



FIDES ET RATIO



AVE MARIA
SCHOOL OF LAW

WHY AVE MARIA LAW

At Ave Maria School of Law, legal education is rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and inspired by the belief that the practice of law is a vocation. Our mission is to challenge future lawyers to pursue truth, defend human dignity, and lead lives grounded in faith, excellence, and service.

Ave Maria Law brings together students from across the country who seek purpose. Here, legal education is preparation for a life of service. Whether you are called to private practice, public service, business, advocacy, or ministry, you'll graduate equipped to lead—all within a framework that emphasizes the harmony of Fides et Ratio (Faith and Reason).



Ave Maria School of Law is proud to be recognized by *The Princeton Review* as one of the nation's top law schools and by *The National Jurist* as the Best Catholic Law School in the United States for the Devout. As the only law school included in *The Newman Guide*, Ave Law has earned the gold standard for securing faithful Catholic education.

CLASS OF 2029

At a Glance

Small enough to know your professors. Large enough to make an impact. Our students come from across the country and around the world, bringing diverse professional experiences, academic backgrounds, and a shared desire to pursue a legal education.



75th Percentile
GPA 3.69 / LSAT 159

Median
GPA 3.47 / LSAT 155

25th Percentile
GPA 3.05 / LSAT 152

70%

Percentage of Catholic students

151

Total first-year law students

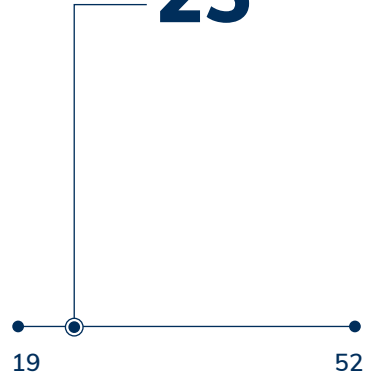
390

Total students enrolled at Ave Law

Over \$4M

Merit-based scholarships awarded to first-year students

25



Average age of students
(age range varies from 19 to 52)

47%

Percentage of out-of-state students (representing 28 US States plus Canada, Egypt and Nigeria)

4 New veterans and benefits-eligible family members enrolled

FROM CLASSROOM TO CALLING

At Ave Maria School of Law, career development begins long before graduation. Through individualized career counseling, externships, networking opportunities, mentoring, and professional coaching, students receive personalized guidance at every stage of their legal journey.

Thanks to our rigorous professional training and distinctive educational philosophy, our graduates are well-prepared to excel in their chosen fields, securing positions with a diverse range of employers across the nation.

Every student's path is unique. Our experienced Career Development team takes great pride in helping students build the skills, experience, and professional relationships needed for long-term success.

Our graduates pursue successful careers in:

- ▶ Private Practice
- ▶ Corporate & Business Law
- ▶ Judicial Clerkships
- ▶ Government Agencies
- ▶ Public Interest & Nonprofit Law
- ▶ Military Service

“Everybody here has a vested interest in our students’ success.”

— Dean Jill Backer



Jill Backer

Associate Dean for Professional Development & Associate Director of the Business Law Institute



■ avemarialaw.edu/professional-development



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A CITY THAT TOPS THE CHARTS

Naples is consistently recognized as one of America's most desirable places to live by many reputable sources. With its pristine beaches, year-round sunshine, and a safe, welcoming community, it's the perfect place to pursue a rigorous legal education and enjoy a high quality of life.

BALANCE OF STUDY AND LEISURE

Law school is demanding. Where you spend those years matters. Whether you're kayaking through the mangroves, relaxing at the beach, or exploring Naples' vibrant downtown, Naples makes it easy to recharge and return to your studies refreshed. Here, academic excellence and personal well-being go hand in hand.

CAMPUS LIFE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

Our 12-acre campus borders a county park, offering peaceful spaces to study, reflect, and connect with classmates. Students can enjoy on-campus apartments and villas, the convenience of the law library, daily

access to the Chapel, and a close-knit community where faculty and staff are personally invested in every student's success.

MORE THAN A PLACE TO STUDY

At Ave Maria School of Law, your education extends beyond the classroom. Naples provides opportunities to thrive academically, spiritually, and socially within one of the safest and most beautiful communities in the country. Here, you'll earn a law degree rooted in purpose while strengthening your faith in a community guided by the Catholic values that define Ave Maria Law.

Why devote your life to something less than a true calling to serve others?

In addition to training our students to be excellent attorneys, we also show you **why** you should be an excellent attorney.

