl, as well as the first event televised nationally. The first Florida Georgia game was held in Jacksonville in 1933. Also found downtown is the Gate River Run which is the largest 15K in the United States and the 26.2 With Donna, the National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

Already home of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and the prestigious Tournament Players Club Championship, the area cemented its status as the center of the golfing world with the establishment of the World Golf Village and the Golf Hall of Fame. There were 191,000 people in attendance at The Players Championship in 2015 – 50,000 cubic yards of sand were removed to create the famed island green on the 17th hole at the players.

Consistent with demographic trends and the community's dynamism, Jacksonville has evolved into a significant legal center comprised of large national firms, smaller local firms, government agencies, and private companies. As northeast Florida's only law school, Florida Coastal School of Law draws from and enhances a vibrant, diverse, and rapidly growing community that has positioned itself to be one of the leading cities of the next century.

## J.D. PROGRAM

Florida Coastal School of Law (Coastal Law) has a unique skills based program that is student-centered. Its programs are designed to advance students' success in law school, on the bar exam, and in their careers. The school's curriculum focuses on experiential education: the hands-on learning needed to equip graduates with the leadership, management, and interpersonal skills that are necessary for career success.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a solid grounding in the law and to enable them to be effective legal professionals. The program of study reflects the demands of the profession for a meaningful educational experience that incorporates history, internationalization, technology, interdisciplinary study, ethics and professionalism, multi-culturalism, and evolving trends and future challenges. The J.D. program is a three-year experience with a total of 90 credits. To remain in good standing and as a requirement for program completion, students must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0.

Our curriculum will expose students to both the transactional and litigation sides of the law and allow them to confidently pursue careers that align with their specific interests, strengths and goals.

Coastal Law students will learn by "doing" and, at graduation, be better positioned and more prepared to enter the legal profession with a comprehensive portfolio of work that will include contracts, trial and appellate documents and more.

The objective of legal education at Coastal Law is to broaden our students' vision and enhance their intellectual capacities so they are prepared to deal with present and future challenges confronting the legal system and society. In the initial phases of their law school experience, students are exposed to a variety of legal concepts, the legal process, values and ethics, lawyering skills, and diverse perspectives upon the law. Advanced course offerings enable students to expand their knowledge base in areas of special interest or facilitate broadened and textured understanding of the interactions between law and society. A required upper-level scholarly paper helps develop depth or expertise in a particular subject area. Courses touching upon legal ethics facilitate appreciation of the special responsibilities, expectations, and potential of lawyers. Experiential Learning programs provide practical experience in the course of learning.

## CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Professional Development (CPD) is our career counseling and resource center that provides support to students in all stages of the career planning process. Research has proven that hiring employers are interested in candidates who are professionally prepared with demonstrated hands-on legal experience. It is the two-fold goal of CPD to prepare students to enter the legal field and assist students in obtaining a minimum of 400 hours of legal work experience while in law school.

Although, CPD provides no guarantee of employment nor about the type of jobs students may obtain upon graduation, CPD counselors are committed to preparing students for a professional career in a variety of ways. Each student is encouraged to meet with a CPD counselor early during law school to discuss unique career planning goals and to develop effective job search strategies that are tailored to the individual student. By working one-on-one, CPD counselors are better able to guide students toward career paths that are aligned with the student's individual aspirations and career goals. Additionally, CPD provides group workshops and trainings on a variety of topics including resume and cover letter drafting, online presence, successful interviewing techniques, proactive networking, and more.

CPD promotes legal work experience for law students. Each semester, CPD hosts employers on campus as part of the On-Campus Interviewing Program (OCI). OCI is a recruiting program where employers visit campus to recruit and interview students. CPD also participates in national legal job and recruitment fairs with employers located across the country and manages a robust resume collection program. Additionally, CPD actively supports the experiential learning department designed to provide law students a live-client experience while in law school.

Through a combination of traditional career counseling, professional planning, and promotion of opportunities to obtain legal work experience, CPD remains committed to developing innovative and tailored career opportunity strategies to assist our students in reaching their professional goals.

### INDIVIDUAL CAREER COUNSELING

Every student at Coastal Law is provided with the opportunity to participate in individual career counseling with a career advisor. Individual career counseling is available to all first year students beginning on the date permitted by our professional organization, the National Association for Law Placement, Inc. (NALP), typically in mid-October for fall admits. Individual career counseling commences after a CPD Orientation where the Department is introduced, resources discussed, topics including experiential learning (externships, clinics, etc.) are detailed, and professionalism is covered. Following CPD Orientation and for all second and third year students, career counseling is available year-round.

Students seeking career counseling are accommodated by appointment. Appointments with a CPD advisor can be made in a variety of ways – via email, call or drop by the Department to request an appointment.



The initial appointment focuses on getting to know the student as an individual and their career goals. The student is introduced to Department resources and provided with an overview of expectations as to what he or she can expect during law school from a career perspective. The goal of the first meeting is for the student to walk away with a foundational understanding about the process of career planning. The student is provided with “homework” of crafting a basic legal resume and setting a second appointment to discuss additional topics in depth.

Subsequent appointments with a career advisor can cover a litany of topics. Most predominately, the below topics tend to be the most prevalent.

- Resume review and revisions
- Targeted cover letter drafting
- Practice area advising
- Bar exam selection
- Alumni matching and mentorship
- Salary negotiations
- Mock interviews
- Interviewing skills
- Networking
- Agency placement for Federal Work Study programs
- Importance of mentorship
- Volunteering with Bar associations
- Social media training (proper use of LinkedIn, Blogs, Twitter, etc.)
- Soft skills development and encouragement
- Proper academic class selection for practice area preference
- General job search strategy
- Promotion and explanation of job fairs
- Experiential learning counseling

CPD analyzes data allowing advisors to target their outreach efforts to students who have not engaged with the department. CPD also utilizes data analysis to design programming and employer outreach efforts based on the interests of the current student body, and to better prepare students for post-graduate employment.

## WORKSHOPS

In addition to individual career counseling, a number of workshops are conducted annually to serve as training sessions on topics to a larger audience. The presenters range from CPD advisors, to faculty, to speakers from the local community. Recent workshop topics have included presentations about resumes and cover letters, networking, interviewing skills, how to select a Bar, diversity in the legal environment, sexual orientation panel, a

presentation from Equal Justice Works, social networking, graduation boot camp, and fellowship, grants, and loan repayment programs.

## EMPLOYER PROGRAMS

As part of our strategic planning, CPD plans targeted events for students based on their class year and needs. There is a heavy focus on growing effective employment programs. The programs currently offered by Coastal Law are detailed below.

- On Campus Interview Program - Each year, employers are invited to participate in Coastal Law's year-round On Campus Interview (OCI) Program. Once confirmed, employers provide information regarding what type of candidates they are seeking. The CPD then actively recruits qualified students to apply and assists with all application materials. The materials are collected and sent to the employer for interview selection. The CPD then arranges a schedule for employers and students based on the employers' selections. On the interview day, employers visit the School and complete all of their interviews in one day utilizing the CPD interviewing suite.
- Resume Collection Program - For those employers who are located a distance from Coastal Law, the CPD provides a resume collection service to allow employers to recruit students for law clerk and permanent attorney positions. On the employers' request, the CPD collects student resumes in response to an organizational opening. The resumes are collected and bundled prior to forwarding to the employer for selection.
- Federal Work Study – The placement opportunities for the community worksite Federal Work Study Program is organized and supervised by the CPD. Federal Work Study positions are available to all students based on the degree of financial assistance they are receiving through the Financial Aid Program. There are four community agencies employing Coastal Law graduates at their offices through this Program including Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Three Rivers Legal Services, Compassionate Families, and the Family Nurturing Center. The CPD recruits and places students for part-time positions with each of the organizations year-round.
- Information Sessions - The CPD also hosts information sessions from various employers on campus including but not limited to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Navy JAG, Army JAG, Marine JAG, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The purpose of these employer driven presentations is to introduce post-graduate programs, highlight organizations of interest, or serve as the initial step in the organization's recruiting process.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

The CPD actively balances programming and budget in an effort to innovate effective initiatives for the purposes of supporting student success. Below is an overview of current initiatives.

- Job Fair Support - Legal Job Fairs are held annually nationwide to promote internships and long-term positions for law students. CPD strongly promotes and encourages attendance at these job fairs as part of students' career path. Job fairs attended by Coastal Law students in the past include but are not limited to the Southeastern Minority Job Fair (SEMJF), IMPACT, National Black Prosecutors Job Fair, Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, Lavender Law, and the Southeastern Intellectual Property Job Fair.
- Bar Selection - Character and Fitness Initiative - Most Coastal Law students sit for the Florida Bar Examination upon completion of the J.D. program. The application for the Florida Bar includes a lengthy and intensive background check and clearance called Character and Fitness. Recognizing the need for students to apply early to get through the screening process, CPD tracks and monitors the entire application process of first year student applicants through the 1L Character & Fitness Initiative. As part of the Initiative, students are required to apply to the Character and Fitness portion of the Florida Bar Examination or submit a request for an extension of time or waiver of the requirement.

## CPD LIBRARY

The CPD library resources are reviewed annually to ensure that collections remain current and diverse for students. In addition to over 250 books covering topics such as firm life, alternative careers, managing a solo practice, salary negotiations, diversity in the law, and explanations regarding specific practice areas, the in-house CPD library contains subscriptions to national publications, trade journals, and a collection of all recorded panels, presentations and events. Students may access the CPD library five days a week without an appointment and all resources are available to be checked out for two weeks.

## LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Library and Technology Center (LTC) physically houses the Library, the Information Technology (IT) Department, the Writing Center, Academic Technology, and the computer lab within two floors of the north wing of the Law School.

### LIBRARY

The Library is the central location for research instruction and assistance, access to information resources, and quiet study. Our lawyer-librarians collaborate with other Coastal faculty to provide our students with access to the materials necessary to prepare them for their legal careers.

Library staff members are a very important resource for our students. There are professional librarians, support staff, SYNC Help Desk staffed by students, Writing Fellows, and Research Fellows. The librarians hold Juris Doctor degrees as well as Masters Degrees in Library Science. Coastal Law librarians are dedicated to providing support and instruction through coursework, workshops and classroom modules, and one-on-one interactions to ensure the success of our students and graduates.

The Library offers law students access to an expansive collection of information in electronic and print formats and provides instruction for the use of these materials. The legal collection consists of core primary sources: cases, statutes, and regulations of the State of Florida and the United States. It also includes a range of secondary resources: periodicals, legal encyclopedias, and treatises devoted to legal topics. Our students have access to LexisNexis, Westlaw, and additional electronic databases of legal and non-legal materials.

Students come to the Library for quiet study in between classes and on the weekends. There are over 26 study rooms with white boards available for use by student study groups in addition to 146 individual study carrels, and table seating in open areas. A copy lounge is located in the library providing multiple print/copy stations, scanners, and food and drink vending machines for student use.

Recognizing that writing is central to both legal practice and legal education, the Florida Coastal Writing Center helps students transition to the legal discourse community and supports the Law School's goal of developing strong legal writers across the curriculum. Located in the Coastal Law Library, the Writing Center is staffed by trained upper-level students known as Writing Fellows who engage writers in a collaborative process. Through interactive, individualized conferences, the Writing Fellows provide feedback on specific pieces of legal writing with a focus on improving performance on law school exams, and help students develop clear and effective writing skills they will need in classes and in practice. The individualized feedback students receive conforms to any and all restrictions set by the Coastal faculty.

## TECHNOLOGY

Florida Coastal School of Law offers state-of-the-art teaching and learning methods. Coastal Law has a network infrastructure that provides a secure high-speed network experience for our students. Coastal Law provides students with reliable wireless connectivity in all classrooms, common areas and study rooms, as well as the outside campus grounds, to ensure they have the flexibility to stay connected anywhere on campus.

The Coastal Law classroom technology offers faculty and students the ability to engage in interactive classroom lectures utilizing audio and video podcasts, videoconferencing, touch screens, and live streaming. Students and faculty have the ability to use multiple methods to exchange information and ideas with the use of these technologies.

The law school facility is equipped with numerous large screen monitors. The monitors are located in high-traffic areas throughout the campus. The monitors are primarily utilized for news and events and are capable of broadcasting news and entertainment channels.

Coastal Law offers several systems such as email, community discussion lists, data and file storage available over the internet from anywhere, and a few web-based systems such as CampusVue, that allow the students to gain access to their own student records, pay tuition, register for courses and attend a course off-campus through distance learning on the TWEN platform. Classroom webcasting is available for all classes. If conducted, lecture capture audio files from each class are immediately available for viewing on any computer or smartphone with an internet connection.

## J.D. PROGRAM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Law school applicants must have received or have completed all the requirements for a bachelor's degree from a college or university that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Coastal Law does not, however, require any particular pre-law curriculum. Generally, exposure to the humanities, history, the physical and social sciences, mathematics, and language is helpful for the study of law. All students are urged to take elective work in English composition during their undergraduate studies.

For additional information, see the Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools, published each year by the Law School Admissions Council and the ABA. The guide includes data on the law and lawyers, pre-law preparation, applying to law schools, and the study of law, together with individualized information on most American law schools. It may be obtained at college bookstores or ordered from Law Services at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

### SELECTION OF STUDENTS

Coastal Law admits students selectively after a careful and thorough evaluation process to ensure admission of applicants who appear capable of satisfactorily completing its educational program and being admitted to the Bar. More highly qualified applicants typically are admitted first. Admission decisions may include attention to factors that enhance the educational experience of the entire student body.

The Admissions Committee weighs all characteristics bearing upon the ability of an applicant to study law successfully. Undergraduate grades and majors, the difficulty of the undergraduate field of study, LSAT scores and letters of recommendation are important. Coastal Law also evaluates other criteria which are not susceptible to precise measurement, such as experience, accomplishments, graduate study and degrees, the LSAT writing sample, and other factors that may provide meaningful insight into potential. Coastal Law requires each applicant for admission to take the LSAT to assist the school in assessing the applicant's capability of satisfactorily completing our educational program. In making admissions decisions, the School will use the test results in a manner that is consistent with the current guidelines regarding proper use of the test results provided by LSAC.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Admission information may be obtained from the Office of Admissions, Florida Coastal School of Law, 8787 Baypine Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32256 or by calling 904-680-7710. A prospective student may apply online at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). The procedure for applying to the law school is as follows:

1. Apply online at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).
2. Register with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and the Credential-Assembly Service (CAS). The LSAT/CAS Registration Packet may be obtained from the Law School Admission Council at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) or by calling 215-968-1001.

Law Services requires submission of all college or university transcripts directly to LSAC. Official transcripts should also be submitted to the Office of Admissions, Florida Coastal School of Law, 8787 Baypine Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32256 or to LSAC.

3. Submit two letters of recommendation and a personal statement to LSAC.
4. Submit a resume detailing both work and volunteer experience over at least the last five years.

No application deadline exists, however, Florida Coastal School of Law typically begins to review applications in the year preceding the term for which enrollment is sought. Applicants are encouraged to submit their completed applications as early as possible. A student who has been accepted for admission into one entering class, but who does not enroll in that class, must reapply for any later class and will be considered for admission according to the standards of the subsequent class.

### SEAT DEPOSIT

Each applicant, upon being admitted, must pay a seat deposit of \$400. This deposit will be credited to the student's tuition upon registration.

### TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students in good standing transferring from ABA approved law schools who have the necessary qualifications for admission may receive credit toward the degree of Juris Doctor for courses completed at their former schools, provided that at least 45 credit hours leading toward the degree are completed in residence at Coastal Law. These credits are evaluated by the Dean of Academics on an individual basis. Only courses completed with a grade of B- or better may transfer. All credits must have been obtained within two academic years prior to matriculation. If admitted, the candidate must comply with all requirements of the law school before a degree is granted.

A candidate for admission to the law school with advanced standing must submit an application from the Admissions Office. In addition, a letter from the law school previously attended stating the student is in good standing and is eligible to continue, plus an official transcript, must be received before the Admissions Committee will consider the candidate's request for admission. A statement of the candidate's reasons for requesting transfer also must accompany the application.

Transfer of credit hours from Coastal Law to another law school is subject to the approval policies of that transfer school. It is the student's responsibility to confirm whether or not credits will be accepted by another institution of the student's choice.

## FOREIGN STUDENTS

An applicant whose pre-legal work is from an institution located outside the United States must submit foreign transcripts through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS). International applicants that graduate from an institution outside the United States and have completed all the requirements for a bachelor's degree from a college or university that is equivalent to that of institutions accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education may also be considered for admission. All applicants whose native language is not English and who have not completed an undergraduate degree at an English speaking institution must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test score of no less than 600 on the paper-based test, at least 250 on the computer-based test, or at least 100 on the internet-based test. Persons whose undergraduate work was taken outside the United States are reminded that the source of their degree may bear on their eligibility to practice law in a particular state. Others who are not American citizens are advised that practices in various states may differ regarding eligibility to be examined for admission to the Bar, regardless of where their undergraduate and law degrees were obtained. Foreign students are encouraged to contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service for information on terms and conditions governing entry into the United States.

## AUDITORS

Persons with a broad educational background, who have a special need for knowledge in a discrete area of law, may be admitted to one or more classes in the school upon application supported by an accompanying statement of their circumstances and needs. The student will receive no credit or grades for attendance or work done pursuant to such enrollment.



## MILITARY AND VETERAN PROGRAMS

As a Yellow Ribbon school located in a community with a strong military presence, we understand the needs of today's military service members, veterans and their families. We are committed to serving and meeting the needs of our military and veteran students as they pursue their educational goals.

As part of our promise to deliver a J.D. program that meets the high standards of these students, our veteran and military students benefit from many unique advantages:

- Unlimited 100% tuition matching with the Yellow Ribbon program for Veterans that have 100% eligibility
- Faculty with experience in various service Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps
- Courses and clinics with a focus on veteran and military issues (Veterans Collaborative)
- Special events throughout the year, including luncheons
- A Veterans Mentoring Program to pair students with faculty, alumni, and other students
- Military Law Society – an active student group

## VA BENEFITS

For Post 9/11 GI Bill eligible students - net charges will apply when certifications are completed. This means that any scholarships received from Florida Coastal will be deducted from tuition and fees and the remainder listed as net charges when calculating certifications.

In order to receive Veterans Administration benefits, Florida Coastal must submit an enrollment certification on the student's behalf. To have a certification completed by the school, the student must provide the Registrar's Office with a copy of the Certificate/Letter of Eligibility received from the VA which details the eligibility for benefits, and submit a copy of the application as applicable below. [If students use VONAPP (electronic method) to submit an application, they must print a paper copy to submit to us.]

Forms can be found via <http://www4.va.gov/vaforms/> (search by form number):

1. Completed Request for Change of Program or Place of Training Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Form #22-5495) if a dependent and used benefits before; OR
2. Completed Application for Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Form #22-5490) if a dependent and never used benefits before; OR
3. Completed Request for Change of Program or Place of Training (Form #22-1995) for the veteran who has used benefits before; OR

4. Completed Application for VA Education Benefits (Form #22-1990) for the veteran who has never used benefits before.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), Florida Coastal School of Law adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

## YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

Florida Coastal awards an unlimited number of eligible students and an unlimited maximum contribution amount not to exceed tuition and fees. You must have 100% eligibility with the VA to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. You must provide a copy of your eligibility letter that you have received from the Veteran's Administration AND the application that you have submitted to apply for VA benefits to the Office of the Registrar at [bwaines@fcsl.edu](mailto:bwaines@fcsl.edu). The details about eligibility and the benefits of the Yellow Ribbon Program can be found on the Veterans Administration website.

## J.D. PROGRAM FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### TUITION AND FEES

The estimated fee schedule below is for J.D. students attending Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 academic year:

**Full Time** (13-16 credit hours each semester) Fall and Spring Total:

Tuition: \$39,790\*

Student Bar Association Fee: \$110

**Part Time** (9-12 credit hours each semester) Fall and Spring Total:

Tuition: \$38,102\*

Student Bar Association Fee: \$110

**Spring Start Students** (Required First Summer Semester ONLY):

Tuition: \$1,218/credit hour

Student Bar Association Fee: \$28

**Summer:**

Tuition: \$2,000/credit hour

Student Bar Association Fee: \$28

**Intersession:**

Tuition: \$2,000/credit hour

\*Includes Bar resource fee

Any student registering for fewer than nine (9) credit hours or more than sixteen (16) hours is charged \$2,000 per credit hour. For students enrolling in Intersession and a regular semester, tuition is due for both on the regular semester due date as noted in the Academic Calendar. For students only enrolling in Intersession, tuition is due the first day of class. A fee of \$50 may be charged for a late payment.

### WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

Any student wishing to withdraw from all classes prior to the start of the term should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form which is routed to the Dean of Academics. Students who withdraw during the add/drop period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees if they have completed the drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. In addition, a student can cancel any obligation within three (3) working days from the date of signing the enrollment agreement or contract. Refunds

for students who do not receive federal financial aid will be processed within 30 calendar days from the official date of withdrawal. Refunds for students who receive federal financial aid will be processed as described below.

If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absence) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account except for the following circumstances.

- If a student withdraws before completing 20% of the semester, a 20% refund of tuition and fees may be granted, based on tuition and fees only (seat deposits are non-refundable), due to:
  - an incapacitating illness of such duration or severity, as confirmed in writing by a physician, that the completion of the semester is impossible;
  - the student's call to active military duty; or
  - the death of the student or a member of the student's immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling).
- If a student withdraws after completing 20% of the semester, there will be no refund or credit of tuition and/or fees under any circumstances

## ORDER OF REFUNDS FOR STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL AID

Refunds due to students who are receiving Student Financial Assistance funds will be made in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans
2. Other Assistance Awarded by Title IV of the HEA
3. Other Federal, State, Private or Institutional Assistance
4. The Student

## FEDERAL POLICY FOR RETURN OF TITLE IV AID

For qualified students who receive federal financial aid and who withdraw (including transfers and leaves of absence) from ALL classes on or before 60% of the term has elapsed, Coastal Law will calculate, according to federal regulations, any amounts disbursed that must be returned to the Title IV programs.

- Step 1:** Determine the percentage of the enrollment period the student attended before withdrawing (days attended divided by total days in the period).
- Step 2:** Determine the amount of Title IV aid earned by multiplying the total Title IV aid for which the student was awarded by the percentage of time enrolled.
- Step 3:** Compare the amount earned to the amount disbursed. If more aid was disbursed than earned, determine the amount of Title IV aid that must be returned by subtracting the earned amount from the disbursed amount.

**Step 4:** Allocate the responsibility for returning unearned aid between the school and the student according to the portion of disbursed aid that could have been used to cover institutional charges and the portion of aid that could have been used to cover institutional charges and the portion that could have been disbursed directly to the student once the institutional charges were covered.

**Step 5:** Distribute the unearned funds back to the appropriate Title IV program.

Students will be billed for any amount due to Coastal Law as a result of Title IV funds that were returned that would have been used to cover Coastal Law charges.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program** is an unsubsidized loan program in which Florida Coastal School of Law participates. These are low interest loans offered by the federal government. The lender is the U.S. Department of Education rather than a bank or other financial institution. Students must be enrolled at least half-time (7 hours in fall or spring; 4 hours in summer) to be eligible to participate in this loan program.

**Unsubsidized** loans are NOT need based and interest is charged once the loan is disbursed. The maximum a student can borrow each academic year is a total of \$20,500 based on your cost of attendance minus EFC and any other financial aid that a student will receive, such as scholarships.

Students may receive less than the maximum amounts if the student receives other aid that covers a portion of your cost of attendance. There is a 1.062% (1.059% effective October 1, 2019) loan origination fee that the federal government charges for each loan. This fee will be deducted by the Department of Education before the loan funds are sent to the school.

The total debt that a student can have for all outstanding Direct and FFELP Stafford Loans (including prior schools) combined is \$138,500 as a graduate student. The graduate debt limit includes any Stafford/Direct Loans received for undergraduate study, but does not include Graduate PLUS amounts.

## FEDERAL GRADUATE PLUS LOAN

**Graduate PLUS** loans are low interest loans offered by the federal government. The lender is the U.S. Department of Education rather than a bank or other financial institution. Students must be enrolled at least half-time (7 hours in fall or spring; 4 hours in summer) to be eligible to participate in this loan program. Interest is charged from the time the loan is disbursed. The interest rate for the Graduate PLUS loan is a fixed rate of 7.079%. A 4.248% (4.236% effective October 1, 2019) loan origination fee is mandated by the federal government.

