

# LL.M. *in Immigration and Naturalization Law*

THE FIRST LL.M. PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY

Fall/Spring 2020-2021



# EXPLORE



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

## EARN YOUR MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE at THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



At Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL), we take a holistic approach to providing them a quality and empowering legal education. When possible, we have attempted to engage in community service by providing the kinds of lawyers with the appropriate skills to make a difference in our society. As Justice Marshall's mentor Charles Hamilton Houston said, "*Lawyers should be social engineers.*" One avenue for positive social engineering that we provide is our first of its kind L.L.M. program in immigration and naturalization. As most of us know, there can be nothing more rewarding than helping immigrants, wary and fearful of the future, to establish a solid foundation in their lives by providing them the security of knowing they belong somewhere and that they may stay or remain. This is just one example of the type of justice that our graduates have been able to accomplish.

The mission of our L.L.M. degree program is to further the law school's commitment to excellence and justice by providing specialized academic and practical legal training to graduates; to equip them with an array of skills required to effectively practice, identify and solve complex problems of all kinds; and participate in constructive policy making in the field of immigration and naturalization law. Our L.L.M. degree is a natural complement to TMSL's Juris Doctor (J.D.) program, which is heralded for its institutional reputation for expertise in the field, including the continued success of its Institute for International and Immigration Law launched in the fall of 2012. By offering an advanced degree in immigration and naturalization law, TMSL maximizes its reputation such that the law school impacts the evolution of the law and policy that shape immigration and naturalization law and its practice. I am proud to say that the efforts of our graduates help to bend the arc of immigration policy and law towards justice. Texas attorneys will be afforded 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. With access to courses offered online, local, national and eventually international law graduates will be afforded the opportunity to complete our L.L.M. degree program, as well.

Enroll in our L.L.M. degree program at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. There is no better place to jumpstart or advance your career in the field of immigration and naturalization law.

**Joan R.M. Bullock, Dean**

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applicants who hold a JD from a US ABA accredited Law school or from a foreign law school, complete the application titled, LLM Application.

We welcome both US and Foreign Attorneys to this exciting and unique LL.M. Program! Applications for the LL.M. Program are accepted as of **September 15** each year and are considered until the Program is full. An applicant for the LL.M. Program may apply for admission to begin in either the **Fall or Spring semester, full or part-time.**

Applicants who wish to begin in the **Fall Semester** are advised to apply as early as possible but no later than **July 15.**

Applicants who wish to begin in the **Spring Semester** are advised to apply as early as possible but no later than **December 1.**



## MEET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

### TBA

Director of Admissions  
Office Number: 214, Second Floor  
713.313-7114

### Admissions Coordinator

Kenyon K. Moore  
Kenyon.Moore@tmslaw.tsu.edu  
713.313.1149

### LL.M. Office Administrator

**Pearly Pendenque**  
Email: Pearly.Pendenque@tmslaw.tsu.edu  
713.313.1003

### Financial Aid Counselor

**Karen Percival**  
Email: Karen.Percival@tmslaw.tsu.edu  
713.313.7243

### Program Directors

**Fernando Colon-Navarro, Esq.**  
Professor of Law and LL.M.  
Program Director  
713.313.1918  
Email: Fernando.Colon@tmslaw.tsu.edu

### Clinical Professor and LL.M. Ass't Program Director

**Vy Nguyen, Esq.**  
Email: Vy.Nguyen@tmslaw.tsu.edu  
713.313.1003

## MEET OUR LL.M. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

### Fernando Colon-Navarro

Professor of Law and Director of LL.M. & Immigration Development



The LL.M. program in immigration and naturalization law at TMSL is a longtime in the making, but truly bittersweet for me and a small core of TMSL faculty and alumni, who were involved in the development of a certificate program in immigration law twelve years ago as the initial steps to stimulate interest. In 2015, we awarded 23 certificates in immigration law—the largest number of students at TMSL to be certified in this area. With the implementation of our LL.M. program, I am pretty sure there will be other law schools to trail us in developing LL.M. programs in immigration law. Yet, through our LL.M. program, we have created not just an academic program, but a practical program so our students can enhance their career profile. I am constantly receiving phone calls and emails from attorneys interested in our LL.M. program. Additionally, we have a list of foreign attorneys in Brazil who are interested in pursuing our LL.M. immigration program online and that list is growing with each passing day. With an initial small pool of students in the inaugural year, we anticipate great success with our LL.M. program in immigration and naturalization law this year.