For me, the law is much more than a job or a profession; it is a vocation that permits me to help others achieve their own individual destinies.

Our noble calling as attorneys, properly understood through the wisdom of the Catholic Church, has made all the difference in my life. I hope that we at Ave Maria Law will instill that same sense of vocation in you as we believe in fostering an environment where students deepen their faith, sharpen their legal skills, and prepare for a future of impactful leadership.

Our students benefit from a wealth of resources, including robust academic support, career counseling, and a nurturing community that prioritizes personal and professional growth.



I invite you to join us on this journey and discover how the law can be a true vocation—a path to serving others and achieving your own unique destiny.

JOHN CZARNETZKY
Dean & CEO,
Ave Maria School of Law

Formed in Faith.

Law school is a great challenge that requires a serious commitment of time and effort. But this great challenge should

not neglect the spiritual life of the soul. So, here at Ave Maria Law, we seek to help you grow in faith and virtue while you study the law.



My primary focus as chaplain is your spiritual and pastoral care. I am here to provide the sacraments to help you grow closer to God, and to help our community remain focused on the higher things, while offering you support and encouragement in your legal studies.

Here at Ave Maria Law, we are convinced that the Christian faith teaches the deepest truths about reality and the meaning and purpose of human life. This means our faith also provides the ultimate context for understanding the law by indicating the order of creation, the dignity of the human person, and the goal of every life.

In both the chapel and the classroom, I hope to help you appreciate how the law can promote what is good and true, while also helping you live and work for the glory of God.

Rev David A. Pignato

FATHER DAVID PIGNATO

Chaplain,
Associate Dean of Mission,
and Visiting Associate
Professor of Law



STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP

LEGAL CLINICS

- ▶ Veterans and Servicemembers Law Clinic (VSLC)
- ▶ Estate Planning and General Practice Clinic
- ▶ Intellectual Property Law Clinic

CO-CURRICULARS

- ▶ Law Review
- ▶ Moot Court Board
- ▶ Business Law Institute (BLI)

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- ▶ Ave Maria Elder Law and Estate Planning Association (AMELEA)
- ▶ Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- ▶ Criminal Justice Society (CJS)
- ▶ Cuban American Bar Association (CABA)
- ▶ Environmental Law Society (ELS)
- ▶ Federalist Society (FED SOC)
- ▶ Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law School Affiliates (LSA)
- ▶ Knights of Columbus (KOC)
- ▶ Latino Law Students Association (LLSA)

- ▶ Lex Vitae Society (LEX)
- ▶ Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity (PAD)
- ▶ Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA)
- ▶ Sports & Entertainment Law Society (SELS)
- ▶ St. Francis Cabrini Immigration Law Society (ILS)
- ▶ St. Thomas More Society (STMS)
- ▶ Student Bar Association (SBA)
- ▶ Veterans Law Student Association (VLSA)
- ▶ Women's Law Association (WLA)



■ [avemarialaw.edu/
student life](https://avemarialaw.edu/student-life)

Choosing a law school goes beyond academics—it's about finding a place where you'll be challenged, inspired, and supported every step of the way. At Ave Maria School of Law, you'll discover professors who are genuinely invested in your success, opportunities that prepare you for a meaningful legal career, and a community that quickly feels like home. As a faith-based law school, we are devoted to preparing ethical lawyers who lead with integrity and a heart for service and justice. We invite you to visit campus, meet our faculty, and discover why so many students choose Ave Maria Law as the place where their calling begins."

Roxanna Cruz

Associate Dean of Admissions,
Financial Aid & Housing



ADMISSIONS

**APPLICATION OPENS:
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026**

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

*Early Decision for Summer and Fall:
February 15, 2027*

Spring Start: December 1, 2026

Summer Start: April 15, 2027

Fall Start: July 15, 2027

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS:

- ▶ Application form
- ▶ Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- ▶ LSAT (score must be within five years)
- ▶ CAS report
- ▶ Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ One recent letter of recommendation (within two years)
- ▶ Personal statement (2-3 pages, double-spaced)
- ▶ Optional addendum: "Why Ave? How does the mission align with you?"

TRANSFER STUDENTS

- ▶ Must submit a letter of good standing from their law school in addition to the first-year application requirements listed above



■ [avemarialaw.edu/
admissions](https://avemarialaw.edu/admissions)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At Ave Maria School of Law, our rigorous academic program is built on the foundation of *Fides et Ratio*. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and our distinctive emphasis on natural law, students are challenged to think critically, pursue truth, and develop the knowledge and character needed to become exceptional lawyers.