- A credit check is required to determine that the applicant does not have an adverse credit history

- If someone has an adverse credit history, they can be approved with an endorser that does not have an adverse credit history
- The repayment period begins on the date of the disbursement
- The first payment is due 60 days after the disbursement
- Students may receive a deferment while enrolled at least half-time
- Once a student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment, there is no grace period and payments will become due in 60 days

With the Graduate PLUS loan a student may borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus any other financial assistance. Students should only apply for a Grad PLUS loan AFTER receiving the award notice for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans. Students who plan on trying to acquire a Federal Work-Study position, should not apply for the maximum amount in the Grad PLUS loan. The application and promissory note are an online process and instructions are located on the Financial Aid portion of the website at <https://www.fcsl.edu/financial-aid-applying-for-financial-aid.html>.

## FCSL AND FEDERAL WORK STUDY INFORMATION

There are two types of student employment on campus that requires the student to be enrolled at least half-time – the Federal Work Study Program (FWS) and Florida Coastal School of Law student employment.

**Federal Work Study** is a program funded by the federal government and FCSL that provides funding for a student to work part-time (maximum 20 hours per week) who demonstrate financial need. Students who are eligible to participate in the program have an opportunity to earn money to help with educational expenses while gaining professional experience in FCSL or Community Service jobs. The Federal Work Study award is part of the student financial aid package.

**FCSL Student Employment** is employment earnings that come directly from each department budget within the school. It is not part of their financial aid package. The hiring process follows the same guidelines established for Federal Work Study student employment.

## COASTAL LAW SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit and/or need as determined by the Scholarship Committees. Coastal Law offers several scholarships through the Admissions office, including Merit Scholarships and Accepted Students Day Scholarships. For information on these scholarships contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@fcsl.edu](mailto:admissions@fcsl.edu). Merit Scholarships are awarded on the basis of Merit (LSAT/GPA) and can range from \$8,000 to \$35,000 per year. The number of scholarships varies and is based upon budgetary availability each year. The amounts are set at the beginning of each fiscal year cycle based on budget and admissions goals. The Admissions Office does not require students to apply separately for this scholarship as every applicant is evaluated for

scholarship upon acceptance. Scholarships may be maintained by students who achieve a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.7 during law school. The Accepted Students' Day Scholarship is a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to accepted or deposited students who attend one of our Accepted Students' Days events.

## CREDIT HOUR POLICY AND DEFINITION OF HOUR

Florida Coastal operates under a semester credit hour system. The credit hour policy applies equally to courses of varying credits, duration and modes of instruction, and applies to all credit granted by the school whether through programs on or off campus or through transfer from other institutions. Determination of the amount of credit awarded is made by the faculty Curriculum Committee based on accrediting agency guides and federal regulations. Florida Coastal has adopted the Federal definition of a credit hour as described in 34 CFR 600.2. For purposes of this policy and in accord with federal regulations, a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

1. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practical, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

As defined by the American Bar Association, distance education is an educational process characterized by the separation, in time or place, between instructor and student. This includes all courses in which more than one third of the course is based upon internet, telephonic, or recorded transmission.

Total class time and substantive coverage for the course shall be comparable to that allocated to classroom course credit and credit hours awarded will be determined by the faculty curriculum committee regardless of course delivery method. The course shall be offered on a secure site to protect student privacy, and student participation in each class component shall be verified with a secure individual student login and password.

In any course authorized for credit through distance education, there must be ample interaction with the instructor and other students both inside and outside the formal structure of the course throughout its duration. This interaction requirement may be met through synchronous or asynchronous participation of the instructor and students. There must also be a system for monitoring student effort and opportunities for communication about that effort.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The grading system and graduation requirements in effect at the time this catalog was published are set forth below. Florida Coastal School of Law reserves the right to change its grading system, graduation requirements and course offerings. No credit is given for any course unless the student receives a point value of 1.0 or more in that course. Cumulative averages are based on all course work attempted at Florida Coastal School of Law, whether or not completed successfully. The grading scale of Florida Coastal School of Law is as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>1.33</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>High Pass</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>LP</b>	<b>Low Pass</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>W/F</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### ANONYMOUS GRADING

All students enrolled in Florida Coastal School of Law are assigned a personal Student Grading Number (SGN) to use on examinations and other written projects. SGNs are completely confidential and are assigned exclusively by the Registrar's Office to each student. Final grades for each semester are posted by SGN. Faculty members and other individuals engaged in grading student work do not have access to SGNs. The anonymous grading policy does not apply to courses in which supervised papers are required or other courses in which papers account for a major part of the final grade assigned.

### ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE

Each student's academic record will be reviewed at the conclusion of each semester of enrollment. Under these rules, summer and intersession terms are not deemed "semesters" for purposes of evaluating students' academic status. A student's academic status will only be evaluated at the end of a Fall or Spring semester.

The following information outlines eligibility for those students matriculating in the Spring 2015 or later. Students matriculating prior to Spring 2015 would need to contact the Dean of Academics for eligibility requirements.

Students who matriculate in the Spring 2015 term or later must earn a cumulative 2.00 GPA or higher at the end of every semester or they will be academically dismissed. If a student earns between a 2.00 and 2.29 GPA,



inclusive, after any semester, the student may continue his or her studies on Academic Probation. If a student earns between a 2.3 and 2.59 GPA, inclusive, after any semester, the student may continue his or her studies on Academic Alert.

**Completion of First Semester:**

1. Students earning less than a 2.0 GPA will be academically dismissed.
2. Students earning between a 2.00 and 2.29 GPA who continue for a second semester will be subject to Academic Probation. Additional rules apply and are outlined in the Student Handbook.
3. Students earning between a 2.30 and 2.59 who continue for a second semester will be subject to Academic Alert. Additional rules apply and are outlined in the Student Handbook.

**Completion of Second Semester Through Sixty (60) Credits of Study:**

1. Students whose cumulative GPA is between a 2.00 and a 2.29 will be on academic probation.
2. Students who earn below a 2.00 cumulative GPA will be academically dismissed. Additional rules apply and are outlined in the Student Handbook.
3. Students who earn a cumulative GPA between 2.30 and 2.59 in any semester beyond the second semester through sixty (60) will be subject to Academic Alert. Additional rules apply and are outlined in the Student Handbook.

## CODES OF STUDENT CONDUCT

See Appendix C for a complete copy of the Coastal Law Honor Code and the Coastal Law Student Code of Conduct. Both documents are also located on our website at <https://www.fcsi.edu/student-life-student-affairs-student-honor-and-conduct-codes.html>.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Students with concerns about their academic experience are expected to discuss them with individual instructors. If a student is not satisfied with the instructor's response, or is unwilling to raise the matter in such fashion, the student should bring it to the attention of the Dean of Academics. Students with concerns or suggestions about the Library should contact the Associate Dean for Library and Technology in the Library Administrative Suite. Concerns or suggestions about IT should be addressed to the Service Desk Technician. Other concerns, pertaining to non-academic matters, should be directed to the Office of Student Affairs. Students whose concerns have not been resolved to their satisfaction, unless provided for otherwise by the Student Handbook, should meet with the Dean. Grounds for disciplinary action and procedures governing such proceedings are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct contained in the Coastal Law Student Handbook.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR J.D. STUDENTS

## JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

A candidate for graduation must have (i) attained a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 in at least ninety (90) credit hours of course work; (ii) successfully completed all course requirements; (iii) satisfied the experiential learning credit requirement; (iv) conducted himself or herself as a fit candidate for admission to the Bar; and (v) satisfied all outstanding account balances owed to the school, including any library fines. Students must complete a minimum of sixty (60) credit hours at Florida Coastal School of Law.

## DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

Students in the J.D. Program at Florida Coastal School of Law may also earn a M.B.A. or M.P.P. through an approved cooperative program with Jacksonville University.

### **1. Reduction in Overall Credit Requirement**

The dual-degree program was developed based on the assumption that there is complementary intellectual benefit from studying law and certain other professions in a coordinated program. A student enrolled in the dual-degree program earns both degrees in less time and with a lower overall credit requirement than a student enrolled in each school or program independently. A student enrolled in the dual-degree program will be awarded each degree upon completion of the respective school's degree requirements without having to wait until the requirements for both degrees have been completed.

### **2. Application to the Dual-Degree Program**

Applicants interested in the dual-degree program must submit separate admission applications to Florida Coastal and to the other approved degree program. Each program has its own independent admissions standards, and admission to one program does not ensure admission to the other. Applicants interested in pursuing the dual-degree are strongly encouraged to apply to both programs at the same time and in their first year of law school. Students wishing to enroll in a dual-degree after their first year should seek the advice of an academic dean.

### **3. Enrollment in the Dual-Degree Program and Approval of Courses**

A student who has been admitted to both the J.D. and another approved degree program and who wishes to pursue a dual-degree must file a Dual-Degree Enrollment Form with Florida Coastal School of Law. Once this form has been approved by an academic dean, the student will meet with the program advisors of each school to draft an overall plan of study that takes

advantage of the goals of the dual-degree program. Each semester, the student must complete a Florida Coastal Dual-Degree Course Selection Form. This form must list the courses the student will be taking in the upcoming semester and indicate whether the courses will be applied towards the J.D. degree.

#### **4. Course Load and Financial Considerations of the Dual-Degree Program**

The standard course load for full-time dual-degree students is thirteen (13) to sixteen (16) credit hours per semester, and the standard course load for part-time dual-degree students is nine (9) to twelve (12) credit hours per semester. This course load is determined using the combined total credits taken in each program during the applicable semester. However, a credit-hour formula may be applied to non-JD courses when the student completes the Dual-Degree Course Selection Form to determine the semester course load if either school's semester or session start or end dates differ. Dual-degree students are eligible for federal financial aid while enrolled in the dual-degree program. In order to facilitate the award and distribution of federal financial aid disbursements, Florida Coastal School of Law will be considered the home institution of all dual-degree students as long as the students are enrolled in the dual-degree program. Students are required to pay the tuition at each institution based upon the number of credit hours in each program of study during a given semester.

#### **5. J.D./M.B.A. Program Requirements**

Students enrolled in the J.D./M.B.A. program may count up to 9 credit hours of law school class work towards fulfilling the credit-hour requirement of the M.B.A. degree, and may count up to 9 credit hours of M.B.A. class work towards fulfilling the credit-hour requirement of the J.D. degree. Upon completion of each program, the student will earn two separate degrees, a J.D. degree awarded by Florida Coastal School of Law and a M.B.A. degree awarded by the Davis College of Business at Jacksonville University. To earn academic credit towards the J.D. degree for course work completed in the M.B.A. program: (1) the courses selected must be listed on the Dual-Degree Course Selection Form and be approved by an academic dean and the J.D./M.B.A. program advisor; (2) the courses must be graduate level courses but not part of the M.B.A. foundation course curriculum; and (3) the student must receive a grade of "B" or higher in the course. To earn academic credit towards the M.B.A. degree for coursework completed in the J.D. program: (1) the course may not be part of the law school's first-year curriculum; (2) the student must receive a grade of "C" or higher in the course; (3) the nine credits must come from the following courses: three from an international law course, three from a Professional Responsibility course, and three from any elective course. Any exceptions

to this must be pre-approved by the M.B.A. Program Advisor.

## 6. J.D./M.P.P. Program Requirements

Students enrolled in the J.D./M.P.P. program may count up to 12 credit hours of law school class work towards fulfilling the credit-hour requirement of the M.P.P. degree, and may count up to 12 credit hours of M.P.P. class work towards fulfilling the credit-hour requirement of the J.D. degree. Upon completion of each program, the student will earn two separate degrees, a J.D. degree awarded by Florida Coastal School of Law and an M.P.P. degree awarded by the Public Policy Institute at Jacksonville University. To earn academic credit towards the J.D. degree for course work completed in the M.P.P. program: (1) the courses selected must be listed on the Dual-Degree Course Selection Form and be approved by an academic dean and the J.D. /M.P.P. program advisor; (2) the courses must be graduate level courses but not part of the M.P.P. foundation course curriculum; and (3) the student must receive a grade of “C” or higher in the course. To earn academic credit towards the M.P.P. degree for coursework completed in the J.D. program: (1) the course may not be part of the law school’s first-year curriculum; (2) the student must receive a grade of “C” or higher in the course; (3) each student must take at least “Administrative Law” and “Statutory Interpretation and Legislative Process” as a part of the J.D. program. Any exceptions to this must be pre-approved by an academic dean and the M.P.P. Program Advisor.

## 3+3 PROGRAM

The 3+3 Program allows selected Jacksonville University (JU) students to enter Florida Coastal School of Law after completing only three years of undergraduate study at Jacksonville University under the following conditions:

- Eligible Jacksonville University students must complete all general education and major specific course requirements by the end of their junior year.
- Participants will be accepted into Coastal Law’s program prior to the beginning of their senior year at JU. The remaining general elective credits and/or up to 9 credits of elective courses within the major needed to earn the baccalaureate degree will be taken as a first year law student at Coastal Law and will satisfy the remaining requirements to obtain a BA, BS, or BBA degree from JU.
- Participants are able to earn no more than 30 units of lower division credit from an institution other than JU – all upper division courses must be taken at JU, making participation in this program more difficult for transfer students.
- Students must have strong analytical and writing skills.

- JU participants must consult with the 3+3 Program Director as early as possible to ensure courses and sequencing are on track.
- Participants must have their LSAT scores available by February of their junior year at JU.
- Participants must apply to Coastal Law no later than February of their junior year at JU.
- Eligible students must have a minimum LSAT score of 154.
- Eligible students must have a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) of 3.30 as reported by LSAC. See [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) for an explanation of the rules regarding the calculation of UGPAs.
- Eligible students will be provided admission to Coastal Law dependent upon meeting all entrance requirements and examination minimums.
- The first year of law school must be completed with the minimum cumulative GPA required by Coastal Law to remain in good academic standing.
- Full credits required for graduation from JU must be earned by the end of August following the first year of law school.
- If a first year law student in this program withdraws, some academic credit for law school study may be accepted toward completion of the student's baccalaureate degree at the sole discretion of JU.

Participants in the program will earn both a baccalaureate degree and J.D. under the six-year program.

## HONORS DEGREE

A candidate for the J.D. degree or an approved dual degree may be recommended for honors if the student's cumulative GPA at Coastal Law meets the following standards and the student is enrolled in six (6) or more credits at Coastal Law:

Summa Cum Laude	3.750
Magna Cum Laude	3.500
Cum Laude	3.250

## ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Before enrolling in law school, the student should determine whether the state in which he or she intends to practice has special requirements for admission to the Bar concerning pre-legal training, domicile, filing notice of intent to practice before entering law school, certification of character and fitness, appointment of a preceptor, law school curriculum and the like. Students are responsible for ascertaining and meeting these requirements.

Admitted applicants who intend to practice law should be aware that admission to the Bar in all states involves character, fitness and other qualifications. Applicants are encouraged to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which they intend to practice by consulting the website of the National Conference of Bar Examiners at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).



## EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS

### OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

The Center for Professional Development (CPD) works with students by assisting them in finding part-time legal and law related employment during the year. Toward that end, the center maintains a job data bank for students seeking opportunities for part-time work as law clerks or research assistants in the local professional community. Although law related work experience and exposure to the community are valuable in the search for a post-graduate position and in applying the classroom experience, the school recommends that full-time, first-year students avoid employment during the academic year. ABA Standards and Coastal Law policy prohibit full-time students (13-16 credit hours) from working more than 20 hours per week during the academic year.

### INSIDE THE SCHOOL

The school offers a number of employment opportunities for students, including research and teaching assistantships, which enable students to work with faculty members in connection with professional writing, Bar programs and community activities.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

### STUDENT LIFE

Student life at Florida Coastal School of Law reflects the student-centered philosophy of the school and encompasses a community atmosphere, professional focus, cultural awareness, and respect for diversity. Students are involved in the school and community through student organizations and other activities outside the classroom. The community interacts with the school and students through programs and visits to campus by persons representing a broad spectrum of interests. Forums, conferences, and continuing education programs also afford opportunities for students to interact within the institution and with the Bar and the community. Ultimately, it is the interaction between students themselves and between students and faculty which fosters the development of lifelong personal and professional friendships and a strong sense of community on the Coastal Law campus. The office of Student Affairs provides leadership and oversight for all student life at the school, and its mission is “To provide student-centered support and services that advances personal, social and professional development to the Coastal Law Community”.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Much student interaction within the law school occurs in the context of student organizations. Some of these organizations have a general focus, while others are more specialized in their orientation. Students learn from each other through participation in student organizations, as well as in the classroom; the sense of community fostered through involvement in student organizations facilitates personal growth.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government and general service organization of Florida Coastal School of Law. Every law student is automatically a member of the SBA. The SBA is led by an elected President and an Executive Council comprised of an Internal Vice President and an External Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

The SBA also has several functioning committees to support all aspects of student life. Appointments to student committees are made by the President of the SBA with the advice and consent of the SBA Executive Council. Students also serve on some faculty committees. All students elect their SBA representatives within the first few weeks of the fall semester.

The SBA has primary responsibility or shares responsibility with the law school administration concerning a number of important matters which include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Managing the SBA budget and budget allocations to student organizations
- Hosting charity events and the annual Barrister’s Ball
- Facilitating the law school mentor/mentee program

- Advocacy of student issues
- Sponsoring social activities and intramural sports
- Acting as a liaison with administration
- Promoting student professionalism and professional development
- Networking and mentoring opportunities with alumni and the legal community

The Student Ambassadors serve at official school events, provide guided school tours, and act as a liaison to the public at large. The Student Ambassadors are led by an elected Executive Board to include a Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Special Events Coordinator. These distinguished students possess two main characteristics: excellent interpersonal communication skills and a passion to give back to their community through volunteer service. Our student ambassadors are committed to exhibiting the highest standards of professionalism and social responsibility. Florida Coastal Student Ambassadors embody leadership, character, and a commitment to professional service. Each year, their spirit and dedication positively impacts every department and countless visitors to our campus. To many people, the first impression of our school involves the words and actions of a Student Ambassador. Many significant events, on and off campus, are facilitated through their leadership and effective teamwork. Some of the SBA sponsored student organizations include Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Family Law Society, Hispanic American Law Student Association, Military Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Student Animal Legal Defense Society, and Women Law Students Association.

## ACADEMIC RELATED STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**Law Review** – The scholarly official publication of the school is published twice a year by second-year and third-year students of the law school under the supervision and direction of the Editor in Chief. Students edit and publish articles submitted by legal scholars and practitioners that are of interest to the legal community at large, as well as materials of interest to policy makers or researchers in related fields.

**Moot Court Honor Board** – The Coastal Law Moot Court Honor Board is a student organization comprised of 2L and 3L students who travel locally, nationally, and internationally to compete at the highest levels of appellate advocacy. Moot Court provides an experience similar to that of actual appellate attorneys. Students prepare written briefs and make oral arguments, learning the very best techniques in legal research and writing, analyzing case law, developing arguments, and sharpening critical thinking. In the past decade, Coastal Law's Moot Court Honor Board has been consistently ranked as one of the top-10 advocacy programs in the country.

**Mock Trial Executive Board** – This Board is comprised of those third-year students who are members of Coastal Law's award winning Mock Trial Team. In conjunction with the Faculty Director of Mock Trial, the Board oversees the selection and training of the Mock Trial Team. Coastal Law's Mock Trial Team successfully compete in

both statewide, regional, and national mock trial competitions that providing students an enjoyable educational experience that help transform them into professionally prepared trial advocates.

**Pro Bono Services** – *Pro Bono* services help law students develop an awareness of their ethical and professional responsibilities to provide service to their community. *Pro bono* work is volunteer legal and non-legal work done without credit or compensation that law students perform to benefit individuals, groups or organizations whose resources are limited. Participation in the program provides students with the opportunity to perform valuable community service while learning about the legal needs of the underserved and developing the legal skills and gaining the experience necessary to help meet those needs. Student directors help manage the program under the guidance of a faculty director.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, genetics, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status, familial status, or veteran status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any of the programs and activities of Florida Coastal School of Law, including but not limited to admissions, retention, recruitment, and employment, consideration, or selection therefore, whether full-time or part-time. Florida Coastal School of Law, as an equal opportunity institution of higher education, conforms to all applicable law prohibiting discrimination and affirms its commitment to equal employment opportunity.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a solid grounding in the law and to enable them to be effective legal professionals. The program of study reflects the demands of the profession for a meaningful educational experience that incorporates history, internationalization, technology, interdisciplinary study, ethics and professionalism, multi-culturalism, and evolving trends and future challenges.

### COURSE NUMBERING

The institution follows an independent course numbering system to assign courses in accordance with the program version and course concentration nature. Courses are numbered sequentially and assigned a letter prefix depicting the program type. Courses that are offered exclusively in the J.D. program of study will generally start with the prefix FL; the next series of letters describes the area of study (such as business, property, legal writing); and the numerals which complete the course number are assigned sequentially based on the level of instruction and/or the timing of when a course was added to the curriculum. Courses that are offered in the LL.M. programs generally start with the prefix FL; the next series of letters indicates which degree program, and the numerals which complete the course number are assigned sequentially based on the level of instruction and/or the timing of when a course was added to the curriculum.

## ACCELERATED PROGRAM

Florida Coastal offers an accelerated program that enables students to complete their legal studies in two years. Students in the Accelerated Program complete the same number of credit hours (90) as traditional three-year JD students, but are able to reduce living expenses by a third and re-enter the workforce sooner.

While this accelerated program means students have a more set schedule of classes, they also have opportunities to select from the full range of electives offered by Coastal Law, are eligible to be invited in the Coastal Law Honors Society, and can participate in experiential learning opportunities.

Students wishing to enroll in this program must plan ahead as enrollment may only begin in the Spring Semester. Classes for this program begin in late January. Students interested in the program are encouraged to take the LSAT early, but we accept through December.

## J.D. COURSE LOAD

The standard course load for full-time students is 13 to 16 credit hours per semester, and the standard course load for part-time students is 9 to 12 credit hours per semester. Any student who wishes to enroll in more than the standard number of credit hours, i.e., more than 16 credit hours in the full-time division or fewer than 9 credit hours in the part-time division, must obtain the written approval of the Academic Dean. The program requires the completion of 90 credit hours for graduation.

## REQUIRED COURSES

For students matriculating in Fall 2017 and thereafter, the courses required for graduation are listed below. Students who matriculated prior to Summer 2017 would need to contact the Dean of Academics for required course load.

### FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

Contracts I	FL-BUSI-101/102	3 credits
Contracts II	FL-BUSI-103	3 credits
Criminal Law	FL-CRIM-100	3 credits
Criminal Procedure	FL-CRIM-200	3 credits
Legal Research & Analysis	FL-LRWR-105	3 credits
Property I	FL-PROP-101	3 credits
Property II	FL-PROP-102	3 credits
Torts I	FL-TORT-101	3 credits
Torts II	FL-TORT-102	3 credits
Writing for Law Practice	FL-LRWR-108	3 credits

### UPPER DIVISION REQUIRED COURSES

Civil Procedure I	FL-DSRL-100	3 credits
Civil Procedure II	FL-DSRL-102	3 credits
Constitutional Law I	FL-CONS-201	3 credits
Constitutional Law II	FL-CONS-202	3 credits
Evidence	FL-DSRL-200	4 credits
Professional Responsibility	FL-ETHS-200	3 credits
Business Associations	FL-BUSI-200	3 credits
Family Law	FL-FAML-200	3 credits
Trusts and Estates	FL-ESTS-301	3 credits

One (1) of the following two (2) courses:

Pretrial Litigation Drafting	FL-LRWR-203	3 credits
Transactional Drafting	FL-LRWR-303	3 credits

Six (6) credits of experiential learning; and six (6) credits of Bar preparation designated courses.



### Strongly Recommended Courses

NOTE: THESE COURSES ARE HEAVILY TESTED ON THE FLORIDA BAR EXAMINATION

Florida Practice and Procedure	FL-DSRL-322	3 credits
Florida Constitutional Law	FL-CONS-306	3 credits
Remedies	FL-DSRL-310	3 credits

Students must complete all first year required courses before taking any upper division courses. The Required Course Sequence for first year students and the Recommended Course Sequences for upper division students are also available online at [www.fcsf.edu/academics/suggested-schedules-course-concentrations](http://www.fcsf.edu/academics/suggested-schedules-course-concentrations). Students should review the course sequences prior to registering for classes.

All students must take the three (3) credit National Law Survey course that covers all seven (7) MBE topics during their final semester of law school and one three (3) credit state specific Bar course as follows:

California Law Survey	FL-BARP-311	3 credits
Florida Law Survey	FL-BARP-309A	3 credits
Georgia Law Survey	FL-BARP-312	3 credits
Uniform Law Survey (all UBE jurisdictions)	FL-BARP-314	3 credits

### ELECTIVE COURSES

The upper-division curriculum includes elective courses designed to enrich the educational experience of students and strengthen their credentials for careers in law or related fields. Advanced coursework enables students to specialize in areas of particular interest and acquire knowledge and skills that will satisfy intellectual curiosity and enhance their career opportunities and development.