*For more information about Professor Colon, visit:  
[http://www.tsulaw.edu/faculty/Fernando\\_Colon-Navarro.html](http://www.tsulaw.edu/faculty/Fernando_Colon-Navarro.html)*



## FAST FACTS ABOUT OUR LL.M. AND THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

### Why should you pursue an LL.M. in Immigration and Naturalization Law at TMSL? **TO GET IN ON THE HEAT.**

Let's face it: Immigration reform is simply HOT. It is one of the most disputed public policy issues facing our country. A heated national debate over immigration reform has spanned for multiple years, with no end in sight. Immigration and naturalization law and policy responds to a number of complex, competing demands and interests that touch on contested conceptions of national identity, class and socioeconomic status, and other related issues.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Immigration and naturalization law has proven to be a field of increasing importance, as practiced by a significant percentage of our TMSL graduates. As significant economic, social and other disparities continue to exist, and in many cases, increase among the states and around this nation, so will the need for lawyers with in-depth knowledge of immigration and naturalization law.

#### AFFORDABLE TUITION

\$9,705.84 In- State tuition and fees for the intensive 24 credit program

\$18,321.84 Out-of-State/Foreign tuition and fees for the intensive 24 credit program

Total Cost of attendance: Add \$20, 819 to the relevant tuition to cover books & supplies, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation.

#### OUR NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR DIVERSITY

With a total enrollment of 88% students of color, we tower over other law schools in mirroring our nation's mix for racial diversity. We enroll classes that are more diverse than you will find anywhere in the country.

#### OUR FACULTY

Our LL.M. students will experience courses taught by leading immigration practitioners, judges and professors who are dedicated to the pursuit of ensuring that each student has the opportunity to make meaningful progress in acquiring and employing the knowledge, skills, and values for successful lawyering outcomes. We have a faculty-student ratio that provides real opportunities for meaningful and individualized learning conversations.

#### OUR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Our LL.M. program builds on the success of our procedural, substantive and practical aspects of our Institute for International and Immigration Law certificate program. We are proud of our sound curriculum which has considered both doctrinal learning and the practical aspects of lawyering through our value-added immigration externship, immigration law workshops, and our comprehensive CLE series ranging from immigration basics to the impact of immigration on law on labor & employment, family law, criminal law, taxation and international business.

*\*Other fees may apply.*

## LL.M. ADMISSION INFORMATION

The LL.M. in Immigration and Naturalization Law is a 24-credit degree program that can be completed in one academic year as a full-time student or in two academic years as a part-time student. Minimum semester course load, six (6) hours. Maximum semester course load, twelve (12) hours.

The LL.M. Program provides an intensive academic program focused on current and emerging practice and policy issues in immigration and naturalization law. Distance learning is available through online coursework. The program is currently accepting enrollment for in-state and domestic students. International students are welcome to contact our Office for Admissions for additional information about enrollment procedures.

### ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS

#### **U.S. Educated Attorneys**

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.

#### **Attorneys with Non-U.S. Law Degree**

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. Foreign applicants must submit an official transcript, translation certified, if not in English for evaluation by LSAC as well as scores from either the TOEFL or IELTS test(s) if educated in a non-English speaking country or whose native language is not English.

#### **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.

#### **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](http://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.

## LL.M. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

### HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must submit all required documents through the Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).



- The TMSL \$55.00 TMSL application fee must be submitted online at the time of applying.
- In addition to the application, applicants must also submit an official law school transcript showing the award of their degree, narrative/personal statement, resume and two reference letters. all should be submitted through LSAC. While there is no requirement for LL.M. students to take the LSAT, if the applicant has previously done so, a CAS report indicating the result of the test(s), should also be submitted.
- Foreign applicants must submit a transcript in English (translation officially certified if the original is in another language) to LSAC for evaluation. If the applicant was educated in a non-English speaking country, and English is not their native language, either the TOEFL or the IELTS test(s) must be taken and results reported to LSAC to be included in the LSDAS report. *Apply Here:* <https://llm.lsac.org/login/access.aspx?appl=6824L1>

### LL.M. TUITION INFORMATION

#### Cost of Attendance and Financial Aid:

#### **Tuition for 24 credit hours:**

Tuition for 24 credit hours:

\*\$9,705.84 (In-State Students)

\*\$18,321.84 (Out-of-State/Foreign Students)

\*This tuition rate assumes that a student completes 24 credits of coursework during the program at the in-state student rate. Students pay by the credit hour and will be charged additional tuition for coursework above 24 credits.

