



Courtesy of Tulane Law School

Tulane Law School

By Sharon Rhein

FOR MANY PEOPLE, TULANE

Law School conjures up images of Darby Shaw, the fictitious law student depicted in John Grisham's best-selling novel *The Pelican Brief*. While it is true Tulane is one of the few law schools that can boast of being the setting for a book that was first on the best seller list, its uniqueness does not rest there.

As a law school situated in Louisiana, Tulane is the only institution in the country to offer extensive curriculum in both common and civil law. If one is interested in international law, knowledge of civil law is very helpful because it is not only the legal system in private matters in Louisiana but also the dominant legal system in Eastern Europe, Latin and Central America, Africa, and the Far East. Tulane is one of the few law schools in the country producing a significant number of lawyers who, as Dean of Admissions Susan Krinsky said, "can be successful not only in the United States but throughout the world."

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Michael B. Moskowitz, former chair of President George Bush's Council of Economic Advisors, has indicated that "the lawyers best prepared to deal with the countries

of Eastern Europe are those trained in civil law."

Judging from the 1993-94 catalog, Tulane genuinely provides an extensive civil law curriculum. It offers 75 courses in civil, comparative, admiralty, and international law taught at Tulane and in summer school sessions in England, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, and the Netherlands. Many students boasted of the Eason-Weinmann Center for Comparative Law, founded in 1949, that brings legal scholars and students from other countries to Tulane to lecture and to pursue comparative studies in law.

Yet students are by no means limited to civil law. As the brochure states, "Common law students do not have to enroll in any of the civil law courses offered at Tulane." Tulane has a curriculum of over 130 common law courses. In 1993-94, Tulane scheduled eight different tax classes and six different corporate law courses, indicating its strength in the more traditional business curriculum.

The curriculum is composed of the same eight courses for all students in their first year, but upperclassmen design their own program of study in the second and third year.

The diverse curricula offers several joint-degree programs. These include the option to earn a Juris Prudence Degree and Bachelor of Science or Art, Master in Business Administration, Master in Health Administration, and Master in Science of Public Health. In addition, joint degree programs with other graduate schools of Tulane have been created on an individual basis. Third-year law student Yvonne Tsang said, "In many of the comparative and international law classes there are a lot of international students who get their LLM, a masters in law, instead of JD so they can go back to their respective countries and practice law there or work in the government sector. Many students from Thailand in particular take advantage of this unique program."

In addition to its special civil law instruction, Tulane was the first law school in the country to require its students to perform uncredited pro bono work as a condition for graduating. Each student must complete a minimum of 20 hours of legal service on behalf of indigents. Few schools in the country are more generous in enabling students to be employed in public interest. Starting with the class of 1988, Tulane has set up a loan repayment assistance program for qualified graduates pursuing legal careers in public interest. Tulane provided summer subsidy grants to 44 first- and second-year students in 1992 and 34 in 1993. These grants averaged \$2500 per student each year. The students work for public interest organizations or state and local government agencies that cannot afford to pay wages comparable to those paid by private firms. Tulane's summer grants, amounting to nearly \$90,000, are subsidized in part by active student fundraising that includes sales of coffee and doughnuts and an auction.

Students certainly are active at Tulane. "As a law student, your social life is limited," said Tim Widman. "Everyone is concerned with getting a job." But as Dean of Admissions Susan Krinsky points out, "There is so much to do in Louisiana, much like New York City." Louisiana, like Manhattan, is the popular destination for many tourists. As second-year Lisa Houlihan said, "New Orleans is a great place to be for law school because there are a lot of diversions, and

the atmosphere is very relaxed. I really think the atmosphere of the city spills over into the school and people are a lot more cooperative here than other law schools. Tulane is great about having social events on the campus and taking advantage of what the city has to offer. For example, there is a formal coming up at the Aquarium. There are Bar Reviews in the French Quarter. I am so glad I came here for Law School." The

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Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra even plays a series on the Tulane campus and makes student budget tickets available. There are clubs, and of course Mardi Gras, and the French Quarter. As Lisa said, "It really is incredible down here."

