

# **THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW**

## **STATEMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE J.D. PROGRAM**

**Revised December 2022**

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's curriculum provides an outstanding legal education for a nationally based, diverse student body, enabling its graduates to pursue a variety of career paths in private law practice, business, public service, public policy, and other law-related endeavors. The J.D. curriculum is designed so that graduates will achieve the following:

### **I. Knowledge And Understanding Of Substantive And Procedural Law**

- A.** Students will understand the substantive and procedural doctrine and theory in three domains: Common Law (which may include courses primarily devoted to common law, including Community Property, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Remedies, Torts and Wills & Trusts), Constitutional Law (which may include courses primarily devoted to United States constitutional law, including Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure), and Codified Law (which may include courses primarily devoted to codified law, including Business Associations, Civil Procedure, California Civil Procedure, and Evidence, and California Evidence). They will be able to identify legal rules, concepts, and theories arising in these domains, and to effectively apply the substantive law in these domains to factual situations.
- B.** Graduates will understand the substantive doctrine and theory necessary to effectively apply the law in other areas of law so as to enter the practice appreciating the breadth and diversity of legal doctrine and the problems and circumstances to which law may be productively applied.

### **II. Legal Analysis and Reasoning**

- A.** Graduates will demonstrate competency in fundamental skills in legal analysis and reasoning including identifying legal issues and pertinent facts as well as parsing legal rules from cases and statutes. Graduates will be able to synthesize and apply complex rules to relevant facts to support a clear conclusion, drawing on an understanding of analogizing and distinguishing cases as well as relevant policy reasoning. In addition to mastering the basic analytic process Graduates will be able to construct and evaluate legal arguments.

### **III. Legal Research**

- A.** Graduates will demonstrate competency in conducting legal research, including knowing and accessing primary and secondary resources, developing and revising research plans, tracking research results, updating research as appropriate, and verifying the validity of research materials through cite-checking.

#### **IV. Written and Oral Legal Communication**

- A. Graduates will demonstrate competency in legal communication, identifying and explaining relevant legal issue(s) and the corresponding legally significant facts, articulating relevant rule(s) of law, explaining the application of identified rules of law to the particular matter, and effectively tailoring communications to audience and purpose.
- B. Graduates will demonstrate competency in a variety of objective and persuasive legal writing formats, using effective organization and rhetoric, and clear, precise writing that conforms to standard English grammar and citation conventions.
- C. Graduates will demonstrate competency in oral legal communication in a variety of contexts, including articulating their ideas in a clear and organized manner, listening attentively, responding to alternative perspectives, and engaging others with civility.

#### **V. Exercise Of Proper Professional And Ethical Responsibilities To Clients And The Legal System**

- A. Graduates will be able to exercise proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system. They will understand the fiduciary duties owed by lawyers to their clients, the role played by lawyers in the American justice system and the special role that lawyers play in advancing the administration of justice and promoting the public interest, and principles of professionalism and civility as they apply to the practice of law. Graduates will demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the relationship between those rules and specific federal and state professional responsibility rules.

#### **VI. Other Professional Skills Needed For Competent And Ethical Participation As A Member Of The Legal Profession**

- A. Graduates will demonstrate competency in an array of other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession, including two or more of the skills contained in any of the following categories.
  - 1. Client Interaction, including skills selected from among the following:
    - a. *Interviewing*, including client and witness interviews, questioning techniques, confidentiality and conflicts of interest, non-verbal communication, communication with difficult clients, and empathetic understanding;



- b.** *Negotiation in Transactional Settings*, including negotiating contract terms, agreements, and various business deals.
- 4.** Business of Law, including skills selected from among the following:
  - a.** *Organization and Management of Legal Work*, including law office management, client agreements, malpractice insurance, property/trust accounting, and law practice organization/partnership agreements; or
  - b.** *Collaboration*, including working effectively with clients, mentors, supervisors, peers, support staff, court staff, and third-parties.
- 5.** Self-Evaluation & Reflection, including developing the capacity for self- and group-reflection, and critically assessing work product and interactions with other participants in the legal system.