A Letter from the Dean

For all of my life, I have loved the University of Notre Dame and the values it represents. Growing up in Pittsburgh, my brother and I would hurry home after Mass on fall Sundays to watch the rebroadcast of Fighting Irish football games. As I watched those games, I resolved that I would one day be a part of the Notre Dame family. It is an honor and a dream come true to serve Our Lady’s University as the Law School’s new dean.

Our mission at Notre Dame Law School is to educate a different kind of lawyer—one who sees the practice of law as a service to others, who is ethically and morally guided, and who understands each member of the bar has a responsibility to uphold human dignity and further the cause of justice.

We would not be able to fulfill this mission without alumni and friends like you. Your gifts make it possible for us to offer fellowships to talented students and provide them with the best faculty, facilities, and resources during their formation as lawyers. In addition, your gifts enable us to offer a generous Loan Repayment Assistance Program to recent graduates who are embarking on careers in public interest law. These are the critical ways your philanthropy helps us attract exceptional future Notre Dame lawyers.

When I was accepted to Notre Dame Law School, I was unable to attend for financial reasons. I had to go to a school that provided me with a scholarship. Now that I am at Notre Dame, I want to make sure that no student has to make the choice that I was forced to make.

St. Thomas More is a hero because he made the ultimate sacrifice for God and the law. Your gifts are heroic in themselves because they make it possible for students to pursue the study of law in an atmosphere that joins faith to reason. Thank you for joining Notre Dame Law School in its mission of educating a different kind of lawyer through the Order of St. Thomas More.

In Notre Dame,

G. Marcus Cole
Joseph A. Matson Dean of Notre Dame Law School
OVER $1.8 MILLION
raised by St. Thomas More members

Designated for

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Post-Grad Fellowships
Over $197,000

Allowed students to receive funding for their work in various social causes after graduation. 2018-19 fellowships funded the following placements: Catholic Charities, Chicago Public Schools, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Community Activism Law Alliance, National Housing Law Project, and Disability Rights New York.

Bridge to Practice Program
Over $230,000

Provided stipends for graduates to work with government or nonprofit employers, providing a valuable public service for our nation.
When Natalie Piazza flew from California to South Bend for her law school interview at Notre Dame, it was the Notre Dame-USC football weekend. As a recent USC grad, Piazza could have felt a little out of place. However, as she wandered around campus, she ran into an alumni couple of Notre Dame Law who showed her where to go. Piazza felt so welcomed that following her interview, she immediately bought a Notre Dame jersey at the bookstore and wore it over her USC gear to the football game. Piazza has since developed a friendship with that couple and visits with them whenever they’re in town. This epitomizes what distinguishes Notre Dame Law School from other elite institutions: the deep alumni network and its heartfelt connection with students.

Now in her second year, Piazza has been able to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to her through Notre Dame Law School, including learning from unbelievable faculty, getting involved in student leadership positions as the treasurer of the Student Bar Association and an Admissions Fellow, and landing a summer job placement at a Dallas firm thanks to the robust Notre Dame network. Inspired by her experience at Notre Dame Law School, Piazza hopes to get involved in the NDLA Board after graduation and continue the legacy of giving back that epitomizes Notre Dame lawyers.

“This is really such a unique place, and I attribute that to the support of donors and alumni, whether that’s financially or being able to contact anyone in the network. I’ve never emailed a Notre Dame Law alumnus and not had them respond willing to help. I think that speaks to the culture that donors, students, and alumni all perpetuate.”

- Natalie Piazza ’21 J.D.
After six years of military service in the nuclear power division of the Navy, Christopher Belmarez sought to transition to a more stable career conducive to family life. The plan was for the native Texan to attend Ohio State law school so Belmarez could be near his wife, who was working in Ohio. One trip to Notre Dame immediately changed those plans, as he fell in love with Notre Dame’s culture and networks.

As a current 2L, Belmarez is beyond grateful for the decision that has given him valuable career opportunities, including a summer job at a firm in Columbus, Ohio, next summer. Belmarez epitomizes the Law School’s staunch commitment to train a “different kind of lawyer” through his efforts to provide greater legal assistance to those who have served our country in the military. Not only is he the current president of the Military and Veteran Law Society, but he is also working to start a veterans’ legal clinic in South Bend in the near future. Belmarez is using his Notre Dame education to impact lives, all thanks to the Order of St. Thomas More.

“I grew up in a mainly minority area of Houston. I come from a very middle-class family and was the first person in my family to go to law school. I definitely would never have expected to go to Notre Dame, but Order of St. Thomas More members made sure to give me the help I needed and made it possible for me.”

—CHRISTOPHER BELMAREZ ’21 J.D.
Not many law school graduates can say they landed their dream job right after graduation, but Ka’sha Bernard J.D. did just that. The Shaffer Fellowship covers the cost of salary and benefits for two Notre Dame Law School graduates to work for two years at a nonprofit that provides legal services to low-income or other underrepresented populations. This fellowship allowed Bernard to get a job at Crag Law Center, an environmental law group in Oregon, and pursue her passion for public interest and environmental law without worrying about the financial burden of a less profitable branch of law practice.

Bernard’s inspiration to pursue a career in public interest law began in high school when her mother started law school. As Bernard graduated college and her mother began practicing Family Law in their hometown of New Orleans, she felt drawn to a similar career path. Notre Dame Law School’s mission of creating a “different kind of lawyer” resonated with Bernard’s desire to serve others through her career.

Now living her dream advocating for the environment, community groups, and nonprofits, Bernard is using her Notre Dame education to better the world around her. The opportunities provided by the Order of St. Thomas More have given her the freedom to pursue her dream, and she tells people about it any chance she gets.

“Not a lot of law schools have something like this. People ask how I got a job out of law school, and I say, ‘Notre Dame gave me a fellowship!’”

—Ka’sha Bernard ’18 J.D.
Members of the Order of St. Thomas More gain access to exclusive events on campus, as well as unique opportunities to interact with University leadership and students.

EXCLUSIVE FOOTBALL WEEKEND EVENTS
Enliven every Notre Dame Football weekend with invitations to exclusive events, including Donuts with the Dean, Here Come the Irish! Kickoff, and Shake Down the Thunder! Tailgate.

FOOTBALL TICKET & PARKING PASS LOTTERY
Increase your odds in the Notre Dame Football ticket and parking lotteries. The parking lottery is exclusive to Blue, Gold, and Dean’s Leadership Circle members.

EXCLUSIVE NOTRE DAME ACCESS
Receive insider information right from University leaders and faculty through newsletters, conference calls, and events.

ONWARDND CONCIERGE SERVICE
Notre Dame has an exclusive concierge hotline for Order of St. Thomas More members. Call anytime and get answers to all of your Notre Dame-related questions from dedicated staff and current students.

PERSONALIZED MEMBERSHIP CARD
Spend less at your favorite spots through the on-campus discounts that come with your personalized Order of St. Thomas More membership card.
Each level of membership in the Order of St. Thomas More distinctly impacts Notre Dame law students and comes with a unique set of accompanying experiences.

### Giving Levels

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<tr>
<td><strong>DEAN’S LEADERSHIP CIRCLE</strong></td>
<td>$25,000+</td>
<td>$2,084+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOLD</strong></td>
<td>$10,000-$24,999</td>
<td>$834-$2,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE</strong></td>
<td>$5,000-$9,999</td>
<td>$417-$833</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GREEN</strong></td>
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<td>$125-$416</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASSOCIATE Classes of ‘16-’20</strong></td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$41.60</td>
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For more information visit [giving.nd.edu/ostm](http://giving.nd.edu/ostm).