- If a student will be utilizing financial aid to assist with the total cost of attendance, which is calculated by adding the tuition plus the budgeted amount for board and room, books and supplies, and transportation (\$20,819), the student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The FAFSA becomes available in October each year and the tax information requested is from the prior tax year.
- 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. The information that you provide to FAFSA from your tax returns from the previous year will be utilized in determining your aid. 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 Karen Percival, TMSL Financial Aid Counselor financial assistance at 713.313.7243 or via email at [karen.percival@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:karen.percival@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

For admission and tuition questions email: [lawadmissions@tsu.edu](mailto:lawadmissions@tsu.edu) or call 713 313.7114.



## 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: Furthering the goals of TMSL by extending the impact of the LL.M. beyond the walls of the law school.
- TMSL Immigration Law Journal: Scholarly journal exploring current issues in U.S. immigration law.
- Radio and television exposure: Local and regional media, especially media serving ethnic communities that are constantly seeking on-air talent for legal advice programming.
- Visiting scholars program: Market to scholars and attorneys outside of Houston and the U.S., particularly Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, Nigeria and South/Southeast Asia.
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law Immigration Legal Clinic: The LL.M. program allows its students the real practical experience to handle live immigration cases related to form-based immigration cases and removal proceedings in Immigration Court.
- LL.M. Advisory Board: The LL.M. Advisory Board of prominent Texas practitioners, scholars, elected officials and other members of the greater Houston and Texas legal, business and ethnic communities.
- The LL.M. is seeking an endowed chair for the law school .

## LL.M. 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.

### LL.M. CURRICULUM

Minimum Semester Course Load – Six (6) Hours

Maximum Semester Course Load – Twelve (12) Hours

#### *\*Course of Study Includes*

- Immigration Law
- Immigration Law Seminar
- Advanced Immigration Law
- Asylum and Refugee Law
- Administrative Immigration Litigation
- Administrative and Federal Appeals in Immigration
- Employment-Based Immigration Law
- Employment-Based Immigration Law Seminar
- Family-Based Immigration Law
- Family-Based Immigration Law Seminar
- Immigration Comparative Law
- Immigration Comparative Law Seminar
- Immigration and Criminal Law
- Immigration and Criminal Law Seminar
- Immigration Law Policy and Advocacy
- Immigration Litigation Seminar
- Immigration Visa and Nonimmigrant Consular processing
- Naturalization and Citizenship Seminar
- Outbound Immigration

### LEGAL CLINICS

Caribbean Law Clinic | Immigration Law Clinic | Mexico Consulate General Clinic



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, TX 77004

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**Take a Virtual Tour:** <https://www.youvisit.com/tour/tsu/108791>  
**For More Information, Visit:** <http://www.tsulaw.edu/LLM/index.html>  
or Email: [Fernando.Colon@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:Fernando.Colon@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

Marketing presented by TMSL Office for Institutional Advancement  
**Susan Bynam**, Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement: 713.313.4273

**FROM 288 SOUTH (PEARLAND AREA):** Merge onto 288 North via the ramp. Take the exit toward Southmore/Blodget. Stay straight to go onto South Freeway. Take the first right onto Southmore Blvd (If you reach Wichita St you've gone a little too far). Take the first left onto Dowling (Denny's is on the right. If you reach Live Oak you've gone about 0.1 miles too far). Turn right onto Cleburne (If you reach Isabella you've gone a little too far). The parking lot for Thurgood Marshall School of Law guests is approximately three blocks down on the right.

**FROM 45 NORTH/SOUTH:** Merge onto I-45 North or I-45 South via the ramp. Merge onto TX-288 South via EXIT 46B toward Lake Jackson/Freeport/US-59 South/Victoria. Take the exit toward Southmore /Calumet /Binz. Turn slight left onto South Freeway. Take the first left onto Southmore Blvd. (Southmore Blvd. is just past Wichita street. If you reach Oakdale, you've gone a little too far). Turn left onto Dowling (Dowling is just past South Freeway. Denny's is on the right. If you reach Live Oak you've gone about 0.1 miles too far). Turn right onto Cleburne (If you reach Isabella you've gone a little too far). The parking lot for Thurgood Marshall School of Law guests is approximately three blocks down on the right.

**FROM 59 (SOUTHWEST FREEWAY):** Merge onto US-59 North via the ramp. Take the exit on the left toward Richmond Avenue. Stay straight to go onto US-59. Take the first right onto Richmond. (If you are on Southwest Freeway and reach Bute Street you've gone a little too far). Richmond becomes Wheeler. Turn left onto Dowling (Dowling is just past Bastrop. If you reach Live Oak you've gone about 0.1 miles too far.) Take the third right onto Cleburne. The parking lot for Thurgood Marshall School of Law guests is approximately three blocks down on the right.