### CONCENTRATIONS

In planning a course of study, all students should select courses from several areas as part of their basic legal education. This breadth provides the necessary context for sound legal study. Foundational and perspective courses are useful in preparing for advanced course work. In addition, students may wish to concentrate their studies by choosing elective courses in particular areas. Students with at least 2.75 cumulative grade point average and who have completed the requirements within one of the concentrations can apply that concentration specialty toward graduation.

- **CRIMINAL PRACTICE ADVOCACY** - builds on the School's Programmatic Learning Outcomes and provides students with intensive instruction in real-life trial advocacy skills. To receive a certificate in criminal practice advocacy, students must meet each of the following requirements:
  1. Submission of application to the Program Director,
  2. Acceptance into the certificate program,
  3. Completion of required curriculum,

4. Successful completion of three hours of relevant experiential learning credits (to be approved by the Program Director),
5. Successful completion of 10 hours of pro bono service relating to criminal practice advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director),
6. Successful completion of six CLE hours relating to criminal practice advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director), and
7. Must have a cumulative LGPA of at least a 2.75 at graduation.

#### **ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

1. Students are admitted to the program through application only.
2. Applicants must demonstrate, as reflected in their admission application, a passion for criminal practice advocacy.
3. The Program Director approves the student's application and offers the student admission to the Criminal Practice Advocacy Certificate program.
4. Students may apply for admission to the Criminal Practice Advocacy Certificate Program commencing with their third full semester of law school (or after having earned 24 credits) and no later than completion of their fourth full semester of law school (or before having earned 67 credits).

#### **REQUIRED COURSES**

Students must take Pretrial Litigation Drafting and that required course will not count towards their nine credits. Students must also take Advanced Criminal procedure for three credits. Students must take 6 credits from the following:

- Criminal Pre-Trial Practice (2 credits)
- Trial Practice (3 credits)
- Federal Criminal Law (3 credits)
- Florida Criminal Pre-Trial Practice (2 credits)
- Florida Practice and Procedure (3 credits)
- Immigration Law (3 credits)
- International Criminal Law (3 credits)
- White Collar Crime (3 credits)
- Other seminars or intersession offerings related to criminal practice and approved by the Program Director (1-3 credits)

#### **EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Criminal Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete three credits of an externship for an approved organization that provides criminal practice advocacy services. The

externship must be approved both by the Program Director and the Externship Director. During this externship, the student must participate to the satisfaction of the Externship Director.

#### **SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Criminal Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete 10 hours of *pro bono* service (to be approved by the Program Director) relating to criminal practice advocacy.

#### **CLE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Criminal Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete six credits of Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) relating to criminal practice advocacy. Each CLE must be approved by the Program Director.

- **CIVIL PRACTICE ADVOCACY** - Builds on the School’s Programmatic Learning Outcomes and provides students with intensive instruction in real-life ADR, pre-trial litigation, litigation, trial advocacy, and appellate skills.
  1. Submission of application to the Program Director,
  2. Acceptance into the certificate program,
  3. Completion of required curriculum,
  4. Successful completion of three hours of relevant experiential learning credits (to be approved by the Program Director),
  5. Successful completion of 10 hours of pro bono service relating to civil practice advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director),
  6. Successful completion of six CLE hours relating to civil practice advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director), and
  7. Must have a cumulative LGPA of at least a 2.75 at graduation.

#### **ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

1. Students are admitted to the program through application only.
2. Applicants must demonstrate, as reflected in their admission application, a passion for civil practice advocacy.
3. The Program Director approves the student’s application and offers the student admission to the Civil Practice Advocacy Certificate program.
4. Students may apply for admission to the Civil Practice Advocacy Certificate Program commencing with their third full semester of law school (or after having earned 24 credits) and no later than completion of their fourth full semester of law school (or before having earned 67 credits).

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

Students must take Pretrial Litigation Drafting and that required course will not count towards their nine credits. Students must take 9 credits from the following:

- ADR (2 credits)
- Appellate Advocacy (3 credits)
- Conflict of Laws (3 credits)
- Florida Practice and Procedure (3 credits)
- Interviewing and Counseling (1-2 credits)
- Remedies (3 credits)
- Taking and Defending Effective Depositions (1 credit)
- Trial Practice (or Trial Practice for Mock Trial) (2-3 credits)
- Other seminars or intersession offerings related to civil practice and approved by the Program Director (1-3 credits)

### **EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Civil Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete three credits of an externship for an approved organization that provides civil practice advocacy services. The externship must be approved both by the Program Direction and the Externship Director. During this externship, the student must participate to the satisfaction of the Externship Director.

### **SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Civil Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete 10 hours of *pro bono* service (to be approved by the Program Director) relating to civil practice advocacy.

### **CLE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Civil Practice Advocacy Certificate must complete six credits of Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) relating to civil practice advocacy. Each CLE must be approved by the Program Director.

- **FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY** - Builds on the School’s Programmatic Learning Outcomes and provides students with intensive instruction in real-life advocacy skills.
  1. Submission of application to the Program Director,
  2. Acceptance into the certificate program,
  3. Completion of required curriculum,
  4. Successful completion of three hours of relevant experiential learning credits (to be approved by the Program Director),
  5. Successful completion of 10 hours of pro bono service relating to family law advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director),

6. Successful completion of six CLE hours relating to family law advocacy (to be approved by the Program Director), and
7. Must have a cumulative LGPA of at least a 2.75 at graduation.

#### **ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

1. Students are admitted to the program through application only.
2. Applicants must demonstrate, as reflected in their admission application, a passion for family law advocacy.
3. The Program Director approves the student's application and offers the student admission to the Family Law Advocacy Certificate program.
4. Students may apply for admission to the Family Law Advocacy Certificate Program commencing with their third full semester of law school (or after having earned 24 credits) and no later than completion of their fourth full semester of law school (or before having earned 67 credits).

#### **REQUIRED COURSES**

Students must take 9 credits from the following:

- ADR (3 credits)
- Conflict of Laws (3 credits)
- Dependency and Adoption Law (3 credits)
- Federal Income Tax (3 credits)
- Immigration Law (3 credits)
- Interviewing and Counseling (2 credits)
- Juvenile Law (3 credits)
- Taking and Defending Depositions (1-2 credits)
- Other seminars or intersession offerings related to family law advocacy and approved by the Program Director (1-3 credits)

#### **EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Family Law Advocacy Certificate must complete three credits of an externship for an approved organization that provides family law advocacy services. The externship must be approved both by the Program Director and the Externship Director. During this externship, the student must participate to the satisfaction of the Externship Director.

#### **SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Family Law Advocacy Certificate must complete 10 hours of *pro bono* service (to be approved by the Program Director) relating to family law advocacy.

### **CLE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Family Law Advocacy Certificate must complete six credits of Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) relating to family law advocacy. Each CLE must be approved by the Program Director.

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY LAW** - Builds on the School’s Programmatic Learning Outcomes and provides students with intensive instruction in social justice.
  1. Submission of application to the Program Director,
  2. Acceptance into the certificate program,
  3. Completion of required curriculum,
  4. Successful completion of three hours of relevant experiential learning credits (to be approved by the Program Director),
  5. Successful completion of 10 hours of pro bono service relating to social justice advocacy law (to be approved by the Program Director),
  6. Successful completion of six CLE hours relating to social justice advocacy law (to be approved by the Program Director), and
  7. Must have a cumulative LGPA of at least a 2.75 at graduation.

### **ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

1. Students are admitted to the program through application only.
2. Applicants must demonstrate, as reflected in their admission application, a passion for social justice advocacy law.
3. The Program Director approves the student’s application and offers the student admission to the Social Justice Advocacy Law Certificate program.
4. Students may apply for admission to the Social Justice Advocacy Law Certificate Program commencing with their third full semester of law school (or after having earned 24 credits) and no later than completion of their fourth full semester of law school (or before having earned 67 credits).

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

Students must take 9 credits from the following:

- Administrative Law (3 credits)
- ADR (2 credits)
- Commercial Real Estate Transactions (3 credits)
- Environmental Law (3 credits)
- Environmental Law and Toxic Torts (3 credits)
- Immigration Law (2-3 credits)

- Immigration Considerations for the Criminal Defense Attorney (1 credit)
- International Law (3 credits)
- International Human Rights (2-3 credits)
- International Criminal Law (2-3 credits)
- Ocean and Coastal Law (3 credits)
- Residential Real Estate Transactions (3 credits)
- Trial Practice (2-3 credits)
- Other seminars or intercession offerings related to social justice advocacy law and approved by the Program Director (1-3 credits)

**EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Social Justice Advocacy Law Certificate must complete three credits of an externship for an approved organization that provides social justice advocacy law services. The externship must be approved both by the Program Direction and the Externship Director. During this externship, the student must participate to the satisfaction of the Externship Director.

**SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Social Justice Advocacy Law Certificate must complete 10 hours of *pro bono* service (to be approved by the Program Director) relating to social justice advocacy law.

**CLE REQUIREMENT**

Students seeking a Social Justice Advocacy Law Certificate must complete six credits of Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) relating to social justice advocacy law. Each CLE must be approved by the Program Director.

**CLINICAL PROGRAMS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

Coastal Law offers multiple opportunities for students to gain experiential learning instruction through its clinics, externships, experiential classes, moot court, and mock trial programs. Coastal Law students are required to complete at least six experiential learning credit courses, three credits of which must have a live client experience through either a clinic or externship. Skills courses devote more than half of the course to teaching a skill such as pretrial litigation drafting or cross examination. The experiential learning requirement ensures that each student receives substantial instruction in professional skills.

**Clinics**

Clinics include a classroom component that meets twice a week where students learn about the relevant law and procedure and have an opportunity to hone skills involved in client representation. Students also engage in faculty-guided reflection on their lawyering experience. Students in the in-house clinics have the opportunity to learn how to professionally practice law while being closely supervised by a clinical professor. In addition to weekly classes, the clinical professors meet individually with students on a regular basis and whenever necessary.

Practitioner Clinics are adjunct-taught clinics that offer students and professors exposure to both the private, governmental, and non-governmental sectors of the law. Students sometimes work on campus or at other times work in the office of the practitioner. The program offers additional live-client practical clinical experience to more students. Practitioner clinics allow up to eight students per course. Each course is worth either one or two credits. Students complete twenty-five hours of live client work per credit in addition to the classroom component.

### **Externships**

Coastal Law offers students a wide variety of credit-bearing externship opportunities. Students have the opportunity to do externships in the fall, spring, and summer terms. The externship placements include placements with the State Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, County and City attorney's offices, the office of the Guardian ad Litem, the Department of Children and Families, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, the Florida Attorney General, and several corporations. Judicial externships include placements with the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida district courts of appeal, state trial courts, and federal district courts. Students may also request that placements they have arranged be certified as qualifying externship placements by the externship supervisors.

Students are required to earn six credits of experiential learning; externship courses fulfill this requirement. Beginning with the entering class of Spring 2016 all students must complete at least three credits of the six credits in either a clinic or externship. This requirement ensures that each student had exposure to actual real time practice in a live client setting. Students may also take up to fifteen credits of experiential learning courses.

Each externship includes a contemporaneous distance education classroom component requiring skills based lectures, individual meetings, and regular guided written reflective journals. The externship supervisors regularly meet with their students to ensure that the students are having a valuable experience at their placement as well as conducting periodic site visits for regional externships. Only students who have completed their first year courses are eligible to receive credit for an externship. The externship supervisors also carefully screen each placement before allowing the student to earn credit for the externship. The externship supervisor also confirms that there is enough legally meaningful work for the student to do at the placement to be able to earn the minimum number of hours required to satisfy the number of credits that the student is taking. Students must complete forty-five to fifty hours of work per credit earned in an externship. Time sheets are collected and reviewed by the externship faculty as well as the site supervisor.

Programmatic learning goals for externships include the ability to apply legal theory and principles to live cases and legal problems; the ability to integrate legal theory with skills and professional values; developing and improving legal writing and research skills; analyzing ethical issues in practice, modeling professional behavior; examining ways that the legal system can be improved and/or more responsive to the needs of historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities. The program also offers students the ability to explore career interests and begin to build a professional network; and learn to balance and satisfy the sometimes competing demands of work, study, and personal obligations.



## ADVANCED SEMINARS

Seminars, labeled as Advanced Legal Writing Requirement (ALWR) courses, are designed to provide opportunities for in depth learning and research culminating in a student-authored paper. "Course" seminars may be attached to upper-level elective courses.

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

For a complete list of required and elective courses please see Appendix A or visit the Florida Coastal School of Law website at [www.fctl.edu/academics/course-descriptions-and-prerequisites](http://www.fctl.edu/academics/course-descriptions-and-prerequisites).

## NON-JD PROGRAMS

Florida Coastal School of Law is currently licensed to offer non-JD programs. Information is provided in the following sections for these programs:

- LL.M. in General Law Studies
- LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers
- LL.M. in Logistics and Transportation for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers
- Certificate in Logistics and Transportation
- LL.M. in Health Law
- Masters of Science in Law

Currently running is the LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers. The launch dates of the other programs have not been determined.

## LL.M. IN GENERAL LAW STUDIES

This program, upon relaunch, will allow attorneys with a first degree in law the opportunity to obtain a highly customizable LL.M. degree either online or in a residential format (offered on campus and offsite in face to face instruction by Florida Coastal School of Law faculty), that will allow students to learn more about the U.S. legal system and U.S. law practice, participate in experiential learning opportunities, expand their knowledge in core subjects tested on various Bar exams, and improve their competencies in skills needed on the Bar exam (e.g., multiple choice questions, essays, performance tests). Students will also have the option of obtaining “specialization” in one of four concentrations (Logistics & Transportation, Business and Transactional Practice, U.S. Law Practice, International Law).

Students in the “online track” will join distinguished U.S. law professors and classmates in interactive online classes. All LL.M. courses in the “online track” include pre-recorded lectures (available in downloadable and mobile-friendly formats), free online reading materials, practice quizzes with multiple choice questions, practice essays, and discussion boards that “bring to life” the legal topics covered in the lectures. Recognizing the importance of live interaction in the online classroom, our professors in the required LL.M. online courses hold at least two live review sessions each semester in each class. Finally, our LL.M. administrative team will hold live, interactive online events with LL.M. professors and guest speakers at least once a month. These live events provide a great way for students to interact with their professors, classmates, and members of the Florida Coastal School of Law community.

The General Law Studies LL.M. “online track” curriculum meets the curricular eligibility requirements for the Washington and California State Bar exams.

The program may also be completed through a “residential track” where coursework is completed in face to face instruction.

Students in either track are able to take classes during fall, spring, and summer terms. Full-time students can complete the entire program in one academic year. Part-time students can complete the program in 24 months. Students must complete 26 credits with a grade of D or better (or a P for class taken as pass/fail) and attain a 2.3 cumulative GPA upon graduation to satisfy the degree requirements and to earn the LL.M. degree. Students who complete LL.M. in General Law Studies Program will not be eligible for admission to the Florida Bar.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following five documents in support of their application to the Masters of Law in General Law Studies program on or before the application deadline: (1) application; (2) C.V.; (3) brief personal statement; (4) TOEFL or IELTS score (non-native English speakers only - see exceptions below); (5) law school transcript confirming conferral of first degree in law. The first degree in law can be from a U.S. law school, including a J.D. degree from an unaccredited law school in the United States, or from a foreign law school. Applicants with a

first degree in law conferred from a non-U.S. law school must also provide an evaluation of their official, authenticated law school transcript from a California Bar-approved credential evaluation agency. Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

Admission to the program is competitive and not automatic. Seats are limited. To apply, an applicant must hold a law degree from his or her home country and have an academic record that indicates a likelihood of success in the program. The personal statement should demonstrate why an LL.M. in General Law Studies will advance the applicant's career. When reviewing applications for admission to the LL.M. program, the following factors will be considered: performance in previous law studies; professional or related experience; professional and personal goals; and English proficiency.

*English Proficiency:*

Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS. In limited cases, English proficiency can also be based on local assessments by commercial entities in the countries where the program is being offered.

*Exceptions to the requirement of TOEFL or IELTS* - Non-native English speakers are not required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if they are (a) U.S. citizens, or (b) graduates of a law school located in a country where English is an official language, or (c) graduates of an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a country where English is an official language.

A waiver of the TOEFL and IELTS can also be granted on a case-by-case basis, based on submission of a waiver application and supporting documentation of English proficiency combined with a phone or online interview with the Associate Dean of Strategy and Innovation and the Academic Director of Non-J.D. Programs.

## CURRICULUM

Absent a waiver of the academic rules, regulations and/or policies relating to graduation requirements, all General Law Studies LL.M. students in the "online track" will be required to take the following courses for a minimum of 13 credits:

Professional Responsibility	FL-LLM-108	2 credits
Legal Research and Writing	FL-LLM-125	3 credits
Civil Procedure	FL-LLM-117	3 credits
Constitutional Law	FL-LLM-116	3 credits
Introduction to U.S. Law & Legal System	FL-LLM-124	2 credits

Students in the "online track" will select the balance of 13 credits from Coastal Law's existing course offerings in either the J.D. program, the LL.M. programs, or in the designated offsite electives courses.

The program may also be completed through a residential track where coursework is completed in face to face instruction, with Florida Coastal School of Law faculty, either on campus or offsite. Students will be able to take classes during fall, spring, summer, and inter-session terms (e.g., Winter, Spring Break, etc.). Full-time students can complete the entire program in one academic year. Part-time students can complete the program in 24 months.

The residential track also allows attorneys with a first degree in law the opportunity to obtain a highly customizable degree. The program allows students to learn more about the U.S. legal system and U.S. law practice, participate in experiential learning opportunities, expand their knowledge in core subjects tested on various Bar exams, and improve their competencies in skills needed on the Bar exam (e.g., multiple choice questions, essays, performance tests). Students will also have the option of obtaining “specialization” in one of four concentrations (Logistics & Transportation, Business and Transactional Practice, U.S. Law Practice, International Law).

Absent a waiver of the academic rules, regulations and/or policies relating to graduation requirements, all General Law Studies LL.M. students in the “residential track” will be required to take the following courses, each offered in a residential format for the following credits:

Professional Responsibility	FL-ETHS-200	3 credits
Writing for Law Practice	FL-LRWR-108	3 credits
Civil Procedure I	FL-DSRL-100	3 credits
Constitutional Law I	FL-CONS-201	3 credits
Legal Research and Analysis	FL-LRWR-105	3 credits

In limited cases, residential track students may substitute the residential required courses with online required courses. Residential track students will select the balance of credits (9-13 credits) from any of Florida Coastal School of Law’s existing course offerings in the J.D. program, the LL.M. programs, or in the designated offsite electives courses outlined below.

Although an experiential component is not required, students who meet the course requirements/prerequisites for a Clinic or Externship may earn a maximum of four (4) credits from externship or clinic offerings. For each credit earned, the student must spend 45 hours in the performance of law-related duties.

## TUITION

The tuition for the twenty-six credit hour online program is \$1,000 per credit. The Finance Office is responsible for billing and receiving payments such as tuition, fees, and other financial obligations to Florida Coastal. Students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add and will not be allowed to take final exams until their tuition balance is paid for the term. Transfer to another school does not relieve a student of financial liability for courses for which he/she is registered at Florida Coastal unless such courses are dropped during the Drop/Add period.

The tuition for the “residential track” is \$1,000 per credit. In addition, “residential track” students will also be required to pay the General Fee and Student Bar Association Fee in each semester of study, based on the current rates in place for that semester for J.D. students. There are no additional fees as students either use materials created by the professor or are directed to online materials.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid assistance is not available for students enrolled in a Non-JD Program.

## REFUND POLICY

Students in this program pay tuition each semester based upon the credits in which they are enrolled for that semester. There is a three-week Drop/Add period at the start of each semester for all LL.M. courses. There is a Drop/Add period for all J.D. courses cross-listed on the LL.M. Course Schedule and those dates are available on the Academic Calendar. Per the Student Handbook for this program, students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add. Any student wishing to withdraw from all classes prior to the last day of Drop/Add should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. Students who withdraw prior to or during the Drop/Add period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees, less the non-refundable seat deposit, within 30 days. There are no additional fees for students in the “online track” of this program.

If a student in the “residential track” withdraws after Drop/Add but before completing 20% of the semester, a 20% refund of tuition and fees may be granted due to:

- an incapacitating illness of such duration or severity, as confirmed in writing by a physician, that the completion of the semester is impossible
- student’s call to active military duty
- death of a member of the student’s immediate family (parent, spouse, child or sibling)

If a student in the “residential track” withdraws after completing 20% of the semester, there will be no refund or credit of tuition and/or fees Under Any Circumstances.

## TRANSFER

Transfers are not accepted into the LL.M. in General Law Studies program.

## LL.M. IN U.S. LAW FOR INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS

Coastal Law's Master's Degree (LL.M.) in U.S. Law for International Lawyers ("LL.M. in U.S. Law") was the first of its kind to offer all courses in an online, interactive classroom setting. The Program is designed for lawyers with a first degree in law from outside of the United States who are looking to add value to their professional careers without having to leave home or give up their jobs. The LL.M. program is conducted entirely online; there are no on-site classes for the LL.M. program. The Program is designed with the foreign law graduate in mind and takes into consideration that most of the students in the LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers program are not native English speakers.

LL.M. students are able to join distinguished U.S. law professors and classmates from around the world in interactive online classes. These classes include pre-recorded lectures (available in downloadable and mobile-friendly formats), free online reading materials, practice quizzes simulating Bar exam style multiple choice questions, practice essays simulating Bar exam style essays, and discussion boards that "bring to life" the legal topics covered in the lectures. Recognizing the importance of live interaction in the online classroom, our professors hold at least one live review session each semester in each class.

The 26-credit LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers curriculum meets the curricular eligibility requirements for foreign educated attorneys for both the California and Washington State Bar exams. As such, the curriculum includes many Bar-tested subjects and incorporates state-specific distinctions. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of U.S. law, the courses are also designed to provide students with practice opportunities (and professor feedback) for multiple choice and essay questions similar to those on the Bar exam.

Students can complete the program in as little as one year or as long as two years. Students must complete 26 credits with a grade of D or better (or a P for class taken as pass/fail) and attain a 2.3 cumulative GPA upon graduation to satisfy the degree requirements and to earn the LL.M. degree. Students who complete the LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers Program will not be eligible for admission to the Florida Bar.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the LL.M. in U.S. Law program must have a first degree in law from a non-U.S. law school. Applicants must apply through the online application located on the website at [www.llmcertification.com/florida-coastal-online-llm-in-us-law.html](http://www.llmcertification.com/florida-coastal-online-llm-in-us-law.html). Applicants should have their law school transcripts authenticated and evaluated by an agency approved by the California Bar. Applicants must submit a course-by-course transcript evaluation. California Bar approved agencies include:

A2Z Evaluations, LLC  
(530) 400-9266  
[www.A2Zeval.com](http://www.A2Zeval.com)

Center for Applied Research  
Evaluation and Education, Inc.  
International Evaluation Service  
(714) 237-9272 or (714) 237-9276  
info@iescaree.com

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.  
(414) 289-3400

Educational Records Evaluation Service, Inc.  
(916) 921-0790 or (866) 411-3737

The Foreign Educational Document Service  
(209) 948-6589

Foundation for International Services, Inc.  
(425) 248-2255  
www.fis-web.com  
Global Services Associates, Inc.  
(310) 828-5709

International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.  
(215) 387-6950 x603  
www.icdeval.com

International Education Research Foundation, Inc.  
(310) 258-9451  
www.ierf.org

Josef Silny & Associates, Inc.  
International Education Consultants  
(305) 273-1616  
www.jsilny.com

World Education Services, Inc.  
(212) 966-6311  
www.wes.org

Applicants must submit the following five documents in support of an application to Florida Coastal School of Law's LL.M. in U.S. Law program on or before the application deadline: (1) application; (2) brief personal statement; (3) TOEFL or IELTS score (non-native English speakers only – see exceptions below); and (4) evaluation of their official, authenticated law school transcript. (Please see the list of California Bar-approved credential evaluation agencies above.)

Admission to the program is competitive and not automatic. Seats are limited. To apply, an applicant must hold a law degree from his or her home country and have an academic record that indicates a likelihood of success in the program. The personal statement should demonstrate why an LL.M. in U.S. Law will advance the applicant's career. When reviewing applications for admission to the LL.M. program, the following factors will be considered:



performance in previous law studies; professional or related experience; professional and personal goals; and English proficiency.

*English Proficiency:*

Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

*Exceptions to the requirement of TOEFL or IELTS* - Non-native English speakers are not required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if they are (a) U.S. citizens, or graduates of (b) a law school located in a country where English is an official language, or (c) an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a country where English is an official language.

