



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

LL.M. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAW

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law announces that the law school will offer, beginning in the fall of 2016, a fully approved LL.M. program focused on immigration and naturalization law. This is the first LL.M. program in the nation devoted to immigration law. The following narrative describes the program's mission, vision, objectives, admission procedures and criteria, cost of attendance and financial aid, graduation requirements, program features, and course of study.

Mission

The mission of the degree program is to further the law school's **commitment to excellence** by providing specialized academic and practical legal training for law graduates planning on practicing or seeking policy making opportunities in the field of immigration and naturalization law.

Vision

To graduate persons who have acquired in-depth knowledge of the array of skills required to effectively practice, identify and solve complex problems, and participate in policy making in the field of immigration and naturalization law.

Objectives

- Offer an advanced degree in immigration law, a field of increasing importance as practiced by a significant percentage of TMSL graduates.
- Continue the development of an institutional reputation for expertise in the field and maximize that reputation so that TMSL may impact the evolution of the law and policies that shape immigration and naturalization law and its practice.
- To provide attorneys the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required to facilitate the accomplishment of their goal of growing that part of their practice devoted to immigration and naturalization law.
- To provide Texas attorneys the opportunity to enroll in courses and programs that will assist them to prepare for, take, and pass the required test to become board certified immigration attorneys.

- To provide law graduates nationally and eventually internationally, through access to courses offered online, the opportunity to complete the LL.M. degree program.

Admission Procedures - Criteria - Fitness and Character

Application Procedure

Applicants must submit all required documents through the Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service at www.lsac.org.

A \$70 application fee must be paid to LSAC. In addition to the application, applicants must also submit an official law school transcript, purpose statement, resume, and two reference letters.

Applicants who received a law degree in the United States must have earned a juris doctorate (J.D.) degree from an ABA accredited law school. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to be successful in a graduate program, as evidenced by their law school academic performance.

Any applicant who has earned a law degree from a country other than the U.S., must have earned a law degree from an accredited university or be eligible to practice law in their jurisdiction. Applicant must demonstrate the ability to be successful in a graduate program as evidenced by their law school academic performance. Furthermore, foreign applicants must be proficient in English as determined by a test of English proficiency.

Admissions Criteria: Application information is evaluated in its entirety. The review will include, but is not limited to: the applicant's prior academic record, including the applicant's law school academic record; letters of recommendation (two are required); personal statement; employment and professional course of performance; and evidence of any other qualities that may serve to predict success in graduate legal education.

Admissions Calendar

Fall admission application must be submitted by June 30th each year.

Certain Consumer Information

This is the inaugural year of this LL.M. program. We are therefore unable to provide data with respect to the percentage of applicants admitted, the percentage of tuition and fees accounted for by scholarships, the percentage of matriculates who graduate within a year of enrollment, or the employment of graduates within a year of completing the program.

- **Fitness and Character – Eligibility to Take a Bar Examination**

All 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.

Some states authorize eligibility to take their bar examination, based on successful completion of a qualifying LL.M. degree. Texas is one of those states, but the requirements, including the courses specified by Texas that an LL.M. program must include and satisfy to serve as a stand-alone basis of eligibility to take the Texas Bar Exam are NOT included in this LL.M. immigration and naturalization degree program.

Cost of Attendance and Financial Aid

- The cost of the LL.M. program is \$16,000 tuition and fees to complete the twenty-four (24) credit hour program.
- If a student will be utilizing financial aid to assist with their cost of attendance, the student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Students must be enrolled in 6 credit hours to be eligible for financial aid. The information that you provide to FAFSA from your tax returns will be utilized in determining your aid. However, as an independent graduate student, you will be eligible for Stafford Loans if you have not reached your aggregate level of borrowing or not in default. If you have reached your borrowing limit, you may be eligible for the graduate plus loan which is a credit based loan. For further assistance with financial aid, please contact Mrs. Karen Percival, associate director of J.D. and LL.M. financial assistance at (713)313-7243 or via email at kepercival@tmsl.tsu.edu

Program and Graduation Requirements

- Students must complete 24 credit hours of approved coursework.
- Students must maintain the required grade point average of 2.0.
- The program must be completed within three years of admission and, absent approved leaves, a program participant must be continuously enrolled every fall and spring semester. Please note that you must take a total of 6 credit hours per semester to be eligible for financial aid.

Program Features

- **CLE Programs:** A comprehensive series of CLE courses ranging from immigration basics to the impact of immigration law on labor and employment, family law, criminal law, taxation and international business. CLE courses conducted by current faculty and practicing attorneys.
- **Immigration Law Workshops:** Intensive programs focused on current and emerging practice and policy issues in immigration and naturalization law.
- **Distance Learning:** Further the goals of TMSL by extending the impact of the LL.M. beyond the walls of the law school.
- **TMSL Immigration Law Magazine:** An annual publication focused on the program's accomplishments and participants.
- **Radio and television exposure:** Local and regional media, especially media serving ethnic communities are constantly seeking on-air talent for legal advice programming.
- **Visiting scholars program:** Invitations or requests to serve as presenters extended to local, regional, national and international researchers and scholars with expertise in the law and/or policies undergirding immigration and naturalization law practice.

LL.M. Advisory Board

The LL.M. Advisory Board will include prominent Texas practitioners, scholars, elected officials and other members of the greater Houston and Texas legal, business, and ethnic communities.

Course of Study – Featured Courses 2016-2017

Minimum Semester Course Load – Six (6) Hours

Maximum Semester Course Load – Twelve (12) Hours

Recommended 2016-2017 Course Schedule

Fall Semester 2016

1. Immigration Law --- 3 credits
2. International Human Rights --- 3 credits
3. Immigration and Criminal Law --- 3 credits
4. Consular Practice-Visa denials, Bars and Hardship Waivers --- 3 credits

Spring 2017

1. Advance Immigration Law --- 3 credits
2. Asylum and Refugee Law --- 3 credits
3. Naturalization --- 2 credits
4. Administrative Immigration Litigation --- 3 credits
5. Family Immigration Law --- 2 credits

Summer 2017

Immigration Externship --- 6 credits

Advance Practice 1-140's --- 2 Credits

Consular Processing --- 1 Credit

Advance Practice --- US Consular Practice Visa denials, Bars and Hardship Waivers --- 3 credits

LL.M. Director

The Director of the LL.M. program is **Professor Fernando Colón-Navarro**.
Contact Information | Phone: 713 313-1918 | email: fcolon@tmslaw.tsu.edu