When they are not studying or exploring New Orleans, students are very involved on campus. Extra curricular activities include several journals like the Tulane Law Review, Tulane Maritime Law Journal, Tulane Environmental Law Journal, Law and Sexuality: A Review of Lesbian and Gay Legal Issues, Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law, and Sports Law Journal.

Tulane also has an extensive trial and appellate moot court program, which sponsors four competitions for students within the school and enters at least seven national competitions each year. In 1992, Tulane students hosted the first annual Mardi Gras national moot court competition, involving a sports antitrust case.

Diversity is not limited to the activities at Tulane. Tulane is committed to enrolling minority students and this is demonstrated by its scholarships specifically for minority students. Since its founding in 1847, Tulane has come quite a long way in accepting minorities. In the fall of 1992, Tulane was approximately 42 percent female with 403 women students out of 967 full-time JD candidates. It had 22.3 percent minorities, with 120 out of the 216 minority students or 12.4 percent of the entire student body being African-American.

Tulane law students have a variety of experience. The brochure stated, "In 1994, 40.2% of the incoming students came directly from college, and many have substantial work experience. Forty-eight percent were 23-25 years old, 13.2% were 26-29, 30.3% 22 and younger, and 8.4% were 30 and older."

As far as competitiveness goes, Widman feels "Tulane, like every law school, is very competitive. First year is the real pressure-cooker but then it gets better." Lenny Argentinis disagrees. She feels that, "Unlike Ivy League schools, Tulane is not cutthroat. You won't find anyone ripping out pages in books or anything like that." The general view was law school is the means to a pragmatic end and as second-year Edward Dann said, "It's a lot more uptight than college."

But, like college, there is no profile of the prototypical successful candidate. As Dean of Admissions Susan Krinsky explained, "There are no scientific formulas. Everyone gets consideration, even with a 130 on the LSAT and a 1.7 GPA. To get serious consideration, GPA and LSAT are more important." Last year, Tulane Law School received approximately 4,500 applications for 335 seats in the incoming class. Krinsky reported "There were twenty-four applicants from Columbia College; ten were offered admissions, and two enrolled. There were fourteen applicants from Barnard College; four were offered admissions, and two enrolled." Last year, the average GPA of the successful candidate was 3.3 with a 160 on the LSAT. Competition is keen, and it is worth noting Tulane Law School uses a rolling admissions procedure.

With a faculty like the one at Tulane, it is not surprising that the school attracts such an excellent student body. As the brochure states, "Fifty-two professors and three fellow/instructors will be on campus full-time. Twelve are Tulane graduates, while five went to Harvard, eight to Yale, four to Columbia, three each to Berkeley, NYU, Stanford, and two to Georgetown and Iowa." The rest received their diplomas from institutions throughout the world.

Tuition and fees for the 1994-95 academic year add up to \$20,140. Tuition is \$18,630 and activity fees are \$1,510. A number of financial aid programs are offered. Last year, no scholarships were given solely on the basis of merit. As Associate Director of Law School Financial Aid Georgia Whidden stated,

"Virtually all scholarships offered by the Law School to incoming first-year students are awarded on the basis of a combination of merit and need." Some financial aid programs include, Tulane Law Scholarships, Tulane Law Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Work-Study and Federal Perkins Loans. In addition, there are a number of scholarships ranging from \$1000 to full tuition. Louisiana firms like Milling, Benson, Woodward, Hillyer, Pierson, and Miller have awarded scholarships in the past.

What next? The brochure says the geographic placement of each graduating class reflects where the members of that class wanted to practice; "About one-fifth of our students are from Louisiana, and just over 40% of the graduating class choose to accept their first jobs here." Argentinis, who was born and bred in New York City and did her undergraduate work at NYU, advised, "Go to law school where you want to work." Dann, echoed Argentinis' feelings. "The most important thing to do is to think of where you want to practice before you go to law school," he said. "Often times, you have a better chance of getting a job closer to your school. For example, I have found it hard to find a job in Boston from Tulane. But it is not

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impossible." Houlihan said, "While it is true that most career counselors recommend that you go to law school in the state you want to practice, it is definitely possible to go elsewhere. Tulane's national reputation makes it a viable option to go elsewhere. I plan on returning to the northeast and hope to use my Tulane alums to help me get a job."