## CURRICULUM

Core Required Curriculum (26 credits), with 30 credits offered.

**Required Courses (Effective June 2019):**

Students who begin the program in June 2019 or later are required to successfully complete eighteen (18) credits from the following courses:

Contracts and Sales	3 credits
Real Property	2 credits
Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure	3 credits
Torts	2 credits
Civil Procedure	3 credits
Evidence	2 credits
Constitutional Law	3 credits

**Required Courses AFTER Initial 18 Required Credits (Effective June 2019):**

Students who begin the program in June 2019 or later are required to successfully complete these eight (8) credits from the following courses AFTER they meet the above list of required courses:

California Professional Responsibility	2 credits
Extended Bar Prep	3 credits
AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	
California Law Survey	3 credits
Uniform Law Survey	3 credits

**Elective Courses (Effective June 2019):**

Students who begin the program in June 2019 or later are not required but encouraged (for the California Bar) to complete the following four (4) credits.

Business Associations	2 credits
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## TUITION

The tuition for degree-seeking students in the LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers is \$765 per credit hour. The tuition for non-degree seeking students in the LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers is \$765 per credit.

Any LL.M. in U.S. Law for International Lawyers who graduates and returns to enroll in supplemental courses for the Washington State Bar will be charged the per credit tuition rate for degree-seeking students. Thus, the tuition will be \$765 per credit hour.

The Finance Office is responsible for billing and receiving payments such as tuition, fees, and other financial obligations to Florida Coastal. Students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add and will not be allowed to take final exams until their tuition balance is paid for the term. Transfer to another school does not relieve a student of financial liability for courses for which he/she is registered at Florida Coastal unless such courses are dropped during the Drop/Add period. There are no additional fees as students either use materials created by the professor or are directed to online materials.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid assistance is not available for students enrolled in a Non-JD Program.

## REFUND POLICY

Any student wishing to withdraw from all classes prior to the start of the term should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form which is routed to the Dean of Academics.

Students who withdraw during the drop period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees if they have completed the drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. Students may drop (subject to enrollment restrictions) a course for a full refund within five (5) business days of commencing the course. Failure to attend a class does not constitute a drop. Additionally, notification to the instructor of an intention to stop attending classes does not constitute a drop. Students must drop courses through the student web portal and also email drop/add requests to the Academic Dean. Refunds for students will be processed within 30 calendar days from the official date of withdrawal.

## TRANSFER

Transfer students must be able to complete at least 15 credit hours at Florida Coastal.

## LL.M. AND CERTIFICATE IN LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION FOR LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS

The business of logistics and transportation is one of the fastest-growing industries worldwide. Likewise, there is an increased demand for professionals who are educated in the laws and regulations governing this dynamic industry. These programs, upon relaunch, teach students about operations, regulation, laws, and litigation as it pertains to logistics and transportation. Students who complete Coastal Law's program will possess the regulatory, legal, and compliance knowledge to work in the logistics and transportation industry, both domestically and globally.

Students will be able to join their professors and classmates from around the world in interactive online classes. Courses will be offered in an asynchronous format that includes pre-recorded lectures, discussion boards that "bring to life" the legal topics covered in the lectures, and weekly written assignments. Recognizing the importance of live interaction in the online classroom, our professors will hold at least two live review sessions each term in each class. Finally, our LL.M. administrative team will also hold live, interactive online events with LL.M. professors and guest speakers at least once per month. These live events provide a great way for students to interact with their professors, classmates, and members of the Florida Coastal School of Law community.

The Masters of Law in Logistics and Transportation (LL.M.) for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers is a 24-credit hour fully online program. This program will be available to U.S. students who graduated from a U.S. law school possessing a Juris Doctor (J.D.), and for Non-U.S.-educated students who have a first degree in law from a non-U.S. law school. This program will educate students on the laws surrounding the logistics and transportation industry by offering courses taught by leaders in the industry. These professors will teach not only the legal theory but will also focus heavily on skills development and on sharing practical advice to help students hoping to break into the industry as well as to help those students who are currently working in a logistics or transportation related job advance within the industry.

The Certificate Program will educate students on the laws surrounding the logistics and transportation industry by offering courses taught by leaders in the industry. These professors will teach not only the legal theory but will also focus on skills development. They will share practical advice to help students to identify and advance in career opportunities in the industry. Thus, students will obtain an understanding of litigation, regulation, and contracting skills relating to international and domestic logistics and transportation.

Coursework in both programs emphasizes skills and practice-readiness for careers in the logistics and transportation industry.

Students can complete the 12-credit Certificate program or the 24-credit LL.M. program in as little as one year or as long as three years. Students must complete 26 credits with a grade of D or better (or a P for class taken

as pass/fail) and attain a 2.3 cumulative GPA upon graduation to satisfy the degree requirements and to earn the LL.M. degree.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS - LL.M. PROGRAM

The Masters of Law in Logistics and Transportation for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers will be available to individuals with a J.D. degree from a U.S. law school or individuals holding a first degree in law from a law school outside the U.S. Admission to the program is competitive and not automatic. Seats are limited.

U.S. educated applicants must submit their applications as follows: Complete the application using LSAC.org and the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service. The fee for the LL.M. Document Assembly Service is \$85. Additionally, there is a \$30 fee to release this information to Coastal Law. As part of the application, applicants must choose either to provide a Personal Statement or to respond to one of three Essay Questions on the subject matter of logistics and transportation. Either the Personal Statement or Essay Question Response must be attached to the application and submitted through LSAC.org. Applicants must also have their official transcripts mailed to the school.

Foreign educated applicants must submit their applications as follows: Complete the application using LSAC.org and the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service. The fees include the LL.M. Document Assembly Service (\$85) and International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service (\$135). Additionally, there is a \$30 fee to release this information to Coastal Law. As part of the application, applicants must choose either to provide a Personal Statement or to respond to one of three Essay Questions on the subject matter of logistics and transportation. Either the Personal Statement or Essay Question Response must be attached to the application and submitted through LSAC.org.

When reviewing applications for admission to the LL.M. program, the following factors will be considered: performance in previous law studies; professional or related experience; professional and personal goals; and English proficiency. Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

### *English Proficiency:*

Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

*Exceptions to the requirement of TOEFL or IELTS* - Non-native English speakers are not required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if they are (a) U.S. citizens, or graduates of (b) a law school located in a country where English is an official language, or (c) an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a country where English is an official language.

A waiver of the TOEFL and IELTS can also be granted on a case-by-case basis, based on submission of a waiver application and supporting documentation of English proficiency combined with a phone or online interview with the Associate Dean of Strategy and Innovation and the Academic Director of Non-J.D. Programs.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS - CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The certificate program is available for Non-Lawyers and Lawyers. Admission to the program is competitive and not automatic. Seats are limited.

### Admissions Criteria:

#### **1. Certificate in Logistics and Transportation Law for Lawyers (U.S. and Non-U.S. Students)**

**U.S. Students** - open to graduates of a U.S. law school possessing a Juris Doctor (J.D.).

**Non-U.S. Students** - open to individuals who have a first degree in law (e.g., Bachelor of Laws) from a non-U.S. law school.

#### **2. Certificate in Logistics and Transportation Regulation for Non-Lawyers includes:**

College graduates holding a degree in Transportation and Logistics, Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering, Military Logistics or the equivalent; or Persons working in the transportation industry who hold a Certificate in Transportation and Logistics (C.T.L.) issued by the American Society for Transportation and Logistics, or the equivalent from another industry organization; or Other persons holding a college degree who have significant experience in the field of transportation or military logistics.

### Admissions Process:

U.S. educated applicants must complete their application using LSAC.org and the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service. The fee for the LL.M. Document Assembly Service is \$85. Additionally, there is a \$30 fee to release this information to Coastal Law. As part of the application, applicants must choose either to provide a Personal Statement or to respond to one of three Essay Questions on the subject matter of logistics and transportation. Either the Personal Statement or Essay Question Response must be attached to the application and submitted through LSAC.org. Applicants must also have their official transcripts mailed to the school.

Foreign educated applicants must submit complete their application using LSAC.org and the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service. The fees include the LL.M. Document Assembly Service (\$85) and International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service (\$135). Additionally, there is a \$30 fee to release this information to Coastal Law. As part of the application, applicants must choose either to provide a Personal Statement or to respond to one of three Essay Questions on the subject matter of logistics and transportation. Either the Personal Statement or Essay Question Response must be attached to the application and submitted through LSAC.org.

When reviewing applications for admission to the Certificate program, the following factors will be considered: performance in previous studies; professional or related experience;

professional and personal goals; and English proficiency. Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

*English Proficiency:*

Non-native English speakers must obtain a minimum score of 80 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.

Exceptions to the requirement of TOEFL or IELTS - Non-native English speakers are not required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if they are (a) U.S. citizens, or graduates of (b) a law school located in a country where English is an official language, or (c) an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a country where English is an official language.

A waiver of the TOEFL and IELTS can also be granted on a case-by-case basis, based on submission of a waiver application and supporting documentation of English proficiency combined with a phone or online interview with the Associate Dean of Strategy and Innovation and the Academic Director of Non-J.D. Programs.

## CURRICULUM – CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

### **Credits Required for Graduation:**

Students must successfully complete twelve (12) credit hours to obtain a Certificate in Logistics and Transportation.

### **Required Courses:**

Students seeking a Certificate in Logistics and Transportation for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers are required to successfully complete 12 credits (of the 35 listed below) in the online program, including two (2) credits of coursework in the field of Administrative/Regulatory Law (2 credits).

Administrative Law for Transportation Professionals*	FL-LLMLT-318	3 credits
Admiralty and Maritime Law	FL-LLMLT-346	2 credits
Advanced Customs Regulation Studies	FL-LLMLT-348	2 credits
Automated Vehicles	FL-LLMLT-350	1 credit
Aviation Liability and Regulatory Compliance*	FL-LLMLT-345	2 credits
Cargo Security Management	FL-LLMLT-349	1 credit
Customs Regulation*	FL-LLMLT-312	2 credits
Employment and Labor Law for Logistics and Transportation Industry	FL-LLMLT-343	3 credits
Environmental Compliance and Emerging Environmental Issues in Logistics and Transportation Industry*	FL-LLMLT-347	2 credits
Global Logistics Management	FL-LLMLT-352	1 credit
Government Contracts and Procurement	FL-LLMLT-342	3 credits
International Business Transactions	FL-LLMLT-301	2 credits

Marine Chartering	FL-LLMLT-315	1 credit
Port Security	FL-LLMLT-351	1 credit
Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation*	FL-LLMLT-334	1 credit
Railroad Litigation and Regulation*	FL-LLMLT-310	1 credit
Trucking Liability and Regulatory Compliance*	FL-LLMLT-344	2 credits
U. S. Immigration Law for Logistics and Transportation Industry*	FL-LLMLT-326A	2 credits
Transportation Insurance	FL-LLMLT-339	3 credits

\*Course qualifies for Administrative/Regulatory Law course

## CURRICULUM – LL.M. PROGRAM

### **Credits Required for Graduation:**

Students must successfully complete twenty-four (24) credit hours to obtain the LL.M. in Logistics and Transportation degree.

### **Required Courses:**

Students seeking an LL.M. in Logistics and Transportation for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers degree are required to successfully complete 24 credits (of the 35 listed below) in the online program, including the required course in International Business Transactions (2 credits) and two (2) credits of coursework in the field of Administrative/Regulatory Law (2 credits).

Administrative Law for Transportation Professionals*	FL-LLMLT-318	3 credits
Admiralty and Maritime Law	FL-LLMLT-346	2 credits
Advanced Customs Regulation Studies	FL-LLMLT-348	2 credits
Automated Vehicles	FL-LLMLT-350	1 credit
Aviation Liability and Regulatory Compliance*	FL-LLMLT-345	2 credits
Cargo Security Management	FL-LLMLT-349	1 credit
Customs Regulation*	FL-LLMLT-312	2 credits
Employment and Labor Law for Logistics and Transportation Industry	FL-LLMLT-343	3 credits
Environmental Compliance and Emerging Environmental Issues in Logistics and Transportation Industry*	FL-LLMLT-347	2 credits
Global Logistics Management	FL-LLMLT-352	1 credit
Government Contracts and Procurement	FL-LLMLT-342	3 credits
International Business Transactions	FL-LLMLT-301	2 credits
Marine Chartering	FL-LLMLT-315	1 credit
Port Security	FL-LLMLT-351	1 credit
Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation*	FL-LLMLT-334	1 credit

Railroad Litigation and Regulation*	FL-LLMLT-310	1 credit
Trucking Liability and Regulatory Compliance*	FL-LLMLT-344	2 credits
U. S. Immigration Law for Logistics and Transportation Industry*	FL-LLMLT-326A	2 credits
Transportation Insurance	FL-LLMLT-339	3 credits

\*Course qualifies for Administrative/Regulatory Law course

## TUITION

The tuition is \$600 per credit hour. The Finance Office is responsible for billing and receiving payments such as tuition, fees, and other financial obligations to Florida Coastal. Students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add and will not be allowed to take final exams until their tuition balance is paid for the term. Failure to pay tuition in a timely manner will result in a financial hold placed on the student's academic account. Transfer to another school does not relieve a student of financial liability for courses for which he/she is registered at Florida Coastal unless such courses are dropped during the Drop/Add period. There are no additional fees as students either use materials created by the professor or are directed to online materials.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid assistance is not available for students enrolled in a Non-JD Program.

## REFUND POLICY

Students in this program pay tuition each semester based upon the credits in which they are enrolled for that semester. There is a three-week Drop/Add period at the start of each semester for all LL.M. courses. Per the Student Handbook for this program, students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add. Any student wishing to withdraw from classes prior to the last day of Drop/Add should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. Students who withdraw prior to or during the Drop/Add period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees, less the non-refundable seat deposit, within 30 days.

If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absence) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account except for the following circumstances.

- If a student withdraws before completing 20% of the semester, a 20% refund of tuition and fees may be granted, based on tuition and fees only (seat deposits are non-refundable), due to:
  - an incapacitating illness of such duration or severity, as confirmed in writing by a physician, that the completion of the semester is impossible;
  - the student's call to active military duty; or



- the death of the student or a member of the student's immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling).
- If a student withdraws after completing 20% of the semester, there will be no refund or credit of tuition and/or fees under any circumstances

## TRANSFER

Transfers are not accepted into the LL.M. or Certificate in Logistics and Transportation for Lawyers and Non-Lawyers programs.

## LL.M. IN HEALTH LAW

This program, upon launch, will allow attorneys with a first degree in law the opportunity to expand their knowledge about health law and policy. The Health Law LL.M. is a planned online program for practicing attorneys who wish to expand their knowledge and understanding of health law, including public policy, regulatory challenges, and economic and social issues. Students must complete 24 credits with a grade of D or better (or a P for class taken as pass/fail) and attain a 2.3 cumulative GPA upon graduation to satisfy the degree requirements and to earn the LL.M. degree. Students will take five required courses totaling 13 credits and then choose from eleven elective courses to make up the remaining 11 credits necessary to earn the degree. Full-time students can complete the program and earn an LL.M. in one year. Part-time students will have a maximum of four years to complete the program's requirements. Students will have opportunities for experiential learning through externships. While an externship is not required, it will be encouraged as a way to develop additional skills. Students may earn a maximum of 4 credits for an externship.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents in support of their application to the Masters of Law in Health Law program on or before the application deadline: (1) application, (2) C.V., (3) brief personal statements, and (4) law school transcript confirming conferral of first degree in law.

English proficiency will be determined using standard methods (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, etc.). Naturalized U.S. citizens are exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement. Applicants are not required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if they are a graduate of (a) a law school located in a country where English is an official language, or (b) an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a country where English is an official language, or (c) the applicant has lived and worked in the United States or another English-speaking country for a considerable period of time, and has worked in English during that time. In limited cases, prospective applicants may apply for a waiver of the TOEFL and IELTS requirements and be allowed to conduct a phone or online English language assessment with the Admissions Committee or LL.M. Program Director.

### CURRICULUM

All students will be required to take the following courses (13 credits):

- Introduction to Health Law and Policy
- Regulation of Healthcare Industry
- Bioethics and Public Health
- Healthcare Quality and Safety
- Healthcare Business, Finance and Transactions

Students will be able to choose from the following elective courses (up to 11 credits):

- Elder Law
- Genetics and the Law
- Insurance Law
- Medical Malpractice Law
- Food and Drug Law
- Risk Management
- Dispute Resolution in Healthcare
- Medical Devices and Products Liability
- Healthcare Fraud and Abuse
- LL.M. Thesis Project
- LL.M. Externship (4 credits maximum)

## TUITION

The tuition for the twenty-four credit hour program is \$1,200 per credit. Tuition, fees and any other charges are the responsibility of the student and are due in full no later than the first day of regular classes for each term. Students become liable for tuition and fees on the last day of drop/add. If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absences) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account. There are no additional fees as students either use materials created by the professor or are directed to online materials.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid assistance is not available for students enrolled in a Non-JD Program.

## REFUND POLICY

Students in this program pay tuition each semester based upon the credits in which they are enrolled for that semester. There is a three-week Drop/Add period at the start of each semester for all LL.M. courses. Per the Student Handbook for this program, students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add. Any student wishing to withdraw from classes prior to the last day of Drop/Add should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. Students who withdraw prior to or during the Drop/Add period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees, less the non-refundable seat deposit, within 30 days.

If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absence) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account except for the following circumstances.

- If a student withdraws before completing 20% of the semester, a 20% refund of tuition and fees may be granted, based on tuition and fees only (seat deposits are non-refundable), due to:
  - an incapacitating illness of such duration or severity, as confirmed in writing by a physician, that the completion of the semester is impossible;
  - the student's call to active military duty; or
  - the death of the student or a member of the student's immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling).
- If a student withdraws after completing 20% of the semester, there will be no refund or credit of tuition and/or fees under any circumstances

## TRANSFER

Transfers will not accepted into the LL.M. in Health Law programs.

## MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN LAW

This program, upon launch, will offer an online Masters of Science in Law (“MSL”) degree to highly qualified students seeking to enhance their skills or career in the areas of Business, Health Law, Logistics and Government Contracting, Healthcare Compliance, and Law Practice Management. The MSL degree is designed to provide advanced instruction in the law, legal reasoning, and legal analysis for professionals who do not require a J.D. degree for their career but for whom an advanced degree focused on the law will be advantageous. The MSL is designed to help professionals (including engineers, nurses, scientists, and other subject matter specialists) use legal and regulatory knowledge to help their organizations gain a competitive advantage and to help those professionals grow within their profession. Students must complete required credits with a grade of D or better (or a P for class taken as pass/fail) and attain a 2.3 cumulative GPA upon graduation to satisfy the degree requirements and to earn the degree.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to have completed a B.A. degree, B.S. degree, or equivalent.

### CURRICULUM

All students will be required to take 30 credits to graduate. Students will have the option of concentrations available in Business, Health Law, Logistics and Government Contracting, Healthcare Compliance, and Law Practice Management. The MSL degree is designed to provide advanced instruction in the law, legal reasoning, and legal analysis for professionals who do not require a J.D. degree for their career but for whom an advanced degree focused on the law will be advantageous. The MSL is designed to help professionals (including compliance officers, healthcare executives, engineers, nurses, scientists, and other subject matter specialists) use legal and regulatory knowledge to help their organizations gain a competitive advantage and to help those professionals grow within their profession.

### TUITION

The tuition for the twenty-four credit hour program is \$500 per credit. Tuition, fees and any other charges are the responsibility of the student and are due in full no later than the first day of regular classes for each term. Students become liable for tuition and fees on the last day of drop/add. If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absences) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account.

There are no additional fees as students either use materials created by the professor or are directed to online materials.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid assistance is not available for students enrolled in a Non-JD Program.

## REFUND POLICY

Students in this program pay tuition each semester based upon the credits in which they are enrolled for that semester. There is a three-week Drop/Add period at the start of each semester for all LL.M. courses. Per the Student Handbook for this program, students become liable for fees the last day of Drop/Add. Any student wishing to withdraw from classes prior to the last day of Drop/Add should notify the school immediately by completing an online drop form. A withdraw becomes official on the last date the student attended classes. Students who withdraw prior to or during the Drop/Add period will receive a full refund of tuition and fees, less the non-refundable seat deposit, within 30 days.

If a student withdraws (including transfers and leaves of absence) after the add/drop date, the student still has the obligation to pay Coastal Law for any balances on the account except for the following circumstances.

- If a student withdraws before completing 20% of the semester, a 20% refund of tuition and fees may be granted, based on tuition and fees only (seat deposits are non-refundable), due to:
  - an incapacitating illness of such duration or severity, as confirmed in writing by a physician, that the completion of the semester is impossible;
  - the student's call to active military duty; or
  - the death of the student or a member of the student's immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling).
- If a student withdraws after completing 20% of the semester, there will be no refund or credit of tuition and/or fees under any circumstances

## TRANSFER

Transfers will not accepted into the Master of Science in Law program.

## ADMINISTRATION

The administration is committed to providing training that is relevant to the educational needs of students. They are future-oriented, sensitive to a rapidly changing professional environment, and student-outcome centered.

### **James Artley, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs**

Ph.D., Business Administration, Nova Southeastern University

M.B.A., Nova Southeastern University

B.S., Healthcare Administration, University of North Florida

Dr. Artley is the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. James has an impressive track record with increasing responsibilities in both business and higher education. His diverse career began at Blue Cross Blue Shield where he spent twelve years in research and analysis, ending as a Market Intelligence Leader. In addition to his business background, James has extensive experience in academic administration serving in Academic Dean roles at Everest University and most recently Concord Career Institute. He received both his MBA and Doctor of Business Administration at Nova Southeastern University, and his undergrad from University of North Florida. As Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, he is responsible for outcomes related to our students' law school experience including activities both inside and outside the classroom.

### **Ron Bambacus, Comptroller**

B.S., Accounting, Frostburg State University

Ron has been the finance comptroller of Florida Coastal School of Law since 2005. He has a background in accounting, financial reporting and forecasting, and process improvement for large corporations, and was formerly with CSX Corporation and Wilson Financial, both in Jacksonville, Florida. Ron earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Frostburg State University in Maryland.

### **Scott DeVito, Dean and Professor of Law**

J.D., Connecticut School of Law

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Rochester

B.A., Philosophy, Queens College

Scott DeVito joined Coastal Law in 2008 as a tenured professor after practicing law in Phoenix, Arizona. While there, he clerked for the late Justice Michael D. Ryan. DeVito earned his law degree from the Connecticut School of Law where he was Editor-in-Chief of Connecticut Law Review and treasurer of the moot court board. In addition to his J.D., DeVito holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Rochester. Prior to going to law school, DeVito taught philosophy at the university level. While at Coastal Law, DeVito's teaching and legal scholarship has focused on commercial law and quantitative empirical legal research respectively. Most importantly, DeVito has led efforts to

innovate legal education, serving as Chair of the Innovation Committee and taking a lead role in Coastal Law's strategic planning process.

**Jennifer Reiber, Dean of Academics**

J.D., Florida State University College of Law

B.F.A., Acting, New York University

Admitted to the Florida Bar

Prior to joining the faculty at Coastal Law, Dean Reiber practiced law for eleven years in Jacksonville, Florida, focusing on representing plaintiffs in complex personal injury, insurance disputes, medical malpractice, products liability, wrongful death, nursing home abuse, and employment discrimination claims. Dean Reiber handled all aspects of pre-suit and litigation case matters in state and federal court with extensive experience taking and defending depositions, advocating at hearings, conducting mediations, performing legal research, and writing legal memorandums, correspondence, demands, discovery, pleading, motions and appellate briefs. Dean Reiber has also tried cases in state and federal court. Dean Reiber was an active member of the Florida Justice Association, serving as a Board Member, Chair of the Young Lawyer's Division, and Chair of the Women's Caucus. She was also the recipient of the Florida Lawyer's Action Group Award (June 2003) and the Bronze Eagle Award (June 2002). Dean Reiber also served as Chair, for the 2001 Honorable E. Earle Zehmer Memorial Mock Trial Competition and 2002 and 2003 Law Student Trial Advocacy Competition for the American Association for Justice, in Jacksonville, Florida. Dean Reiber also served on the Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Board (2001-2003). Since joining the Florida Coastal School of Law faculty in 2010, she has taught Lawyering Process I, Lawyering Process II, Legal Methods, Legal Research and Objective Writing, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Taking and Defending Depositions, Trial Practice for Mock Trial, and Legal-Medical Terminology. Dean Reiber has served as the school's Innovation Committee Chair and on the Bar Prep Committee for five years.