Our faculty are deeply invested in student success and work closely with each student to help them reach their academic goals. As a close-knit law school, students benefit from daily access to professors who provide individualized guidance, mentorship, and support.

We also place a strong emphasis on bar exam success. Through intensive coursework and comprehensive bar preparation focused on test-taking strategies, advanced legal writing, and multistate bar exam questions, we help ensure every student graduates prepared for the next step in their legal career.

“Our faculty integrate faith into every course while working individually with our students to help them learn the spirit and the letter of the law.”

— Dean Tony Kolenc



Dean Tony Kolenc

Associate Dean of
Academic Affairs &
Professor of Law



■ avemarialaw.edu/faculty

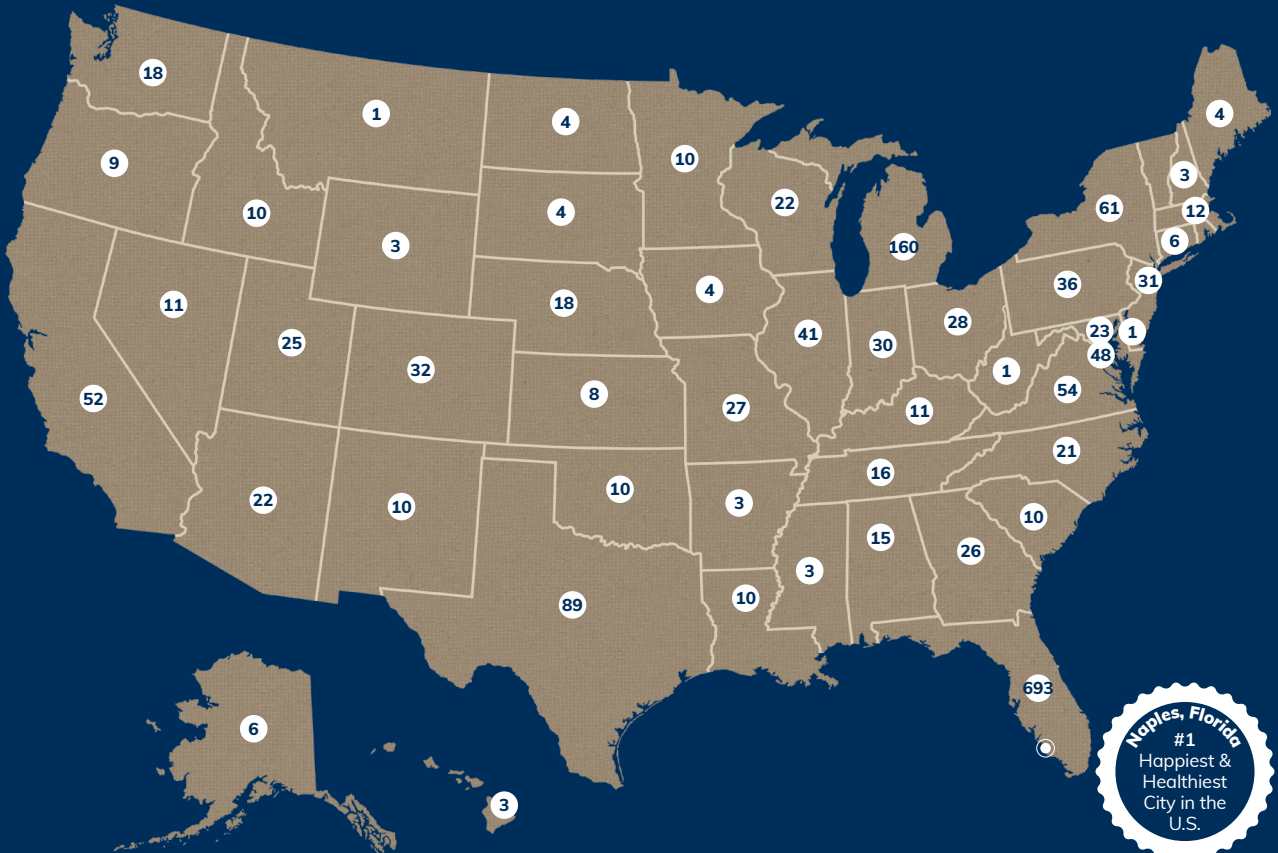


■ avemarialaw.edu/academics

MAKING AN IMPACT ACROSS THE NATION AND BEYOND

AROUND THE WORLD

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cayman Island, China, Dominican Republic, England, Germany, Ghana, Guam, Holland, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Turkey, United Arab Emirates





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