

WHO WE ARE



During the late 1780s, Jefferson supported the ratification of the U.S. Constitution but also strongly emphasized the need for a bill of rights, amendments to the Constitution that would safeguard basic civil liberties, such as the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, religion, the right to bear arms and the right to have a speedy trial by a jury of one's peers.*

This kind of dedication proves what Jefferson, our third president and namesake, once said: "One man with courage is a majority."

LAW SCHOOLS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Thomas Jefferson Law strives to be recognized as a leader in legal education — now and well into the future.

Today more than ever, an outstanding classroom education is just one part of education process. Lawyers of the 21st century need hands-on legal experience. They need to be ready to interview clients, draft contracts, negotiate deals or defend justice in court. Students need to leave law school with more than a cursory understanding of economics, psychology or other disciplines that lawyers often use in their work.

Thomas Jefferson Law gives its students real world practical experience through a variety of experiential learning programs. Each program is designed to strengthen a student's knowledge of the law and its practical application. This type of learning builds professional skills, confidence and networking contacts.

Our Field Placement program provides opportunities for students to earn Pro Bono Honors through Clinical and Mediation programs. After graduation, alums can hone their skills while opening their own practice as part of our Center for Solo Practitioners.

Thomas Jefferson Law will forever be expert in training students to become practicing lawyers. This is the school's core. But many more opportunities exist to provide value to the legal and business communities. *U.S. News and World Report* has highlighted career fields in which a law degree is highly coveted. These fields include journalism, real estate, nonprofit management, entrepreneurship and the arts. The school's leadership believes the program's they've developed further enrich the student body and build a community better equipped for the ever-changing business climate of the 21st century.

OUR NAMESAKE

Thomas Jefferson would be proud of the law school that bears his name. The ideals of this towering figure in American history help to inspire the school's mission and purpose.

Jefferson's life in the law has been generally overshadowed by his towering reputation as one of America's Founding Father. This despite the years he devoted to practicing law and the impact it had on the American Revolution and subsequent generations.

For Jefferson, the study of law was more than just a means of earning a living; Jefferson felt that examining legal issues enabled one to consider many aspects of society, including its history, politics, culture, institutions and the moral conscience of its people.*

In 1776, the revolutionary Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia. Jefferson was appointed with four other delegates to write a declaration of independence. He wrote the draft and defended it before the committee as a simple piece designed to present in plain and firm terms the "common sense" of independence. Congress approved "The Unanimous Declaration of the 13 United States of America" on July 4.*

*American President: A Reference Resource