**Megan Schade, Director of Admissions**

J.D., Florida Coastal School of Law

B.S., Business Management and Organization, Miami University- Oxford

Admitted to Florida Bar

Director Megan Schade joined Florida Coastal School of Law in August 2013 after graduating from Florida Coastal School of Law. She began working as a student in the office and fell in love with the interactions she was having with prospective students and the impact that she could have on their legal careers. She has been able to use her own experience in law school to help students feel comfortable and confident in their decision to pursue a J.D. and in finding Florida Coastal as the right fit. While in law school Megan was the President of the Women's Law Student Association, Treasurer of the Military Law Society, served as a Senior Pro Bono Director, and was a legal intern at the State Attorney's Office for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Prior to moving to Jacksonville, Megan grew up in Ohio where she



had to endure winters of snow, thankfully that is not something she has to worry about now. During her free time Megan enjoys spending time with her family (still located in Ohio), traveling, going to amusement parks, reading, and enjoying all the fun activities that Florida has to offer.

## FACULTY

As the primary agents for transferring knowledge and broadening student horizons, the law school faculty is a crucial resource. Recognizing the influence that they can have upon student intellectual growth and career development, Florida Coastal School of Law's faculty are committed to creating and maintaining a student-centered and supportive learning environment. The faculty includes instructors who are nationally recognized and have earned awards for their teaching and scholarship. The most significant trait of each faculty member is a dedication to facilitating the professional development and success of students through effective teaching and mentoring.

To view biographical information of Coastal Law's full-time faculty, please visit the following site at [www.fcsl.edu/directory/faculty](http://www.fcsl.edu/directory/faculty).

Faculty	Capacity	Course(s) Taught	Degree and Institution
Cherek, Kristine	Adjunct	FL-PROP-102 Property II	J.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison
Coll, Melissa	Full-time Faculty	FL-LRWR-108 Writing for Law Practice FL-LRWR-203 Pretrial Litigation Drafting FL-CRIM-314 Florida Criminal Pretrial Practice FL-SPEC-002 Studying the Law II FL-BARP-312 Georgia Law Survey	J.D., Stetson University
Curran, Ericka	Full-time Clinician	FL-INTL-316N Immigration Considerations for the Criminal Defense Attorney FL-SPEC-453 Advanced Clinical FL-INTL-303 Immigration Law FL-SPEC-454 Immigrant and Family Advocacy Clinic	J.D., Seattle University
DeVito, Scott	Dean	FL-BUSI-602 UCC Survey: Sales, Payment Systems, Secured Transactions FL-BARP-314 Uniform Law Survey	J.D., University of Connecticut School of Law
Dutra, Fernando	Adjunct	FL-LRWR-303 Transactional Drafting	J.D., Florida Coastal School of Law
Guy, John	Adjunct	FL-DSRL-313 Trial Practice Workshop	J.D., University of Florida
Hammond, Ada	Adjunct	FL-SPEC-407 Externship Placement FL-SPEC-451 Criminal Law Externship	J.D., University of Florida
Kolenc, Antony	Adjunct	FL-DSRL-318 Appellate Advocacy FL-HRAS-501 Moot Court	J.D., University of Florida
Martini, David	Adjunct	FL-INTL-305 International Law FL-INTL-314 International Human Rights	J.D., Florida Coastal School of Law
McLaughlin, Julia	Full-time Faculty	FL-FAML-200 Family Law FL-PROP-101 Property I FL-FAML-311 Dependency and Adoption Law: Theory, Policy and Practice	J.D., University of Wisconsin
Odom, Jason	Adjunct	FL-GOVT-999 Veterans Benefit Clinic FL-CRIM-998 Sealing and Expungement Clinic	J.D., Florida Coastal School of Law
Ponte, Lucille	Full-time Faculty	FL-BUSI-101 Contracts I FL-BUSI-103 Contracts II FL-BUSI-200 Business Associations FL-SPEC-306 Intellectual Property	J.D. New England School of Law
Priester, Benjamin	Full-time Faculty	FL-BARP-311 California Law Survey FL-HRAS-503 Law Review FL-LRWR-302 Legal Editing for Law Review FL-HRAS-502 Law Review Board FL-CRIM-100 Criminal Law FL-CRIM-200 Criminal Procedure	J.D., Duke University
Ragan, Alan	Full-time Faculty	FL-ESTS-301 Trusts and Estates FL-TORT-101 Torts I	J.D., Washington and Lee University

Ragsdale, Lois	Adjunct	FL-SPEC-451 Criminal Law Externship	J.D., Tulane University
Reiber, Jennifer	Full-time Faculty	FL-BARP-310 National Law Survey	J.D., Florida State University College of Law
Reiber, Matt	Visiting Faculty	FL-CONS-201 Constitutional Law I FL-CONS-202 Constitutional Law II FL-BARP-314 Uniform Law Survey FL-BUSI-200 Business Associations FL-DSRL-101 Civil Procedure I	J.D., Columbia University
Romero-Craft, Kira	Adjunct	FL-SPEC-503 Civil Rights Practitioner Clinic	J.D., Florida State University College of Law
Sacks, David	Adjunct	FL-EMPL-304 Employment and Labor Law	J.D., McGeorge College of Law
Scaldo, Stacy	Full-time Faculty	FL-LRWR-107 Legal Research and Analysis FL-TORT-101 Torts I FL-SPEC-000 Studying the Law	J.D., Nova Southeastern University
Scales, Leigh	Full-time Faculty	FL-ETHS-200 Professional Responsibility FL-BARP-309 Florida Law Survey FL-LRWR-107 Legal Research and Analysis FL-SPEC-000 Studying the Law I	J.D., University of Florida
Schmidt, Penny	Adjunct	FL-DSRL-317 Alternative Dispute Resolution	J.D., Saint Thomas University
Shannon, Bradley	Full-time Faculty	FL-DSRL-101 Civil Procedure I FL-DSRL-102 Civil Procedure II FL-DSRL-319 Conflict of Laws	J.D., University of Washington
Stinneford, John	Adjunct	FL-CRIM-202 Federal Criminal Law	J.D., Harvard
Tuttle, Natalie	Adjunct	FL-DSRL-322 Florida Practice and Procedure FL-FAML-200 Family Law	J.D., Florida State University
Watson, Stacy	Adjunct	FL-GOVT-303 Environmental Law	J.D., John Marshall Law School
Williams, Alan	Full-time Faculty	FL-DSRL-200 Evidence FL-DSRL-312 Trial Practice Lecture FL-ESTS-301 Trusts and Estates FL-ETHS-301 Bioethics and Public Health FL-DSRL-313 Trial Practice Workshop FL-TORT-103 Torts II FL-HRAS-500 Mock Trial Team	J.D., Florida State University

## APPENDIX A

### Course Listing – J.D. Program

**FL-GOVT-307**

**Credits: 3**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW:** This course studies how federal government agencies regulate key areas and apply the law. The course will cover a variety of topics, including the legal framework (both constitutional and statutory) that governs administrative action; the role of agencies in interpreting statutory and regulatory law; and judicial review of agency decisions. The central theme of the course is how the law manages the tension between “rule of law” values (e.g., procedural regularity, accountability, and substantive limits on arbitrary action) and the desire for flexible, effective administrative governance.

Prerequisites: Civil Procedure I; Co-requisite: Constitutional Law I

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**FL-CRIM-305**

**Credits: 3**

**ADVANCED CRIMINAL PROCEDURE:** This course addresses the criminal process subsequent to arrest, and builds on content learned in Criminal Procedure. The course will focus on the law governing the initial appearance (right to counsel, right to bail), formal charging decisions, grand jury process, right to speedy trial, discovery, pleas and plea bargains, jury selection and trial, sentencing, double jeopardy, appeals and collateral attacks.

Prerequisites: Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure

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**FL-LRWR-300**

**Credits: 3**

**ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH:** This course offers an in-depth look at research methods and resources. Topics include: designing a research strategy; research in judicial, legislative and executive materials, both federal and state; extensive coverage of secondary and non-legal resources.

Prerequisites: Legal Research & Analysis, Writing for Law Practice

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**FL-GOVT-317**

**Credits: 2**

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** This course addresses non-litigation methods for resolving disputes in the context of a lawyer's obligations to serve clients with diligence. Legal theory and practical Simulation will be incorporated in studying mediation, arbitration and negotiation.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-GOVT-309**

**Credits: 3**

**AMERICAN LEGAL PROCESS:** This course examines how judges decide cases, how judges should decide cases, and how courts interpret statutes. Among the topics covered are the development of modern adjudication, legal principles, statutory construction, precedent, decision-making theory, justification of the decision, and the use of law clerks.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-DSRL-318A**

**Credits: 2**

**APPELLATE ADVOCACY I:** This course will focus on the simulations that are necessary for appellate advocacy. In general categories, this includes research, writing, and oral advocacy. The course will also address appellate court procedures. It introduces general principles of argumentation and legal reasoning and the fundamental structures of oral argument and appellate brief-writing.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-DSRL-318B****Credits: 1**

**APPELLATE ADVOCACY II:** This course will focus on the simulations that are necessary for advanced appellate advocacy. It discusses advanced principles of argumentation and legal reasoning and advanced methods of oral argument and appellate brief-writing.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-BUSI-302****Credits: 3**

**BANKRUPTCY:** The course addresses business bankruptcy and reorganization and conducts a comparison between formal bankruptcy and its alternatives, between reorganization and liquidation, between a chapter 11 reorganization and an out-of-court workout. Also included is a discussion of the constitutional limitations on the Bankruptcy Code.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-ETHS-301****Credits: 2**

**BIOETHICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH:** This course explores the intersection of law and ethics in the fields of medicine and public health. A core theme is examining the conflict between an individual patient's interest and interests of others or of society. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: patient autonomy, reproductive rights, genetic technologies, death and dying, organ allocation, infectious diseases, public health reporting, bioterrorism, and obesity.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-BUSI-200****Credits: 3**

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS:** This course is an introduction to concepts and statutory basis for analyzing three primary business forms: (1) partnerships (2) limited liability companies (LLCs), and (3) corporations. Emphasis will be placed on the relative rights and liabilities found between those within the business, and also the relationship between the business owners and third parties. Students will be challenged to think like the advisor to the business, the business owner, and those who represent third parties who deal with the business. The learning outcomes therefore will inform the student for bar exams and job searches since the student will learn gain knowledge valued by practitioners, i.e. how to protect client money and how to protect clients from liability to others through the choice of business organizations.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-BARP-311****Credits: 3**

**CALIFORNIA LAW SURVEY:** This course is designed to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate prior to becoming licensed to practice law in California, such as the ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Students will study and write on law topics that include: Business Organizations (Corporations, Partnerships & LLCs, and Agency), California Civil Procedure, California Community Property, California Evidence, Remedies, California Professional Responsibility, Trusts, and California Wills & Succession.

Prerequisites: This course is open only to students enrolled in their final semester of law school

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**FL-DSRL-100****Credits: 3**

**CIVIL PROCEDURE I:** This course (together with Civil Procedure II) introduces students to the basic legal principles relating to the litigation of actions in United States District Courts from commencement through and after appeal, including post-appeal matters such as relief from judgment and former adjudication.

Prerequisites: None

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**CIVIL PROCEDURE II:** This course is a continuation of those topics covered in Civil Procedure I.

Prerequisites: Civil Procedure I

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**CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS:** Florida Coastal School of Law offers students in good academic standing who have completed all the first-year required courses, Evidence, Professional Responsibility and certain other specific course Prerequisites, an opportunity to participate in both live client clinics and a wide variety of externships. While specific clinical programs and externship placements vary from semester to semester, they typically include placements in prosecutorial agencies, public defender offices, legal services organizations, environmental agencies and the City of Jacksonville Office of General Counsel. There are also opportunities to participate in externships with federal and state trial and appellate judges. Students are not allowed to earn credit for externships with private law firms or businesses. A faculty member coordinates the administrative process and works with each student intern to enhance the clinical experience or placement process and maximize the learning experience. Depending on the particular clinic or externship placement, students may earn from three (3) to six (6) credit hours. Senior clinicians may earn from one (1) to three (3) credits. During the semester, a student must work a total of forty-five (45) hours per credit hour at his or her placement with the fifth and sixth credit hour requiring a total of fifty (50) hours per credit hour. In addition to the client-representation component of the live-client clinics and the placement component of the externships, students are required to participate in a classroom component that provides the necessary link between the externship and the law curriculum. Credit for all but one hour of the clinic or externship is awarded on a pass/fail basis. One credit hour of the total number of credit hours is graded, and the grade is based on the student's performance in the classroom component. Enrollment in clinics and externships may be limited. Placements will be made on the basis of credits successfully completed at the end of the semester prior to the student's application, as well as a consideration of the student's goals and objectives in seeking the clinic or externship assignment; grade point average; writing Simulation; requirements of the supervising attorney or agency; interviews with the faculty adviser and/or judge or supervising attorney; and other qualifications as determined by the faculty adviser. In addition, priority will be given to those students who have not participated in a clinic or externship program in a prior semester. A student may not enroll in more than one clinical placement or externship per semester. While a student may participate in more than one clinical placement or externship during law school, the total number of credit hours that a student may earn from clinical or externship placements is limited to fifteen (15) credit hours.

Prerequisites: Evidence, Professional Responsibility

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**COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS:** This course surveys the legal, accounting, business, underwriting, and selection of entity issues relating to the acquisition, construction, leasing, ownership, operation and management of various types of commercial real estate projects.

Prerequisites: Contracts II, Property II

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**CONFLICT OF LAWS:** This course involves the study of two major subjects: first, the approaches used by courts to identify the applicable state, federal or foreign law that will be applied to resolve a dispute with multistate elements. Second, the extent to which a judgment entered in one jurisdiction can be enforced in another jurisdiction.

Prerequisites: None

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**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I:** This course addresses the nature and distribution of power within the federal government, the relationship between the federal government and the states in regulating commerce, the role of the judiciary, and the prerequisites for litigating a constitutional controversy.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-CONS-202****Credits: 3**

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II:** This course examines the speech, press, and religion clauses of the First Amendment, the equal protection guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment, principles of state action, and substantive and procedural due process guarantees under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-PUBL-313DE****Credits: 3**

**CONSUMER LAW:** This course examines contemporary consumer law, situating its statutes in the common law of tort and contract. The class is organized around a consumer transaction, including how businesses attract consumers, the terms of the products or services purchased, and the remedies or enforcement tools available if the deal goes awry. In addition to longstanding important topics such as unfair or deceptive acts and practices, warranties, and consumer credit law, the class examines how the consumer law landscape is changing. Issues include technological advances that raise privacy concerns; the increase in automobile debt and student loans; and the work of the newest federal agency, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This class will not be exclusively about "consumer protection" but instead will consider consumer law from multiple viewpoints, including those of businesses that are regulated by consumer law and those of policymakers who are charged with protecting the public interest in a fair marketplace.

Prerequisites: All required first year courses

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**FL-BUSI-101 OR 102****Credits: 3**

**CONTRACTS I:** This course surveys the law of contracts including the evolution of the theory and law of contracts. This course will focus on the creation and enforcement of contractual rights and quasi-contractual rights. Some attention will be directed to the relevant provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, contract drafting, and to comparative ideologies and systems governing agreements and expectations.

Prerequisites: None

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**FL-BUSI-103****Credits: 3**

**CONTRACTS II:** This course completes the survey of the law of contracts begun in Contracts I, focusing on the termination of contractual and quasi-contractual rights, as well as defenses, terms, conditions, performance, breach and remedies. Some attention will be directed to the relevant provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code and to contract drafting.

Prerequisites: Contracts I

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**FL-CRIM-100****Credits: 3**

**CRIMINAL LAW:** This course examines the purpose, effectiveness and methodology of regulating human conduct by the infliction or threat of infliction of criminal sanctions. The definitional elements of certain crimes, principles of responsibility, rules of justification and accessory liability are covered.

Prerequisites: None

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**FL-CRIM-311****Credits: 1 or 2**

**CRIMINAL PRE-TRIAL PRACTICE:** The purpose of this course is to expose students to the world of criminal pretrial practice. We will work through many of the major aspects of pretrial practice, which may include case intake (witness interviewing, charging decisions), grand jury practice, indictments, arraignments, discovery, pretrial motions, pretrial detention hearings, and plea agreements.

Prerequisites: Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure; Advanced Criminal Procedures is recommended but not required

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**FL-CRIM-200****Credits: 3**

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE:** This course will examine constitutional aspects of the federal criminal justice system. Primary focal points include the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. The course concerns itself not just with case law but with the context in which it arises and its consequences.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-SPEC-329****Credits: 3**

**CYBERLAW:** This course explores the impact of evolving online technologies on both traditional and developing legal areas such as free speech, copyright, trademarks, data collection and privacy, and comparative international legal approaches to the online world.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

Recommended Prerequisites: Intellectual Property

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**FL-FAML-306****Credits: 3**

**DEPENDENCY AND ADOPTION LAW:** This course offers a survey of the child welfare (dependency) system, and the related field of public adoption law. Students will learn the constitutional standards for state intervention into families where the children are at risk, including the role of the state to stabilize families, reunify families if children are removed, and to terminate parental rights when reunification efforts fail. The course also examines the procedure surrounding public adoption in the context of achieving permanency for at-risk children.

Prerequisites: Family Law

Recommended Prerequisites: Constitutional Law II, Juvenile Law

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**FL-EMPL-301****Credits: 3**

**EMPLOYMENT LAW:** This course highlights the legal principles involving the employment at will relationship and growing exceptions based on contract, tort and statutory principles as well as federal statutory and regulatory law affecting employment rights and duties. Topics may include claims of wrongful discharge, employment-related torts including retaliatory discharge, defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress, invasion of privacy, termination, promotion, hiring and other adverse employment decisions or harassment based on race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, retaliation or other protected status, and the basic litigation strategies in employment law cases. The course will also focus on various state and federal laws and court decisions regulating the employment relationship.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-ENVL-303****Credits: 3**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:** This survey course will introduce students to environmental law by examining domestic environmental law and policy and comparing approaches taken to solve environmental issues in the United States to approaches taken by other countries. Students will study domestic environmental law primarily through examination of federal pollution control statutes and regulations. Topics covered may include the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Students will then compare U.S. law and policy to that utilized by other countries to address several leading topics in international environmental law and policy, including climate change, ozone depletion, trans boundary movement of hazardous waste, international trade and the environment, biodiversity, and the law of the sea. The course will examine sources of international environmental law and the role of international institutions in developing and implementing environmental agreements. The course also will address extraterritorial application of domestic law.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

Recommended Prerequisites: Administrative Law

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**FL-ENVL-314****Credits: 2**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:** This course will address real-world problems that environmental lawyers face in practice. Students will represent state and federal environmental agencies, the regulated community, and environmental groups in simulation exercises. Students will 1) engage in compliance counseling under the Clean Air Act, 2) litigate a citizen suit under the Clean Water Act, and 3) negotiate an administrative penalty settlement. The course will examine how federal and state environmental agencies, the regulated community, and environmental groups interact in implementing environmentally sound management standards for business practices. The course also will address ethical issues that arise in representing clients in environmental cases. It is recommended that you have taken Environmental Law before you take this course.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

Recommended Prerequisites: Administrative Law

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**FL-DSRL-200****Credits: 4**

**EVIDENCE:** This course explores the rules and policies governing the fact-finding process of a trial with emphasis on rules relating to admissibility and exclusion of evidence. Relevance, judicial notice, examination and cross examination, the hearsay rule and its exceptions, original writings, burdens of proof and presumptions and privileges are among the topics considered.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-FAML-200****Credits: 3**

**FAMILY LAW:** This is a survey of the concepts of the family, historical and philosophical, and the processes of marriage, divorce and annulment. Topics include support obligations in the family, agreements, mediation, contracts of marriage, illegitimacy, children, adoption, custody, alimony, and property distribution.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-CRIM-202****Credits: 2 or 3**

**FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW:** The objective of this course is to expose students to both the substantive legal standards and the underlying policy questions surrounding federal criminal prosecutions, with a particular emphasis on "street" crime (violent crime, narcotics and weapons possession and trafficking), organized crime, domestic political corruption, and terrorism. Federal criminal jurisdiction has expanded enormously in the past thirty years (there are now somewhere in excess of 4000 federal crimes), and therefore the decision to prosecute a case federally often raises difficult practical, legal and policy questions. It is important that students who intend to practice criminal law obtain familiarity with these issues, because many traditionally "local" crimes are now prosecuted federally. The course will cover federal statutes relating to fraud, extortion, bribery, weapons and narcotics possession and trafficking, money laundering, terrorism-related prosecutions, and RICO. If offered as a 3-credit course, the following topics will also be covered: (1) The limits of federal criminal jurisdiction under the Commerce Clause and other constitutional provisions; and (2) The Federal Sentencing Guidelines, including recent Supreme Court case law regarding the operation of the Guidelines within the constraints of the Sixth Amendment.

Prerequisites: Criminal Law

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**FL-TAXL-302****Credits: 3**

**FEDERAL INCOME TAX:** This is a survey course introducing students to the basic concepts of federal income taxation, including the concepts of gross income, exclusions from income, capital gains and losses, deductions and depreciation. In addition, the course exposes students to tax issues that arise in the general practice of law.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-CONS-306****Credits: 3**

**FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL LAW:** This course examines the Florida Constitution and provides a comparative perspective upon other state constitutions and the federal constitution. It is particularly recommended for persons planning to practice in Florida.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-CRIM-314****Credits: 2**

**FLORIDA CRIMINAL PRE-TRIAL PRACTICE:** The purpose of this course is to expose students to an aspect of Florida criminal pretrial practice. We will work through many of the major aspects of pretrial practice using the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, which may include case intake (witness interviewing, charging decisions), grand jury practice, indictments, arraignments, discovery, pretrial motions, pretrial detention hearings, and plea agreements.

Prerequisite: All required first year courses.

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**FL-FAML-302****Credits: 2**

**FLORIDA DIVORCE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:** This is a nuts and bolts class designed to introduce you to Florida divorce practice. You will learn to research the applicable procedural rules and substantive Florida law related to divorce, support, and custody. As part of the requirements, you will draft a fee agreement, a divorce complaint, an answer, a family law financial affidavit, interrogatories, subpoena for production of documents from a non-party, a child support guidelines worksheet, a motion for temporary support, an order for temporary support, a motion for hearing before a master, marital settlement agreement, and a final judgment of dissolution of marriage. The course is designed to mirror a law firm experience and will be based on a hypothetical.

Prerequisite: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law, Family Law

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**FL-BARP-309A****Credits: 3**

**FLORIDA LAW SURVEY:** This course is designed to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate prior to becoming licensed to practice law, such as the ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Students will study and write on topics that include: Florida Civil Procedure, Florida Criminal Procedure, Florida Wills, Florida Business Entities, Florida Evidence, Florida Trusts and Estates, Florida Family Law and Dependency, Florida Juvenile Delinquency, Florida Constitutional Law, UCC articles 3 and 9, Professionalism, Florida Contract Distinctions, Florida Criminal Law Distinctions, Florida Property Distinctions, and Florida Torts Distinctions.

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**FL-DSRL-322****Credits: 3**

**FLORIDA PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:** This course examines rules governing state criminal and civil practice and the state judicial process. It is particularly recommended for persons planning to practice in Florida.

Prerequisites: First year required courses, Constitutional Law I

Recommended Prerequisites: Professional Responsibility

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**FL-HLTH-600****Credits: 2**

**GENETICS AND THE LAW:** This course explores developments in genetics such as stem cell research and the Human Genome Project, and issues involving reproduction, access to health care, discrimination, privacy, forensics and gene therapy. A core theme of the course is examining the relationship between genetics developments and legal issues arising from those developments.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-BARP-312****Credits: 3**

**GEORGIA LAW SURVEY:** This course is designed to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate prior to becoming licensed to practice law in Georgia, such as the ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Students will study and write on law topics that include: Business Organizations, Civil Procedure, Constitutional law, contracts, Commercial Paper, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Federal Practice and Procedure, Georgia Practice and Procedure, Non-Monetary Remedies, Professional Ethics, Property, Torts, Trusts, Wills and Estates.

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**FL-HLTH-301DE****Credits: 3**

**HEALTHCARE COMPLIANCE:** This course provides an understanding of the complexities of the healthcare compliance process from practical, business, and legal perspectives. Students will become familiar with the components of an effective compliance plan and program as well as the issues that arise in the implementation and administration of a compliance plan. Discover the many roles the compliance staff fulfill in encouraging compliance with laws, regulations, and ethical principles, and gain familiarity with some of the more significant issues that arise when allegations of noncompliance come to the attention of the federal and state governments. Prerequisites: All required first year courses.