According to some firms in Louisiana, Tulane Law School really does produce incredible lawyers. The third largest firm in Louisiana, McGlinchey, Stafford, and Lang houses 128 lawyers, 37 of whom have Tulane degrees. Many of the most senior partners are Tulanians who have acknowledged reputations as leaders of the New Orleans legal community. Lemle and Kelleher boast that half the attorneys are alumni of Tulane Law

School.

Rated in 1990 and 1991 as one of the top five "up and coming" law schools in the nation by "U.S. News and World Report," Tulane has been ranked in the top quartile of schools in the past three years with a reputation of 27th among academics in 1994 and 31st among judges and attorneys. The cover story of the 1993 U.S. News article on law schools featured Tulane's community service program. In the summer of 1992, construction began for the new 160,000 square foot Law School building. Students and faculty alike are looking forward to moving into the brand new building December seventeenth.

With the outstanding faculty, diverse student body, enthusiastic Dean John Kramer, and an incredible new building to contain all the excitement, Tulane's reputation will only continue to soar. ■

Chicago

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for Studies in Criminal Justice, Center for Study in Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, and the Center for Study of Central Banks are a few of the research institutions established at the University of Chicago to study how law affects both American society and the world. The Public Service Program provides incentives of summer stipends and loan deferrals to students who assist with pro bono work and other services for the public good. Myriads of outside activities are available.

While the University of Chicago Law School is an intense place to learn, University of Chicago Law students also like to enjoy themselves. "Bar Review" is a weekly Thursday outing to a different Chicago area pub. "Wine Mess" occurs Fridays, when law students drink wine and socialize on the lawns. From there, students break off to eat dinner and plan things to do for the rest of the night. Also, the various student associations plan parties and other activities away from the books. The "loop" the center of the city of Chicago, is only a few minutes away by car or mass transit. In Chicago, students can spend an afternoon at the Art Institute, a day at Soldier Field watching the Bears play, or spend an evening with the world renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The won-

derful diversions are endless in the city.

The Hyde Park campus, however, can be an unsafe place if students are not careful. Second year student Ziev commented, "Safety is a problem (in Hyde Park). It is a good idea to have a car because you are very much at the whim

***Students have easier
access to their professors
because of the small
class size.***

of other people." Third year student Kolde agreed, saying, "(students) should be very careful at night. Many of my female friends have expressed concerns about safety." Yet, both students agree that common sense and planning ahead will lower the risk of being involved in a dangerous situation.

After passing the extremely selective admissions procedure and after three or more years of demanding study, the University of Chicago Law School graduates have many career paths which they can choose. In 1994, seven graduates accepted clerkships with Supreme Court Justices. In recent years, only Yale has ranked higher in per capita Supreme Court clerkship offers. Twenty-five percent of the 1994 graduating class accepted judicial clerkships and seventy-per-

cent of the class took positions with law firms. About one third of the graduates that went on to work for law firms were employed by firms based in Chicago, New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles. The remaining members of the class took positions in government, with corporations, with public interest organizations, or in areas outside of the law. Employment is readily available after graduating from the law school. As Del Kolde happily pointed out, "The vast majority of people that wanted to work for a law firm, did. Many of my friends are deciding which offer to take. Not if they will get an offer."

A University of Chicago Law School education is best described as challenging and thought provoking. Students that are highly motivated, eager to learn all the various dimensions of the law, and can tolerate the sub-arctic Chicago winters should be content there. The University of Chicago Law School training prepares students to research, analyze, and think clearly about the law. Both the legal and the outside communities realize the contributions that University of Chicago Law school graduates will make. For the insight and instruction received at the U. of C. Law School may quite possibly form the foundation for the finest legal education in the country. ■

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Congress is so strange. A man gets up to speak and says nothing. Nobody listens- and then everybody disagrees. -Boris Marshalov