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**FL-HLTH-300****Credits: 3**

**HEALTH LAW:** This course is an introduction to the regulation of the American health care system and the physician-patient relationship. Healthcare is one of the most regulated industries in the United States and currently accounts for approximately 18 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. In addition, the industry is going through a tremendous restructuring in how health care is organized, delivered, and paid for, in part as a result of the Affordable Care Act (more commonly referred to as "Obamacare") and in part due to market forces and technological developments. This course provides students with an understanding of the laws governing the physician-patient relationship and how the health care system is currently organized, financed, and regulated. Prerequisites: All required first year courses.

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**FL-SPEC-424****Credits: 1-6**

**IMMIGRANT AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC:** With supervision, students in this clinic represent indigent immigrants with various legal problems including asylum petitions, family unity applications and petitions, applications for naturalization and applications for relief pursuant to both the Violence Against Women Act and the Violent Crime Prevention Act. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in legal advocacy projects on behalf of the immigrant community. These experiences provide an opportunity for students to hone various legal simulation. The classroom component of the clinic is mandatory.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

Recommended: Evidence, Professional Responsibility

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**FL-INTL-316N****Credits: 2**

**IMMIGRATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY:** This class is designed to help a criminal attorney effectively defend his clients who happen to be aliens. Learn to identify how small nuances in pleas can make a huge difference as to whether the client faces future deportation because of the arcane and specialized language used in immigration law. Specifically, (1) ID the immigration category of the charged crime; (2) Spot potential adverse immigration consequences resulting from convictions and "no contest" pleas such as ineligibility for a future visa, "green card", naturalization and deportation and removal; and (3) Be prepared with solutions for your client by avoiding a conviction, making a plea that doesn't trigger immigration consequences, or how to ameliorate the consequences.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-INTL-303****Credits: 2-3**

**IMMIGRATION LAW:** This course examines the law dealing with aliens, immigrants and refugees. It includes an examination of relevant constitutional and statutory provisions and policies, acquisition and loss of American citizenship, and proposals to reform present law.

Prerequisites: First Year Required Courses

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**FL-HRAS-504****Credits: 1-2**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY:** Students undertake a written project under the supervision of individual faculty members. The project shall result in the production of a substantial scholarly paper. Each project undertaken must be submitted and approved, in writing, by the faculty member involved and the Academic Dean. Students may take no more than one independent study during the course of law school studies.

Prerequisites: First Year Required Courses

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**FL-SPEC-305****Credits: 3**

**INSURANCE LAW:** This course will cover regulation and types of insurance organizations; principles underlying contracts of insurance, with special attention given to analysis, construction and effects of life, fire, group, personal and property liability insurance policies; insurable interests; subrogation; insured events and exceptions; selection and control of risks; making and cancellation of insurance contracts.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-SPEC-306****Credits: 3**

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:** This course surveys federal and state law governing the scope and protection of copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and patents. Emphasis will be placed on the protection afforded creative works and product and personal branding.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-ENVL-313****Credits: 2-3**

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW:** Examines selected issues involving the application of criminal law to international activities and across national boundaries. The course covers both the procedural aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters (including extradition, prisoner transfer, mutual legal assistance, and recognition of foreign penal judgments) as well as the developing substantive international law (e.g., war crimes, crimes against humanity, terrorism, genocide, torture, and narcotics trafficking). Particular attention is paid to the question of jurisdiction over criminal activities at the international level, in the context of activities such as money laundering, commercial and securities fraud, and computer crime, including the reach of Constitutional protections to investigations and law enforcement activities overseas. Addresses the structure, jurisdiction, and jurisprudence of the ad hoc criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the statute and rules of evidence and procedure of the International Criminal Court.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

Recommended Prerequisites: International Law

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**FL-INTL-314****Credits: 2-3**

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS:** This course focuses on the human rights provisions of the U.N. Charter and the implementations contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Genocide Convention; the Covenants on civil, political, economic, and social rights; and in other treaties. Legislation recently enacted by the U.S. Congress to promote respect for internationally recognized human rights throughout the world and the policies of the executive branch of the U.S. government in this matter are examined. Efforts made by regional organizations in this hemisphere and in Western Europe to protect human rights also receive attention, and the recent Helsinki, Belgrade, and Madrid conferences are discussed. Special attention is paid to the rights of women set forth in the U.N. Covenant for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Prerequisites: First year required courses

Recommended Prerequisites: International Law

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**FL-INTL-305**

**Credits: 3**

**INTERNATIONAL LAW:** This course examines the history and sources of international law, its enforcement in both international and domestic forums, forms of dispute settlement, human rights law, and the issues surrounding national sovereignty, the recognition and succession of States, and self-determination. The role of international organizations, the use of force under international law, and international environmental law are also covered.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-DSRL-998**

**Credits: 1-2**

**INTERVIEWING AND COUNSELING:** In this course, students will learn different approaches to client counseling. Students will learn how to complete a description of the client's case. This includes an initial assessment of the issues presented by the client and then identification of available alternatives. Students will learn the rules of professional conduct that apply to confidentiality and fee agreements. Students should be able to explain the rules of confidentiality to the client and to provide basic information about fee agreements. After the students learn how to describe the client's case, the next step will be for the students to effectively discuss legal and nonlegal alternatives that are available to the client. To do this, students will work with their clients to identify options to resolve the issues presented and then reach an agreement as to what options are viable and what options are not. Students will learn what alternatives are available in various legal settings. Specifically, students will become familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of mediation, arbitration, trial, and informal settlement negotiations. The students will learn that there are Simulation that attorneys can use to be able to work effectively with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds. At the completion of this course, students should understand the basic framework of legal interviewing and counseling as well as acquire a deeper understanding of the Simulation necessary to conduct an effective client counseling session. This is a simulation course that provides substantial experience not involving an actual client, that (1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a set of facts and circumstances devised or adopted by a faculty member, and (2) includes the following: (i) direct supervision of the student's performance by the faculty member; (ii) opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and (iii) a classroom instructional component. Corequisite: Interviewing & Counseling Clinic Add-On Module

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**FL-FAML-309**

**Credits: 3**

**JUVENILE LAW:** This course addresses the legal issues surrounding juvenile delinquency and the controlling procedural rules. This course covers: origins of the juvenile justice system, jurisdiction over delinquents and status offenders, pretrial criminal procedure, preliminary screening, diversion and waiver, detention, procedural rights of the juvenile at trial, and disposition.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-HRAS-503**

**Credits: 3**

**LAW REVIEW**

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**FL-PUBL-336****Credits: 3**

**LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:** This course will examine the role and influence that poverty, wealth, class, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and politics have on the judicial process, the legislative process, and, most immediately, on the process of lawyering for underserved and marginalized classes of individuals. Students will explore the taunting symmetries of the American legal system to social movements throughout American history that have transformed our legal system and our public psyche. This is an introductory course that will survey a broad swath of substantive and procedural law, including constitutional law, access to the courts, grass-roots movements, government regulation, public benefits and other entitlement programs such as social security and Medicaid. The course is intended to bridge theory and realistic legal issues – through a civil rights and civil justice practice paradigm. Students will be given a number of short writing assignments and oral presentations. These writing assignments will be practice oriented and designed to demonstrate the importance of narrative to legal advocacy. Also, the course will include a number of guest speakers who will range from judges to poverty lawyers to poor people who have pressed their right to justice in state, federal, and administrative forums. Students will be graded on writing assignments and a written final examination. The course should prove valuable to all students who intend to practice and not just those students who intend to pursue a public interest law career.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-TAXL-304****Credits: 3**

**LAW OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:** This course is designed to explore the legal principles and policies underlying the law of nonprofit organizations. During the course, and throughout your law school experience, you will be learning to “think like a lawyer.” A recent Carnegie report summarized these skills to include 1) Understanding legal processes, 2) Seeing both sides of legal arguments, 3) Sifting through facts and precedents in search of the more plausible account, 4) Using precise language, and 5) Understanding the applications and conflicts of legal rules. Please note that this course does not involve “teaching legal rules.”

Prerequisites: Business Associations

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**FL-LRWR-302****Credits: 1**

**LEGAL EDITING FOR LAW REVIEW:** This course helps students develop advanced critiquing and legal editing skills. Students will learn invaluable skills to become more effective and conscientious self-editors. The course will cover important concepts for effective editing, but also effective legal writing, including organization, structure, sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, and achieving clarity in written communication. Students will complete editing exercises and engage in both self and peer evaluation and feedback. Students must pass a proficiency examination and submit a rewrite of the students’ initially submitted work. By the end of the course, students should have an edited writing sample for future use. Students will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: First year required courses

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**FL-LRWR-105****Credits: 3**

**LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS:** This course teaches students the fundamental lawyering skills of legal research and legal analysis. The course introduces the U.S. legal system, professional legal writing, and basic legal citation. Students find, classify, and utilize various sources of law through effective research methodologies. Students learn organizational skills needed to produce written objective legal analysis. The course also includes instruction regarding the ethical issues and professional ideals attorneys must consider when representing clients. The course will use a variety of sources and legal subject matter to teach you how to research, analyze and discuss legal issues. Class is conducted with a combination of lecture and workshop. Students will learn, incorporate, and demonstrate legal research, analysis, and writing competencies. The course will include formative and summative assessments.

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**FL-TORT-300D****Credits: 2**

**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW:** The core of this course will focus on the intersection of law and medicine as it relates to liability-medical malpractice. The course explores pre-suit requirements necessary to file medical malpractice claims, the adverse medical incident as the impetus of a claim, the unique discovery aspects of medical malpractice litigation, the standards of production and proof, expert witnesses, settlement, arbitration, mediation, trial and appellate processes.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-CORP-300****Credits: 3**

**MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS:** This course is an essential course for students who are interested in the corporate law field. The course explores legal issues related to mergers and acquisitions. Topics covered include acquisition structures and mechanics, shareholder voting and appraisal rights, board fiduciary duties, federal securities laws requirements, anti-takeover defenses, tax issues, and antitrust considerations.

Prerequisites: All required first year courses

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**FL-HRAS-500****Credits: 1**

**MOCK TRIAL:** Instruction in, and preparation of criminal and civil mock trials for state, regional, or national competition.

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**FL-HRAS-501****Credits: 1**

**MOOT COURT:** Instruction in, and preparation of, appellate briefs and appellate oral arguments in intramural and national competition.

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**FL-BARP-309****Credits: 3**

**NATIONAL LAW SURVEY:** This course is designed to teach students how to systematically solve problems on the Multistate Bar Examination and to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate prior to becoming licensed to practice law, such as the ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Students will review: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts.

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**FL-SPEC-327DE****Credits: 3**

**NATIONAL SECURITY: COUNTERTERRORISM:** This course is an in-depth look at counterterrorism in the United States. Examines the competing conceptions and definitions of terrorism at the national level and the institutions and processes designed to execute the national security on terrorism. Includes the study of the balance between national security interests and civil liberties found in the following topical areas: relevant Supreme Court decisions, legislative provisions in response to acts of terrorism, operational counter-terrorism considerations (including targeted killing), intelligence gathering (including interrogations), policy recommendations, the use of military tribunals or civil courts in trying suspected terrorists, the emerging law regarding enemy combatants and their detention, and the arguable need for new self-defense doctrines at the global level.

Prerequisite: All required first year courses

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**FL-LRWR-203****Credits: 3**

**PRETRIAL LITIGATION DRAFTING:** This course simulates litigation practice and introduces students to the practice of pre-trial civil dispute resolution. Students prepare pre-trial motions, which are designed to train students how to argue, either orally or in writing, to persuade a court. Students also study methods of alternative dispute resolution and prepare practice documents. The course includes instruction regarding the ethical and professional considerations in persuasive writing, including duties to the court, clients, and opposing counsel.

Prerequisites: Legal Research & Analysis, Writing for Law Practice

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**FL-ETHS-200****Credits: 3**

**PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** This course is an examination of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct from two main perspectives: the obligation of the legal profession to society and the obligation of the lawyer to the client and the court. Advertising by lawyers, solicitation of clients, specialization, conflicts of interest, competence, and legal malpractice are covered. The course is taught on a truncated schedule so that it is completed before the MPRE is given. Students must take the MPRE during the semester they take PR and must report their score in Florida. The final grade for the class will be based on the scaled score the student receives on the MPRE. This class is not subject to the grade curve. Students who do not pass the MPRE will receive a failing grade in the course and must re-take the course.

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed at least 45 credits toward the degree by the time they begin the class

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**FL-PROP-101****Credits: 3**

**PROPERTY I:** This course introduces the laws governing real and personal property, covers the historical development of the law governing real estate transactions, adverse possession, estates and interests in land, the law governing relationships between co-owners, and landlord-tenant relationships.

Prerequisites: None

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**FL-PROP-102****Credits: 3**

**PROPERTY II:** This course builds on the concepts introduced in Property I and explores the law governing real estate transactions, introduces students to law of mortgages and security instruments, and examines public and private land use controls including easements, servitudes, zoning controls, and the constitutional limits on public restrictions on private property use.

Prerequisites: Property I

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**FL-PUBL-304****Credits: 3**

**RACE AND THE LAW:** This course will explore how race, has been addressed in American law and public policy historically and how race may continue to play a role in American law in the present and future. Students will examine cases and legislation concerning race, including but not limited to: Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The course materials will provide the context to discuss racial disparities in areas including, but not limited to: education, housing, employment, and the criminal justice system. The course will also expand students' abilities to analyze the relative merits and demerits of the legal and non-legal strategies used to influence policymakers on racial issues.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law, Writing for Law Practice

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**FL-DSRL-310****Credits: 3**

**REMEDIES:** This course focuses on remedial theory, doctrine, and alternatives in the civil context. It provides a survey of equity, injunctions, declaratory judgments, restitution, and damages.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-TARA-600****Credits: 1**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT:** Students may earn academic credit as Research Assistants (R.A.) for Florida Coastal School of Law full-time faculty members subject to the qualifications set forth in the Student Handbook. The predominant function of an R.A. who receives credit is scholarly research. Students will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-PROP-300****Credits: 3**

**RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS:** This course provides an opportunity for students to apply contract, property and remedy law to modern day real estate agreements. The course includes examination of condominium law and a focus on institutional mortgaging process.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-CRIM-998****Credits: 2**

**SEALING AND EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC:** In this experiential learning course students will represent clients who wish to seal and expunge criminal records. The focus will be on juvenile offenders. Students will analyze the statutory provisions and rules associated with this process. Students will interview and advise clients, analyze the rules, apply facts and prepare appropriate documents for filing. This course fits with in our mission and goal of serving the underserved. Students will learn about social justice in a live client lawyering environment. Florida has one of the highest incarceration rates of juveniles in the country. Conviction rates for Latino and African American males are disproportionality high. Sealing and/or expunging criminal records can greatly improve an individual's access to employment and reintegration into society.

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**FL-BUSI-315****Credits: 3**

**SECURITIES REGULATION:** This course examines how the stock market and other securities markets are regulated in the United States. The primary focus is on the Securities Act of 1933 and, to a lesser extent, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The course covers how companies raise capital through IPOs and other offerings, including private placements, and the complicated regulatory framework that applies to this important engine of corporate and economic growth. The course takes an in-depth look at insider trading rules while evaluating the disclosure requirements that apply when companies decide to sell stock or debt, or to go public. Appropriate for aspiring corporate litigators and transactional corporate lawyers and anyone interested in learning about the federal regulation of securities.

Prerequisites: All required first year courses

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**FL-TARA-601****Credits: 1**

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Students may earn academic credit as a Teaching Assistant (T.A.) for Florida Coastal School of Law courses taught by full-time faculty member subject to the qualifications and guidelines set forth in the Student Handbook.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-TORT-101****Credits: 1**

**TORTS I:** Part one of a two-part comprehensive survey of the law of imposed liability for harm to person or property, including the core doctrines of intentional torts, negligence, strict liability and products liability and the fundamental concepts of causation, defenses, and damages. Torts I focuses on intentional torts and basic negligence. Prerequisites: None

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**FL-TORT-102****Credits: 3**

**TORTS II:** Part two of a two-part comprehensive survey of the law of imposed liability for harm to person or property, including the core doctrines of intentional torts, negligence, strict liability and products liability and the fundamental concepts of causation, defenses, and damages. Torts II focuses on the remainder of negligence, common law strict liability, products liability, defamation, and privacy.

Prerequisites: Torts I

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**FL-LRWR-303****Credits: 3**

**TRANSACTIONAL DRAFTING:** This course involves the study of some of the common problems encountered in contract drafting and how lawyers avoid them through proper planning and drafting. The student performs specific drafting exercises using his or her basic knowledge of contracts principles learned in the first year of law school. In the course of the drafting, the objective is for the student to protect the client by predicting what may happen and providing for that contingency.

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**FL-DSRL-312****Credits: 1**

**TRIAL PRACTICE LECTURE:** A study of trial methodology, including opening statements, introduction of evidence through direct and cross examination testimony and exhibits, objections and closing arguments. Emphasis on demonstration of techniques. All classes are mandatory attendance.

Prerequisites: First year required courses; Evidence, co-required with Trial Practice Workshop

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**FL-DSRL-313****Credits: 2**

**TRIAL PRACTICE WORKSHOP:** Small group workshops designed to expose students to the litigation practice through simulated trial problems. Students will be required to participate in two mock trials in which they will try both sides of a simulated case. Simultaneous registration in the Trial Practice Lecture is required. All classes are mandatory attendance.

Prerequisites: First year required courses, Evidence

Corequisite: Trial Practice Lecture

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**FL-DSRL-313****Credits: 2**

**TRIAL PRACTICE WORKSHOP FOR MOCK TRIAL STUDENTS:** Small group workshops (two sections of 16 each) designed to expose members of the competitive Mock Trial Team to litigation practice and mock trial competition techniques through simulated civil and criminal trial exercises on opening statement, direct examination, cross examination, closing argument, motions in limine, directed verdict or judgment of acquittal, impeachment, entering exhibits, and evidentiary motions. Registration in this class prohibits these students from registering for Trial practice lecture or the Trial Practice Workshop that is not designated for Mock Trial Students Only. Registration in this class does NOT prevent these students from taking Advanced Trial Advocacy however.

Prerequisites: First year required courses, Evidence

Only open to the new members of Mock Trial each Fall

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**FL-ESTS-301****Credits: 3**

**TRUSTS AND ESTATES:** This course examines wills and other methods for preserving and transferring wealth or property to beneficiaries in the context of death or economic planning.

Prerequisites: Torts II, Contracts II, Property II, Criminal Law

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**FL-ESTS-999****Credits: 2**

**TRUSTS AND ESTATES CLINIC:** This clinic is a course which follows the doctrinal course, Trusts & Estates, taken during a prior semester. Students in the LAB will work on pro bono cases with a professor practicing law in Florida representing clients with estate matters. The course will be scheduled to meet for 1 hour, 50 minutes once a week. During class periods, the professor will review doctrinal material he/she feels is relevant for the students to provide the pro bono services consistent with proper custom and practice and ethical standards. At the professor's option, some class periods may be replaced with conferences; other classes may be canceled to provide students with time to work on their cases; and, there may be one or more events at which students will provide general legal advice to the public with supervision of the Professor or other licensed attorney.

Prerequisites: Completion of first year courses, Trusts & Estates, Professional Responsibility

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**FL-BUSI-602****Credits: 3**

**UCC SURVEY: SALES, PAYMENT SYSTEMS, SECURED TRANSACTIONS:** The basics of commercial law in the light of the uniform commercial code: Article 2 sale of goods, Article 3 negotiable instruments, and Article 9 security interests. For Article 2 we will discuss formation, statute of frauds, parol evidence, warranties, breach, and remedies. For Article 3 we will discuss negotiability, negotiation, holder in due course, liability, and wrongdoing and error. For Article 9 we will discuss creation of a security interest, perfection, priority, proceeds, and default.

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**FL-BARP-314****Credits: 3**

**UNIFORM LAW SURVEY:** This course is designed to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate prior to becoming licensed to practice law, such as the ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Students will write on topics that include: Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

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**FL-GOVT-999****Credits: 2**

**VETERANS BENEFITS CLINIC:** This is a two credit, simulation development lab course that provides students with an opportunity to develop interviewing and counseling skills, collaborative team building, and advocacy writing in representing military veterans before the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA). Specifically, the students will assist disabled veterans in developing their claims for compensation for submission to the DVA at the Decision Review Officer (DRO) level. Due to the extremely complex and unusual nature of the veteran's disability system, students will be given instruction on the DVA disability rating system, how the DVA adjudicates veterans' claims, and key legal concepts for various common disabilities. Students will then plan, organize, and conduct an interview with a veteran with the Instructor after reviewing the initial DVA Regional Office decision denying benefits. The student will then work with the veteran along with the instructor with the goal of assisting the veteran by preparing a brief for submission to the DVA DRO. Students will be evaluated on the simulation they develop and utilize in representing the veteran. It is anticipated that in the initial offerings of this lab that students will work in teams with the veteran clients, but eventually the student to client ratio could potentially decrease to 1 to 1.

Prerequisites: First year required courses, Professional Responsibility preferred but not required

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**FL-CRIM-302****Credits: 3**

**WHITE COLLAR CRIME:** This course covers the law and practice of non-violent crimes committed for financial gain, typically by means of deception under the guise of legitimate economic activity. The following is a list of topics that may be covered subject to time availability: (a) Mail and wire fraud; (b) Securities fraud; (c) Bank fraud; (d) E-commerce fraud; (e) Money laundering; (f) Obstruction of justice; (g) Health care fraud including the anti-kickback statute; (h) Human trafficking; (i) Extortion and criminal RICO (racketeering); (j) Sports tampering; (k) Environmental crimes; (l) International economic crimes such as violations of U.S. trade laws and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; (m) Immigration fraud; (n) Criminal Sherman Act violations; and others. Political crimes and "first level" national security offenses (such as espionage or terrorism offenses) will not be covered in the course, nor will violent crimes.

Prerequisites: First year courses, Constitutional Law I, and Criminal Procedure

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**FL-LRWR-108****Credits: 3**

**WRITING FOR LAW PRACTICE:** Writing for Law Practice builds upon the skills students learned in Legal Research & Analysis by introducing students to drafting legal documents for different audiences. Students will independently research various legal issues and learn to draft full objective office memos. Students will then learn to transfer those skills in order to draft all or components of a persuasive legal document for a court. Students will also learn to incorporate correct Bluebook citation in legal documents.

Prerequisites: Legal Research and Analysis

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## APPENDIX B

### **Student Code of Conduct**

**and**

### **Academic Honor Code**

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see both documents on the following pages)

**COASTAL LAW  
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT  
Revised August, 2018**

**A. Introduction**

A central mission of Florida Coastal School of Law is to develop and maintain a challenging yet supportive academic environment guided by core values of professionalism, integrity, trust, civility, mutual respect, and accountability. This Student Code of Conduct is intended to ensure students, as members of our school community, conduct themselves in accordance with these values. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to create a set of expectations of student conduct, to ensure a fair process for determining responsibility, and to assign corrective measures when student behavior deviates from expectations. Students become part of the school community upon admission, and by doing so; they share in the school's mission and associated responsibilities.

Students are expected to respect the views and personal dignity of other members of the Coastal Law community. In addition, students should learn about the expectations that will be required of them when they become lawyers. The Codes of Professional Responsibility published by each state's bar association, including the Rules of Professional Conduct of The Florida Bar, describe these expectations. Students are encouraged to consult these codes for guidance.

**B. Definitions**

1. The terms "school" or "Coastal Law" mean Florida Coastal School of Law.
2. The term "student" means an individual:
  - a. Who has received an offer of admission to Coastal Law, and who has been accepted for enrollment in one or more classes offered by this school, or in any qualifying program at Coastal Law, and
  - b. Who has registered for one or more classes of academic instruction to be given at the school or sponsored by the school.
3. The terms "class" or "course" refer to any class or course at Coastal Law. The terms should be construed broadly, and include graded and non-graded courses, courses offered for credit and not for credit, and courses offered on or off the law school campuses. The

terms specifically include clinics, internships, summer abroad programs, and advocacy competitions.

4. Student status continues until it is terminated upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events:
  - a. Graduation or completion of a Coastal-Law sponsored bar preparatory program.
  - b. Documented completion of the academic program by the Registrar or program administrator.
  - c. Voluntary withdrawal of the student from all courses of academic instruction.
  - d. Involuntary dismissal from all programs and activities of the school, and the exhaustion of all internal procedures to redress the dismissal or withdrawal (if applicable).
  - e. Unauthorized absence from the school for one or more semesters.
5. The term “Conduct Code” or “Code” means the Student Code of Conduct.
6. The term “school official” includes any person employed by Coastal Law and serving the school in an official capacity.
7. The term “Dean” refers to the Dean of Coastal Law or that person’s designee.
8. The term “school community” includes any person who is a student, school employee, school official, trustee, or any other person serving the school in an official capacity.
9. The term “school premises” includes all land, building, facilities, and other property in the possession of, used, or controlled by Coastal Law.
10. The term “organization” means any Coastal Law student organization or organization sponsored by the school.
11. For the purpose of determining deadlines, “day” means any regular business day of the Coastal Law, and does not include weekends, college holidays, or any day on which the school is not open to conduct regular business. References to a number of “days” prior to or after occurrence of an event shall not include the day of the event.
12. The term “notice” means written notice and includes e-mail messages.
13. The term “property” includes physical property, intellectual property, and computing and communication files and resources.
14. The term “writing” includes an e-mail message sent to a student’s Coastal Law e-mail account.
15. The term “Investigator” refers to the person charged with gathering facts and information about a referral under this Code, and with imposing sanctions.
  - a. The Investigator typically will be a professional employee of the Office of Student Affairs but may be another Coastal Law employee appointed by the Dean.
  - b. The Dean reserves the right to appoint another person, including a person who is not a full-time employee of Coastal Law, as Investigator. If the Dean appoints a person who is not a full-time employee of Coastal Law, the Dean will enter into an

- agreement with that individual indicating that the individual will abide by the relevant Coastal Law policies and procedures.
- c. The Dean also reserves the right to appoint multiple Investigators to a matter. When multiple investigators are appointed, those people will collaborate in the fulfillment of investigator duties and actions.
  - d. The Investigator may be assisted by others in work under the Code.
  - e. The Investigator under this Code is distinct from the person charged with gathering facts and information about a referral under the Honor Code.
  - f. Upon appointment, the Investigator will notify the Dean of any conflict of interest, allowing the Dean to appoint a different Investigator. A student may challenge the involvement of an Investigator on the grounds of demonstrable bias through prompt written communication to the Dean after initial contact is made by the Investigator.

### **C. Discipline Authority and Delegation**

Ultimate authority for student discipline is vested in the Dean of Coastal Law. The Dean may assign any action or sanction that he believes is appropriate for a given incident, notwithstanding anything contrary in the Conduct Code. The department head for the Office of Student Affairs is the person designated by the Dean to be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Conduct Code. This person may delegate responsibility under this code to another professional in the Office of Student Affairs. Discipline authority may be delegated to specific school officials as deemed appropriate by the Dean or designee.

### **D. Conduct Code Jurisdiction and Student Responsibility**

Generally, the school will take action for conduct that occurs on school premises or at school events, whether held on or off-campus. However, the school may take action for other off-campus behavior that adversely affects the school, the school community, and/or the school's reputation, the pursuit of its mission, or objectives. Coastal Law has an interest in the character of its students and may regard off-campus behavior as a reflection of a student's character and his or her fitness to continue as a member of the student body. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though that conduct may occur before classes begin, after classes end, during the academic year, and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. Students are responsible for knowing the contents of the Conduct Code. Ignorance of the Conduct Code and its provisions will not constitute an acceptable defense in any disciplinary meeting. The Conduct Code shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws or is dismissed from the school while a disciplinary matter is pending, as long as the conduct occurred prior to the student's withdrawal or dismissal. If a Conduct Code investigation or meeting is pending when a student is scheduled to graduate, the student's degree may be withheld until the matter is resolved, and the student may be denied the privilege of participating in graduation programs, receptions, elections, or honors banquets at the discretion of the Dean or designee. Students and student organizations are

subject to the Conduct Code. The Conduct Code and its processes shall only be applicable with respect to alleged violations of the Code committed by students and shall not, under any circumstances, be applicable with respect to alleged violations committed by faculty, staff, or law school administration. The Conduct Code is intended to govern all non-academic conduct issues, while the Coastal Law Honor Code governs all academic dishonesty and related issues. In the event of a jurisdictional conflict between the provisions of the Conduct Code and the Honor Code, the department head of the Office of Academic Affairs will be consulted to determine the appropriate course of action. A matter need not be handled under the Conduct Code if appropriate action is taken under other Coastal Law procedures (e.g., Library policies and rules). The Conduct Code is not a contract, and it is not to be construed as a contract between students or student organizations and Coastal Law.

### **E. Educational Process**

This Code provides an educational and non-adversarial process designed to resolve matters concerning student professionalism or conduct. It is not designed to be a legal or judicial process. Accordingly, it is not appropriate for counsel to attend or participate in meetings and other proceedings initiated under this Code.

### **F. Violation of Law and Conduct Code**

A referral may be registered against a student or organization charged with violation of a law that is also a violation of this Conduct Code if both violations result from the same factual situation, without regard to any pending civil litigation or criminal arrest and prosecution. Actions under the Conduct Code may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings. Students who are arrested or otherwise charged with a violation of law or ordinance outside of law school have an on-going obligation to disclose this information to the school in a timely fashion. Disclosure should be made in writing or in person to the department head of the Office of Student Affairs within seven (7) days of the date of arrest. Failure to comply with this reporting provision constitutes misconduct under the Conduct Code.

### **G. Prohibited Conduct**

The Conduct Code and the assignment of sanctions are not limited to the acts of prohibited conduct specifically outlined here, as this Code is not meant to be an exhaustive summary of all conduct prohibited by the school. However, any student found to have committed one or



more of the following acts of prohibited conduct will be subject to sanctions, up to and including expulsion.

## **1. Prohibited Conduct Affecting the School Community**

- a. Engaging or having engaged in any conduct that, under the laws of the United States or the state where such conduct occurred, constitutes a crime punishable by incarceration, whether or not the student is charged in a criminal court and whether or not the punishment of incarceration is actually imposed. If such conduct occurs in a foreign nation, it is misconduct under this code if it constitutes a crime punishable by incarceration both (1) in that foreign nation and (2) under the laws of the United States or any state.
- b. Disruption of teaching, clinics, meetings, conferences, library activities, research, administration, disciplinary or other proceedings, or other school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off-campus.
- c. Failure to comply with directions of school officials, including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, administration, school security or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties, and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
- d. Failure to wear or display the school-provided personal identification (ID) card on campus grounds. Failure to adhere to the Campus ID Card Policy covering the school-provided personal identification card. Failure to pursue or receive a campus ID card.
- e. Failure to register vehicle or any subsequent vehicle changes with the campus Security Department.
- f. Failure to recognize and preserve student anonymity with respect to confidential or controlled information including, but not limited to, student grading numbers (SGN)

- and special accommodations provided to students under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- g. Improper use of a computer in a classroom or in any school-sponsored presentation, on or off-campus.
  - h. Recording a lecture or other classroom interaction without permission of the professor.
  - i. Videotaping, audio taping, or photographing members of the school community without permission, and the distribution or public display of the same.
  - j. Sharing authorized or unauthorized recordings from class with other students or people outside the school.
  - k. Signing in another student to class or the solicitation of the same act by another student.
  - l. Selling class notes or being paid for taking class notes except when authorized by the Office of Student Affairs.
  - m. Failure to report any arrest or legal/disciplinary charges to the Office Student Affairs within seven (7) days of the said incident.
  - n. Acts of dishonesty not covered by the Honor Code, including but not limited to the following:
    - i. Furnishing false information to the school or any school official including, but not limited to, information provided in the law school application, employment hours certification, class attendance verification processes, or any internal application.
    - ii. Furnishing false information to a prospective employer, in a resume, or in a bar application.
    - iii. Omission of vital information requested by the school or any school official including, but not limited to, information requested in the law school admissions application.
    - iv. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any school, government, or Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) document, record, or means of identification.
    - v. Tampering with the election of any person, organization, or award.
    - vi. Misuse or unauthorized use and/or possession of school or school-sponsored organizational funds, checking account, credit card, or debit card.
  - o. Violation of published school policies, rules, regulations, or requirements including, but not limited to, Student Handbook policies, Student Organization Bylaws, Policy for Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence (Title IX), Coastal Law Library policies, Information Technology network and computer policies, Alcohol Policies, Weapons Policy, Smoke and Tobacco Policy, Non-Discrimination Policy, Security

- Policy, Campus ID Policy, parking and traffic regulations, vehicle registration requirements, policies governing student organizations, and other school policies.
- p. Unauthorized use of the school's name, logo, or symbols.
  - q. Unauthorized soliciting or canvassing by an individual group, or organization.
  - r. Violating the terms of any disciplinary sanction imposed in accordance with the Conduct Code.
  - s. Tampering with the normal activity of service animals.
  - t. Failure to complete requirements associated with clinics, internships, or other off-campus courses that can affect Coastal Law's reputation and ability to place students into those programs in the future.
  - u. Any incident of intoxication and/or misconduct at any event or activity associated with the school (i.e. graduation or commencement ceremonies) is subject to disciplinary action to include immediate disqualification to participate in the ceremony.

## **2. Prohibited Conduct Affecting People**

- a. Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual misconduct, including but not limited to sexual battery, sexual assault, rape, and sex-based harassment. These offenses are subject to the additional procedural requirements outlined in the Policy for Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence (Title IX).
- b. Physical or verbal abuse, harassment, threats, stalking, intimidation, bullying, coercion and other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person, or which causes reasonable apprehension of such harm.
- c. Discriminatory harassment, including harassment based on one of the protected classes in the school's non-discrimination policy. Any discriminatory act including, but not limited to, hate speech/symbols/gestures or any violation of the school's non-discrimination policy.
- d. Any participation or role in activities involving hazing. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation placed upon a person that could cause injury, pain, fright, disgrace, or which is personally degrading. A person's consent to hazing is not an excuse.
- e. The use or display of profane, indecent, degrading, threatening, or otherwise inappropriate images, gestures, or written/verbal communications on school premises or off-campus at school-sponsored activities, events, or experiential learning activities.
- f. Clothing which displays profane messages or images or which is otherwise indecent or exceedingly unprofessional.

## **3. Prohibited Conduct Affecting Property**

- a. Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage to property of the school or school-sponsored organization or property of a member of the school community.

- Unauthorized possession of any school property or property of a member of the school community.
- b. Destroying, defacing, erasing, altering, hiding, limiting access to, possessing, accessing, entering, or using without authority, the property of Coastal Law or the property of others located on the premises of Coastal Law or related to a Coastal Law activity.
  - c. Unauthorized use or possession of school money, credit card, or debit card.  
Unauthorized use or possession of money, credit card, or debit card belonging to a school-sponsored organization.
  - d. Improper or unauthorized use, duplication, or distribution of any school property, including, but not limited to, Coastal Law CDs, tapes, books/library materials, podcasts, website, Facebook, Twitter, or photographs of any member of the school community. Violation of existing copyright policies.
  - e. Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any school premises or unauthorized entry into or use of school premises.
  - f. Theft or other abuse of computer facilities and resources, including, but not limited to, the following actions:
    - i. Use of computing facilities and resources to disrupt the normal operation of the Coastal Law computing system or to interfere with the work of others.
    - ii. Use of computing facilities and resources to send threatening, abusive, or indecent messages or images.
    - iii. Use of another individual's identification and/or password.
    - iv. Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents, or for any other purposes.
    - v. Use of computing facilities or resources in violation of copyright laws.
    - vi. Any violation of the school's network and computer policies.

#### **4. Prohibited Conduct Affecting Health, Safety, and Order**

- a. Possession, use, or storage of firearms, explosives, incendiary devices, weapons, or dangerous chemicals on school premises or at school-sponsored activities occurring off campus, including in the subject's vehicle in the parking facilities.
- b. Use, possession, distribution, sale, or manufacture of illegal drugs, including the use of drug-related paraphernalia, on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related activities occurring off campus.
- c. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages on school premises or at school-sponsored/school-funded activities off campus, except as expressly permitted by the law and school officials.
- d. Appearance in class, on campus, or at school-sponsored or school-related functions, on or off campus, under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- e. Any violation or deviation from the school's Alcohol Policy for Student Sponsored Events and Activities.
- f. Engaging in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which the conduct tends to cause or

- provoke a disturbance or disrupts the normal operation of the school, school-sponsored function, or functions associated with the school.
- g. Any activity which disrupts the normal operations of the school or infringes on the rights of other members of the school community.
  - h. Leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled or normal activities on campus.
  - i. Intentional obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-supervised functions.
  - j. Initiating or causing any false report, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency.
  - k. Misusing or tampering with fire extinguishers, alarms, smoke detectors, defibrillators, or any other safety or security equipment.
  - l. Failure to immediately vacate a school building when a fire alarm has sounded.
  - m. Smoking in unauthorized locations on school premises.
  - n. Violations of federal, state or local law on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-supervised activities.
  - o. Violations of federal, state or local law off school premises and not related to school-sponsored or school-related activities when the violations adversely affect the school and/or the pursuit of its objectives.
  - p. Loitering on campus grounds or facilities outside of open building hours.

## **5. Prohibited Conduct Affecting the Discipline Process**

- a. Failure to appear at a disciplinary meeting when directed to do so.
- b. Falsifying, distorting, misrepresenting, or failing to disclose material facts in a disciplinary investigation, meeting, or knowingly initiating a false or frivolous complaint.
- c. Attempting to discourage a person's proper participation in, or use of, the discipline process. Harassment, intimidation or retaliation of, or threats of retaliation to, a complainant, witness, respondent, or other participant in a disciplinary meeting.
- d. Harassment, intimidation, or retaliation of, or threats of retaliation to, a school official or member of a disciplinary committee, including the Honor Council, or Review Committee.
- e. Refusing reasonable cooperation in an investigation of an alleged violation of the Conduct Code.
- f. Tampering with evidence relevant to a Conduct Code charge.
- g. Failure to comply with any sanctions, actions, or terms imposed under the Conduct Code or Honor Code processes.

## **6. Prohibited Conduct Involving Groups**

- a. Students who act together to violate the Conduct Code may be assigned joint responsibility for such violation(s).
- b. Students and organizations may be held responsible for the conduct of their guests while on school premises, at school-sponsored activities, and at functions sponsored by any registered student organization.

## **7. Other Conduct**

- a. Engaging in conduct not otherwise covered by any other provision of this Code which reflects negatively on a student's character and fitness in law school. These conduct issues may occur on campus or outside of the law school while adversely affecting the school community and/or the school and the pursuit of its objectives.
- b. Engaging in any other conduct that would render a student unfit to practice law, including violations of any state's rules of professional responsibility while acting under student practice rules in that state.
- c. Engaging in conduct that would, if students were a member of The Florida Bar, violate the Rules of Professional Conduct of The Florida Bar.
- d. Engaging in the inappropriate use of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.), emails or text to conduct disparaging activities that diminishes the reputation of the institution.

## **H. Organizational Responsibility**

This Code also applies to student groups and organizations at Coastal Law, regardless of whether they are formally recognized by Coastal Law or receive funding, directly or indirectly, from the school.

- a. Student organizations are expected to adhere to all applicable institutional policies and standards. Failure to do so may result in action being initiated against the group; consequently, this Code applies to student organizations collectively. Student groups may be held responsible when any of the following situations exist:
  - i. Members of the group act in concert to violate Coastal Law community standards.
  - ii. A violation arises out of a group-sponsored, -financed, or -endorsed event.
  - iii. A group leader has knowledge of the act or incident before or while it occurs and fails to take corrective action.
  - iv. The incident occurs at an off-campus facility that is leased, rented, or used by the group.
  - v. A pattern of individual violations is found to have existed without proper or appropriate group control, remedy, or sanction.
  - vi. Members of the group attempt to cover up or fail to report improper conduct to the appropriate Coastal Law officials.
- b. One officer of the student group should be designated to represent the organization when a referral against that group is made under the Conduct Code. If the group does not designate an officer, the president or president-equivalent will be deemed the representative.

## **I. Procedures**

### **1. Referrals**

- a. Method of referral — Members of the Coastal Law community may refer possible conduct issues to the Office of Student Affairs. To determine whether an

- investigation or intervention is necessary, it is helpful for the person to provide names, dates, locations, and descriptions of the possible misconduct.
- b. Additional referrals — If the Investigator finds information that suggests the student or another person may have violated other provisions of the Conduct Code or the Honor Code, the Investigator may treat this information as an additional referral or may refer the additional matter to an Honor Code Investigator.
  - c. Faculty advisor notification — When a referral is made against a student group or organization, the Faculty Advisor should be notified of that referral.

## **2. Interim Action**

- a. After receiving a referral, the Investigator may recommend to the Dean that a student be suspended, restricted from classes or other activities, or prohibited from having contact with one or more individuals for an interim period.
- b. A recommendation for interim action must be based on a reasonable belief that serious misconduct occurred and that the continued presence of the student on campus poses a threat to an individual, property, or college function.
- c. The decision to impose an interim action will be communicated in writing to the student, and will become effective immediately.
- d. A student who receives an interim action will be provided with an opportunity to meet with the Investigator to respond to the allegations of misconduct no later than seven (7) days following the effective date of the interim action.
- e. The interim action will remain in effect until a final decision has been made on the pending referral or until the Investigator determines that the reasons for imposing the interim action no longer exist.
- f. The Dean or his/her designee have the right to impose any readmission requirement necessary, based on an individualized assessment, to demonstrate the health, well-being, and overall fitness of the student to continue in law school before allowing readmission.

## **3. Investigation and Decision**

- a. After receiving a referral, the Investigator
  - i. will determine whether the referral states a sufficient basis to believe that a violation of the Conduct Code or Honor Code may have occurred;
  - ii. will determine whether the referral primarily reflects academic or nonacademic misconduct and will request the Dean to reassign the matter if necessary;
  - iii. may interview the person making the referral and other persons with information, and may seek additional information regarding the referral.
- b. If the Investigator determines that the Code has not been violated or that a violation cannot be substantiated, the investigation will end and the Investigator will follow the reporting and record-keeping provisions noted below.
- c. Even if the Investigator determines that a matter should not be pursued under the Conduct Code, the Investigator may recommend that an educational conference be

- held with the student or student group so that the conduct at issue is not repeated, or so that the student or student group may better understand the effects and consequences of the actions.
- i. During this educational conference, the Investigator may require the student or student group enter into a conduct contract. That contract may outline conduct or actions that the student or student group must avoid, or may impose affirmative obligations on the student or student group.
  - ii. A violation of the contract may be considered as a violation of this Conduct Code.
- d. The referral will be considered an allegation under this Code only after the Investigator determines that a sufficient basis exists to believe that the Conduct Code may have been violated.
- e. If the Investigator believes that a violation of the Code may have occurred, then the Investigator will promptly notify the student or student-group representative, in writing, of the alleged violation, will set a time to meet with the student or representative in person, and will gather any other information needed to resolve the matter.
- f. At the meeting the student or student-group representative will be provided with the following:
- i. an explanation of any Conduct Code sections at issue and the nature of the conduct that is the basis for invoking those Code sections;
  - ii. A summary of the information gathered;
  - iii. A reasonable opportunity to respond; and
  - iv. An explanation of the applicable disciplinary procedures in relation to the Conduct Code.
- g. The student may be assisted by an advisor of their own choice and at their own expense. The role of the advisor is limited to consultation. Advisors may not speak on behalf of a student. Because the purpose of this disciplinary process is to provide a fair review of the alleged violations of the Conduct Code rather than a formal legal proceeding, participation of persons acting as legal counsel is not permitted. Advisors may not appear in lieu of the student; however, an advisor may consult with the student during a meeting and may assist with the preparation for the meeting. Students who choose an attorney as their advisor shall notify the department head of the Office of Student Affairs of the attorney's name and contact information at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- h. During the meeting with the student or student-group representative, both the Investigator and the student or student representative may have witnesses available, but the witnesses need not be in the same room as the student or representative, and the student or representative, while having the right to understand the witnesses' positions, does not have a right to examine the witnesses. The Investigator may choose to audiotape the meeting.
- i. A student or student-group representative who fails to attend a scheduled meeting with the Investigator will forfeit the right to respond regarding the alleged violation,



- unless excused by the Investigator. If the student or representative fails to attend the meeting, the Investigator may proceed to impose a sanction.
- j. After carefully considering the information gathered, the Investigator will determine whether it is more likely than not that a violation of the Conduct Code has occurred and, if so, the appropriate sanction or sanctions to apply.
  - k. The Investigator will notify the Dean of the decision and sanction, if any.
  - l. Then, the Investigator will inform the student or student-group representative of the decision, in writing. The written decision will describe the violation, the determination, and the sanction. When feasible, the Investigator also should communicate the decision and sanction to the student or student-group representative in a face-to-face meeting via video or telephone.
  - m. Following a decision, the student or student group has the right to file an appeal based on the procedures outline in Section M.

## **J. Sanctions**

1. The following sanctions and may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Conduct Code:
  - a. Warning—Notice, orally or in writing, that continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct will be cause for additional disciplinary action.
  - b. Reprimand—A written or oral reprimand specifying the violation for which the student is held responsible.
  - c. Disciplinary Probation—A form of probation that is distinct from probation that may be imposed as a result of academic performance. The term refers to the period prescribed by the Investigator during which certain conditions imposed as sanctions must be met or during which the student's behavior will be monitored. If the student fails to fulfill the conditions during the probationary period, the Investigator, after giving the student notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, may determine that the student has violated the probation and may impose new or additional sanctions. The conditions of disciplinary probation may be varied, depending on the circumstances. Examples of conditions might include obtaining drug or alcohol counseling or treatment, obtaining a psychiatric evaluation, refraining from certain activities or contact with certain persons, redoing assignments, and attending programs.
  - d. Restrictions or Loss of Privileges and/or Benefits—Denial, exclusion, or restriction of certain privileges, events, activities, or benefit for a designated period of time. An example would be the denial of the privilege of participation in any school-sponsored extracurricular or athletic activity or organization for a definite period of time. Another example would be the removal from any student governmental office or position in any school-sponsored activity or organization or from any school-

- sponsored position of trust, responsibility or interest. Another example would be the partial or total revocation or suspension of scholarship.
- e. Contact Restriction—A written notice that further contact between specified students is prohibited. Conditions and duration of restrictions may be specified.
  - f. Restitution—Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.
  - g. Discretionary Sanction—Work assignments, service to the school, local community, civic organizations, or other related discretionary assignments.
  - h. Counseling—This may be for substance abuse, anger management, or other purposes depending on the incident and associated circumstances. The student will be required to provide documentation of completion of the required off-campus counseling by a qualified professional. The student will be responsible for all costs associated with the counseling.
  - i. Suspension—Separation of the student from the school for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified. Duration of suspension will be determined as part of the disciplinary process.
  - j. Expulsion—Permanent separation of the student from the school. School officials administering this Code have the right to permanently dismiss a student for any reason, cause, or Conduct Code violation notwithstanding any other provision in the Conduct Code or Student Handbook. If a student is expelled from the school for any Conduct Code violation, the student is not entitled to any reimbursement of tuition, book expenses, or other fees associated with the school and/or enrollment.
  - k. Revocation of Degree—Rescinding a student's degree awarded by the school.
  - l. Other Sanctions — Other sanctions or actions may be imposed instead of or in addition to those specified in parts (a) through (k) of this section.
2. The following sanctions may be imposed on any organization or group of students found in violation of the Conduct Code.
    - a. Any of the sanctions listed in Section 1 above.
    - b. Loss of identification as a registered student organization.
    - c. Loss or withdrawal of all student general fee dollars or other school funding for the remainder of the academic year.
  3. Multiple sanctions may be imposed in connection with any violation.
  4. A student may not be considered in good standing while a Conduct Code investigation is pending; to include the appeal process and completion of assigned sanctions.

## **K. Implementation of Sanctions**

Sanctions are effective immediately, unless stayed or otherwise set by the Investigator. If a student initiates an appeal, sanctions will not begin until the appeal process is exhausted. The Dean or designee may impose sanctions during the appeal process to ensure the safety and wellbeing of members of the school community. If the sanctions include suspension or

expulsion, various members of the school community will be promptly notified, including school security personnel and the student's faculty.

## **L. Mitigating and Aggravating Factors**

In determining the sanction, the Investigator may consider mitigating and aggravating factors. A non-exhaustive list of factors that may be considered include the following:

1. Pre-referral admission — When a student voluntarily admits misconduct before learning that someone has referred the matter or is about to refer the matter, the Investigator may consider the admission as a mitigating factor. A student who has the courage and integrity to come forth with a good-faith admission has reaffirmed a personal commitment to honor. Any student interested in making such an admission should contact the head of the Office of Student Affairs.
2. Other admissions — Even an admission made after a referral may have some mitigating value. This type of admission shows acknowledgment of the inappropriate nature of the student's conduct. However, a post-referral admission is not as strong a mitigating factor as a pre-referral admission.
3. Cooperation — The Investigator may consider how cooperative, or uncooperative, the student was during the process, including whether the student responded timely to inquiries and requests for meetings, provided requested information, and dealt honestly and civilly with the investigator and others involved with the process.
4. Intent — Conduct falls on an intent continuum that ranges from malicious, willful, intentional, reckless, and grossly negligent conduct on the more serious end, to merely negligent, careless, and accidental conduct on the less serious end. Where conduct falls on this continuum may be considered when determining sanctions. Conduct that is malicious, willful, intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent may justify a more serious sanction. Less intentional conduct may be a mitigating factor.
5. Degree of harm or seriousness of offense — The degree of harm to others and the seriousness of the conduct are relevant factors in determining sanctions.
6. Prior violations educational conferences — Prior violations of or educational conferences about, the Conduct Code or the Honor Code may be considered as aggravating factors.
7. Nexus to professional standards — The nexus between the student's conduct and the question of character and fitness of the student to practice law is a relevant factor in determining sanctions.
8. Willingness to make restitution — A student's willingness to make restitution may be considered as a mitigating factor in appropriate cases. Restitution refers to compensation for loss, damage, or injury; compensation may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.
9. Discriminatory motive — If a student, in engaging in conduct prohibited under the Conduct Code or Honor Code, is also found to have intentionally directed the conduct toward a person or group because of the race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation, marital, or parental status of the

targeted person or group, that discriminatory motive may be an aggravating factor in determining sanctions.

## **M. Appeals**

A student may appeal the sanctions imposed under this Code. Appeals should be made in writing to the Dean of the school within five (5) days of the date of communication of the decision reached in the meeting with the Investigator. An appeal must be based on one or more of the following:

- a. Availability of new evidence sufficient to alter the decision that was not available prior to the original decision.
- b. A procedural defect that was prejudicial.
- c. Sanctions found to be grossly disproportionate to the offense.

The appeal will be reviewed and considered by a Review Committee comprised of the Dean or his/her designee, an academic dean, and another administrator or faculty selected by the Dean or his/her designee.

Formal rules of evidence will not be applied nor will deviations from prescribed procedures necessarily invalidate a decision, unless significant prejudice to a student or the school may result. Upon review of the appeal, the Review Committee will make a ruling, and the decision of the committee is final. The student will be notified in writing of the Review Committee's decision regarding the appeal.

## **N. Records and Record-keeping**

### **1. Individual students:**

- a. In the case of an individual student, the decision will be placed in the student's file in the Registrar's Office, and a confidential file on the matter also will be maintained in the Office of Student Affairs. Any finding of a Conduct Code violation may be reported by the Dean or his/her designee to any board of bar examiners or similar organization for any bar to which the student applies. Students should be aware that most bar applications will require the student to report any sanctions imposed on the student by an educational institution, regardless of whether the sanctions were for conduct suggesting unfitness for the practice of law. Students also should be aware that Coastal Law routinely responds to inquiries regarding student character and fitness from boards of bar examiners and similar organizations.
- b. If the Investigator determines that the initial referral cannot be substantiated, the Investigator may prepare a summary of the matter; that summary will be maintained in a confidential file in the Office of Student Affairs. Information in the file will be used only to respond to specific inquiries about that matter received from the student

- whose conduct was at issue or from a board of bar examiners or similar organization to which the student has applied.
- c. Report to board of bar examiners.

2. **Student organizations:** In the case of a student group, the decision and other material related to the matter will be maintained in a confidential file in the Office of Student Affairs. The information should not be placed into individual students' files in the Registrar's Office. The faculty advisor for the organization will receive a copy of the decision, which should be kept confidential.

## **O. Confidentiality**

Coastal Law considers referrals and procedures under the Conduct Code to be confidential. All participants should respect the confidentiality of this information and disclose it only to those who have a legitimate and necessary need to know.

## **P. Publication of Results**

At least once a year, the department head of the Office of Student Affairs should compile a list of all referrals in which issued violation of the Code was substantiated. This list, which should not contain names, but which should list the violation and any sanction issued, should be shared with the Coastal Law Community at the discretion of the Dean or his/her designee.

## **Q. Student Code of Conduct Review and Amendment**

The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed semi-annually under the direction of the department head of the Office of Student Affairs. In addition, specific Coastal Law personnel selected by the Dean or designee shall periodically conduct a review of the Student Code of Conduct and make recommendations regarding omissions, clarifications, constructive changes, and other matters germane to the proper interpretation and operation of the Student Code of Conduct. Questions of interpretation regarding the Conduct Code shall be referred to the department head of the Student Affairs or designee. In keeping with normal school policy approval processes, the Student Code of Conduct may, at the sole discretion of the school, be amended at any time to include any changes deemed necessary to the Code. Changes made to the Conduct Code take effect immediately. Changes will be made with or without notice. Current/updated versions of the Student Code of Conduct will be maintained on the Coastal Law website.

**COASTAL LAW ACADEMIC HONOR CODE**  
**Revised August, 2018**

**A. Introduction**

Students at Florida Coastal School of Law (Coastal Law) must exhibit high standards of academic and professional responsibility in order to enter the legal profession. The principles of honesty and personal responsibility are essential for the proper practice of law. The law school believes that those who intend to enter this profession cannot wait for graduation but must now begin to live by these principles. The Academic Honor Code (Honor Code or Code) shall be interpreted in accordance with these underlying fundamental purposes.

This Honor Code details prohibited conduct, outlines the jurisdiction and establishes the procedures to be followed when a violation of the Code is alleged. This Honor Code and its processes shall only be applicable with respect to alleged violations of the Code committed by students and shall not, under any circumstances, be applicable with respect to alleged violations committed by professors, staff members or law school administration. Faculty and staff members should follow the principles of academic integrity in their own work and conduct.

The objectives of the Honor Code procedures are to:

1. Create a process in which to determine violations of the Honor Code;
2. Ensure involvement of students, faculty, and administration in enforcement;
3. Maintain confidence that the system will work, that violators will be held accountable, and that any accused student will be treated fairly.

Investigations may be initiated or continued after a student has graduated, or after the student has completed the course or program, if the academic misconduct occurred while the individual was enrolled at Coastal Law or in a program sponsored or co-sponsored by Coastal Law. If an Honor Code matter is pending when a student is scheduled to graduate, the student's degree may be withheld at least until the matter is resolved. Student status continues until it is terminated upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events:

1. Graduation or completion of a Coastal Law-sponsored bar preparatory program.
2. Documented completion of the academic program by the Registrar or program administrator.
3. Voluntary withdrawal of the student from all courses of academic instruction.

4. Involuntary dismissal from all programs and activities of the school, and the exhaustion of all internal procedures to redress the dismissal or withdrawal (if applicable).

5. Unauthorized absence from the school for one or more semesters.

## **B. Notice of the Honor Code Provisions and Amendments**

A student is on notice of this Code and its provisions by virtue of enrollment at the law school in any of its programs. This Code is published in the Coastal Law Student Handbook. Any suggestions for amendments to the provisions of this Honor Code shall be made by the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Academic Integrity Officer. In order to take effect, such amendments (excluding minor clerical or grammatical corrections) must be approved by the voting faculty at a duly noticed faculty meeting. A simple majority is required to amend the Code.

## **C. Definitions**

1. The terms “school” or “Coastal Law” mean Florida Coastal School of Law.
2. The term “student” means an individual:
  - a. Who has been accepted for enrollment in one or more classes offered by this school, or in any qualifying program at Coastal Law, and
  - b. Who has registered for one or more classes of academic instruction to be given at the school or sponsored by the school.
3. “Academic Integrity Officer” refers to a member of the full-time faculty who will be appointed by the Dean. The Academic Integrity Officer has the authority to recommend that certain decisions and sanctions imposed by the Investigator be amended or referred to the Dean for resolution.
4. “Class” and “Course” refer to any class or course at Coastal Law. The terms should be construed broadly, and include graded and non-graded courses, courses offered for credit and not for credit, and courses offered on or off the law school campus. The terms specifically include clinics, internships, summer abroad programs, and academic competitions.
5. “Honor Code” or “Code” refers to the Coastal Law Academic Honor Code
6. “Day” means any regular business day of Coastal Law, and does not include weekends, holidays, or any day on which Coastal Law is not open to conduct regular business.
7. “Dean” refers to the Dean of Coastal Law, or that person’s designee.

8. “Investigator” refers to the person charged with gathering facts and information about a referral under this Code, and with imposing sanctions.
  - a. The Investigator typically will be a member of full-time faculty or an administrator.
  - b. The Dean reserves the right to appoint another person, including a person who is not a full-time employee of Coastal Law, as Investigator. If the Dean appoints a person who is not a full-time employee of Coastal Law, the Dean will enter into an agreement with that individual indicating that the individual will abide by the relevant Coastal Law policies and procedures.
  - c. The Dean also reserves the right to appoint multiple Investigators to a matter. The Investigator may be assisted by others in work under the Code.
  - d. The Investigator under this Code is distinct from the Conduct Code Investigator, who is the person charged with gathering facts and information about a referral under the Conduct Code.
9. “Notice” means written notice and includes e-mail messages.
10. “Writing” includes an e-mail message sent to a student’s Coastal Law e-mail account.

#### **D. Prohibited Conduct**

Any conduct by a student that would permit any student to gain or give an unfair advantage to any student in any academic matter or matter related to academic credentials shall be considered a violation of this Code. The Investigator does not have to find that any unfair advantage was achieved by the student, only that the student acted knowingly or recklessly with respect to the specific violation. Conversely, a disciplinary violation occurs when, among other things, the violation of a scholastic standard is not the sole or primary allegation against the student. Disciplinary violations will be adjudicated and sanctioned pursuant to Coastal Law’s Student Code of Conduct.

The following conduct, while not exhaustive, shall constitute a violation of this Code:

1. **Plagiarism**- Appropriation of any other person’s work, words, thoughts or ideas without acknowledgment in any work submitted in any academic pursuit or law school competition, including but not limited to, research or seminar papers, examinations, law review, mock trial or moot court.
2. **Cheating** - Any act of fraud or deception by which the offender improperly gains or attempts to gain an unfair benefit or advantage from the school, its faculty, staff, fellow students, or other persons in connection with the school. Examples of this offense include, but are not limited to the following:



- a. Giving or securing information about an examination, except as authorized by the examining professor;
  - b. Copying or consulting books, papers, or notes of any kind during the examination, except as authorized by the examining professor;
  - c. Unauthorized communication during an examination
  - d. Unauthorized assistance or collaboration; giving or receiving aid on an assignment, examination or other academic assignment without the express prior approval of the professor
  - e. Inappropriate use of others' work; using words, thoughts, or ideas without attribution so that they seem as if they are your own
  - f. Failing to report advance knowledge of any question on an examination not yet given
  - g. Continuing to write a test or examination when the time allotted has elapsed.
3. **Facilitating academic dishonesty** - helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to giving someone work product to copy or allowing someone to cheat from an examination or assignment
  4. **False Witness** - Knowingly making a false report or statement that another student has violated this Code or that a faculty or staff member has violated any provision of the faculty handbook, employee handbook or otherwise engaged in unprofessional conduct.
  5. **Misappropriation of, or damage to, academic materials** – Damaging, misappropriating or disabling academic resources so that others cannot use them.
  6. **Multiple submissions** - Submitting work you have done in previous classes as if it were new and original work without permission from the instructor
  7. **Deception and misrepresentation** – Lying about or intentionally misrepresenting work, academic records, credentials, or other academic matters or information. May include, but not limited to, forging signatures or letters of recommendation, falsifying documents pertaining to internships, clinics, pro bono or resume.
  8. **Electronic Dishonesty** – Using network or computer access inappropriately in a way that affects a class or other students' academic work.
  9. **Obstruction of Justice** - Failing to reveal fully any knowledge or evidence concerning a filed referral on proper request of a member of the Investigator or an Administrator

10. **Perjury** - Knowingly misstating a material fact in a statement presented to an Investigator or an Administrator gathering facts about the issue at hand
11. **Contempt** - Willfully failing or refusing to comply with any request of the Investigator or Administrator in a matter related to this Code.
12. **Confidentiality of Code Violation Proceedings** - Violating any duty of confidentiality imposed by this Code
13. **Failure to Report** - Failing to file a complaint pursuant to the provisions of this Honor Code when a student has knowledge that another student has committed a violation of the Honor Code that raises a substantial question as to that student's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a student in other respects.
14. **Other Conduct** - Engaging in academic conduct, not otherwise covered by any other provision of this Code directly related to activities or programs related to the law school, which adversely reflect upon fitness to remain a student at the law school.

## **E. Procedures**

### **1. Referrals**

- a. Method of referral - Members of the Coastal Law community may refer possible violations of this Code to the Office of Student Affairs. To determine whether an investigation or intervention is necessary, it is helpful for the person to provide names, dates, locations, and descriptions of the possible academic misconduct. It may be within a faculty member's discretion to refer an incident under this Code. Faculty may choose to resolve issues as outlined in their course policies and/or syllabus.
- b. If the Dean of Student Affairs believes a possible violation of the Honor Code has occurred, he or she should urge the individual to move forward with a written referral. Templates for referrals are available in the Office of Student Affairs. The Dean of Student Affairs should alert a reporting student to the fact that failure to report an Honor Code violation is in itself an offense under the Code. If the Dean of Student Affairs does not believe a violation has occurred, he or she shall inform the student, faculty or staff member that he or she is not obliged to take any further action in the matter. However, if despite the consultation with the Dean of Student Affairs, the student, faculty or staff member decides to make a referral, the Dean of Student Affairs should remind him or her that the Honor Code equally sanctions the students who knowingly make a false report of an Honor Code violation. Staff or faculty would be referred to Administration.
- c. Additional referrals - If the Investigator finds information that suggests the student or another person may have violated other provisions of the Honor Code

or Code of Conduct, the Investigator may treat this information as an additional referral or may refer the additional matter to a Conduct Code Investigator.

- d. No anonymous referrals will be accepted. Making a timely referral is of the utmost importance. Referrals are considered timely if they are made within 30 days upon notice of the incident.

## **2. Interim Action**

- a. After receiving a referral, the Investigator or an Administrator may recommend to the Dean or designee that a student be suspended, restricted from classes or other activities, or prohibited from having contact with one or more individuals for an interim period.
- b. A recommendation for interim action must be based on a reasonable belief that serious academic misconduct occurred and that the continued presence of the student on the campus poses a threat to the academic integrity of the institution.
- c. The decision to impose an interim action will be communicated in writing to the student, and will become effective immediately.
- d. A student who receives an interim action will be provided with an opportunity to meet with the Investigator to respond to the allegations of misconduct no later than seven (7) days following the effective date of the interim action.
- e. The interim action will remain in effect until a final decision has been made on the pending referral or until the Investigator determines that the reasons for imposing the interim action no longer exist.
- f. The Dean or his/her designee have the right to impose any readmission requirement necessary, based on an individualized assessment, to demonstrate the health, well-being, and overall fitness of the student to continue in law school before allowing readmission.

## **3. Investigation and Decision**

- a. After receiving a referral, the Investigator:
  - i. will determine whether the referral states a sufficient basis to believe that a violation of the Honor Code may have occurred;
  - ii. will determine whether the referral primarily reflects academic or nonacademic misconduct and will request the Dean of Student Affairs to reassign the matter if it represents nonacademic misconduct;

- iii. may interview the person making the referral and other persons with information, and may seek additional information regarding the referral.
- b. If the Investigator determines that the Code has not been violated or that a violation cannot be substantiated, the investigation will end and the Investigator will follow the reporting and record-keeping provisions noted below in Section J.
- c. Even if the Investigator determines that a matter should not be pursued under the Honor Code, the Investigator may recommend that an educational conference be held with the student so that the conduct at issue is not repeated, or so that the student may better understand the effects and consequences of the actions.
  - i. During this educational conference, the Investigator may require the student enter into an academic conduct contract. That contract may outline conduct or actions that the student must avoid, or may impose affirmative obligations on the student.
  - ii. A violation of the contract may be considered as a violation of this Honor Code.
- d. The referral will be considered an accusation under this Code only after the Investigator determines that a sufficient basis exists to believe that the Honor Code may have been violated.
- e. If the Investigator believes that a violation of the Code may have occurred, then the Investigator will promptly notify the student in writing of the alleged violation, will set a time to meet with the student, and will gather any other information needed to resolve the matter.
- f. At the meeting the student will be provided with the following:
  - i. an explanation of any Honor Code sections at issue and the nature of the conduct that is the basis for invoking those Code sections;
    - a summary of the information gathered
  - ii. a reasonable opportunity to respond; and
  - iii. an explanation of the applicable disciplinary procedures in relation to the Honor Code.
- g. The student may be assisted by an advisor of their own choice and at their own expense. The role of the advisor is limited to consultation. Advisors may not speak on behalf of a student. Because the purpose of this process is to provide a fair review of the alleged violations of the Honor Code rather than a formal legal proceeding, participation of persons acting as legal counsel is not permitted. Advisors may not appear in lieu of the student; however, an advisor may consult

with the student during a meeting and may assist with the preparation for the meeting. Students who choose an attorney as their advisor shall notify the Dean of Student Affairs of the attorney's name and contact information at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

- h. During the meeting with the student, both the Investigator and the student may have witnesses available, but the witnesses need not be in the same room as the student. The student, while having the right to understand the witnesses' positions, does not have a right to examine the witnesses. The Investigator may choose to audiotape the meeting.
- i. A student who fails to attend a scheduled meeting with the Investigator will forfeit the right to respond regarding the alleged violation, unless excused by the Investigator. If the student fails to attend the meeting, the Investigator may proceed to impose a sanction.
- j. After carefully considering the information gathered, the Investigator will determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence that a violation of the Honor Code has occurred and, if so, the appropriate sanction or sanctions to apply.
- k. The Investigator will notify the Dean of Student Affairs of the decision and sanction, if any.
- l. Then, the Investigator will inform the student of the decision, in writing. The written decision will describe the violation, the determination, and the sanction. When feasible, the Investigator also should communicate the decision and sanction to the student in a face-to-face meeting or via video or telephone.
- m. Following a decision, the student has the right to file an appeal based on the procedures outline in Section I.

## **F. Sanctions**

1. The following sanctions and may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Honor Code:
  - a. Warning—Notice, orally or in writing, that continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct will be cause for additional disciplinary action.
  - b. Reprimand - A written or oral reprimand specifying the violation for which the student is held responsible.
  - c. Academic Disciplinary Probation - A form of probation that is distinct from probation that may be imposed as a result of academic performance. The term refers to the

- period prescribed by the Investigator during which certain conditions imposed as sanctions must be met or during which the student's behavior will be monitored. If the student fails to fulfill the conditions during the probationary period, the Investigator, after giving the student notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, may determine that the student has violated the probation and may impose new or additional sanctions. The conditions of academic disciplinary probation may be varied, depending on the circumstances.
- d. Restrictions or Loss of Privileges and/or Benefits - Denial, exclusion, or restriction of certain privileges, events, activities, or benefit for a designated period of time. An example would be the removal from any student governmental office or position in any school-sponsored activity or organization or from any school-sponsored position of trust, responsibility or interest. Another example would be the partial or total revocation or suspension of scholarship.
  - e. Discretionary Sanction - Work assignments, service to the school, local community, civic organizations, or other related discretionary assignments.
  - f. Counseling - This may be for substance abuse, anger management, or other purposes depending on the incident and associated circumstances. The student will be required to provide documentation of completion of the required counseling by a qualified professional. The student will be responsible for all costs associated with the counseling.
  - g. Suspension—Separation of the student from the school for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified. Duration of suspension will be determined as part of the disciplinary process.
  - h. Expulsion—Permanent separation of the student from the school. School officials administering this Code have the right to permanently dismiss a student for any reason, cause, or Honor Code violation notwithstanding any other provision in the Honor Code or Student Handbook. If a student is expelled from the school for any Honor Code violation, the student is not entitled to any reimbursement of tuition, book expenses, or other fees associated with the school and/or enrollment.
  - i. Revocation of Degree - Rescinding a student's degree awarded by the school.
  - j. Other Sanctions - Other sanctions or actions may be imposed instead of or in addition to those specified in this section.
2. Multiple sanctions may be imposed by the Investigator.
  3. A student may not be considered in good standing while an Honor Code investigation is pending; to include the appeal process and completion of assigned sanctions.

## **G. Implementation of Sanctions**

Sanctions are effective immediately, unless stayed or otherwise set by the Investigator. If a student initiates an appeal, sanctions will not begin until the appeal process is exhausted. The Dean or designee may impose sanctions during the appeal process to ensure the safety and wellbeing of members of the school community. If the sanctions include suspension or expulsion, various members of the school community will be promptly notified, including school security personnel and the student's faculty.

## **H. Mitigating and Aggravating Factors**

In determining the sanction, the Investigator may consider mitigating and aggravating factors. A non-exhaustive list of factors that may be considered include the following:

1. Pre-referral admission - When a student voluntarily admits misconduct before learning that someone has referred the matter or is about to refer the matter, the Investigator may consider the admission as a mitigating factor. A student who has the courage and integrity to come forth with a good-faith admission has reaffirmed a personal commitment to honor. Any student interested in making such an admission should contact the Office of Student Affairs.
2. Other admissions - Even an admission made after a referral may have some mitigating value. This type of admission shows acknowledgment of the inappropriate nature of the student's conduct. However, a post-referral admission is not as strong a mitigating factor as a pre-referral admission.
3. Cooperation - The Investigator may consider how cooperative, or uncooperative, the student was during the process, including whether the student responded timely to inquiries and requests for meetings, provided requested information, and dealt honestly and civilly with the investigator and others involved with the process.
4. Intent - Conduct falls on an intent continuum that ranges from malicious, willful, intentional, reckless, and grossly negligent conduct on the more serious end, to merely negligent, careless, and accidental conduct on the less serious end. Where conduct falls on this continuum may be considered when determining sanctions. Conduct that is malicious, willful, intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent may justify a more serious sanction. Less intentional conduct may be a mitigating factor.
5. Degree of harm or seriousness of offense - The degree of harm to others and the seriousness of the conduct are relevant factors in determining sanctions.
6. Prior violations educational conferences - Prior violations of, or educational conferences about, the Honor Code or Conduct Code may be considered as aggravating factors.

7. Nexus to professional standards - The nexus between the student's conduct and the question of character and fitness of the student to practice law is a relevant factor in determining sanctions.
8. Discriminatory motive - If a student, in engaging in conduct prohibited under the Honor Code, is also found to have intentionally directed the conduct toward a person or group because of the race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation, marital, or parental status of the targeted person or group, that discriminatory motive may be an aggravating factor in determining sanctions.

## **I. Appeals**

A student may appeal the sanctions imposed under this Code. Appeals should be made in writing to the Dean of the school within five (5) days of the date of communication of the decision reached in the meeting with the Investigator. An appeal must be based on one or more of the following:

1. Availability of new evidence sufficient to alter the decision that was not available prior to the original decision.
2. A procedural defect that was prejudicial.
3. Sanctions found to be grossly disproportionate to the offense.

The appeal will be reviewed and considered by a Review Committee comprised of the Dean or his/her designee, an academic dean, and another administrator or faculty selected by the Dean or his/her designee.

Formal rules of evidence will not be applied nor will deviations from prescribed procedures necessarily invalidate a decision, unless significant prejudice to a student or the school may result. Upon review of the appeal, the Review Committee will make a ruling, and the decision of the committee is final. The student will be notified in writing of the Review Committee's decision regarding the appeal.

## **J. Records and Record-keeping**

1. The decision will be placed in the student's file in the Office of the Registrar, and a confidential file on the matter also will be maintained in the Office of Student Affairs. Any finding of an Honor Code violation may be reported by the Dean or his/her designee to any board of bar examiners or similar organization for any bar to which the student applies. Students should be aware that most bar applications will require the student to report any sanctions imposed on the student by an educational institution, regardless of whether the sanctions were for academic misconduct suggesting unfitness for the practice of law. Students also should be aware that Coastal Law routinely responds to inquiries regarding student character and fitness from boards of bar examiners and similar organizations.



2. If the Investigator determines that the initial referral cannot be substantiated, the Investigator may prepare a summary of the matter; that summary will be maintained in a confidential file in the Office of Student Affairs. Information in the file will be used only to respond to specific inquiries about that matter received from the student whose conduct was at issue or from a board of bar examiners or similar organization to which the student has applied.

### **K. Confidentiality**

Coastal Law considers referrals and procedures under the Honor Code to be confidential. All participants should respect the confidentiality of this information and disclose it only to those who have a legitimate and necessary need to know.

### **L. Publication of Results**

At least once a year, the department head of the Office of Student Affairs should compile a list of all referrals in which issued violation of the Code was substantiated. This list, which should not contain names, but which should list the violation and any sanction issued, should be shared with the Coastal Law Community at the discretion of the Dean or his/her designee.

*Attribution:* Portions of this Code were derived from Stetson University College of Law's Academic Honor Code.