



LAW

ORDER OF ST. THOMAS MORE

2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

“The generous financial support from the members of the Order of St. Thomas More plays a pivotal role in preparing Notre Dame Law students to make a difference in the world. These funds ensure that no well-deserving law student is left without the necessary assistance to get the exceptional legal training that Notre Dame can provide. Our faculty draws out the best in our students, in terms of both intellect and character. Our clinics and experiential opportunities provide our students with comprehensive training and experiences to emerge as beacons of hope for others. The generosity of members of the Order of St. Thomas More equips our students to be catalysts for positive change in the world. We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to our sacred mission.”

**G. MARCUS COLE**

Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law



THE ORDER OF ST. THOMAS MORE  
BY THE NUMBERS

\$3.6M

raised by the members of  
the Order of St. Thomas More

94%

of current students  
receive tuition assistance

\$35,000

average fellowship  
award per year

100%

of the funds raised are  
devoted to fellowship aid



## SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW CLINIC

Professor Christina Jones '16 J.D. directs the new Special Education Law Clinic. Families of students with disabilities face a myriad of challenges when it comes to education—Notre Dame Law School hopes to address those challenges with expertise, dignity, and respect. Law students in the Clinic receive hands-on training that extends to representing families as they navigate meetings and accommodation negotiations with school administrators.

Mission-driven legal education is at the heart of Notre Dame Law School, and the Special Education Law Clinic helps train lawyers who act in service to others, making a tangible difference in the local community.



“In my Different Kind of Lawyer essay, I wrote about wanting to work at the Special Education Clinic, a clinic unique to Notre Dame. My twin brother is autistic, and I wanted to help families like my own. Now, I’ll be joining the clinic as a second-year student. I’m looking forward to this meaningful experience that would not be possible without Notre Dame.”

**CAROLINE MAHONEY '27 J.D.**  
Recipient of fellowship funds provided  
by the Order of St. Thomas More



## THE LINDSAY AND MATT MOROUN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CLINIC

The Lindsay and Matt Moroun Religious Liberty Clinic offers students the opportunity to gain practical experience while promoting and defending religious freedom. Its core mission is to foster a world with robust legal protections for religious liberty and a shared cultural commitment to this foundational human right, so that it may flourish for all people, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

The Clinic offers three distinct practice areas for students: domestic litigation, transactional advising, and global religious persecution and immigration law. The breadth of experiential learning possibilities and the unique Notre Dame tradition within which the Clinic operates provide invaluable opportunities for law students.



### LINDSAY AND MATT MOROUN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CLINIC



“Thanks to my fellowship, I will be working this summer at the Office of Legal Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Long-term, I want to work in something religiously/politically oriented, and this is a great, early opportunity to experience the different legal issues that affect a typical diocese. I am excited for the experience, and I am excited for the further opportunities that I know Notre Dame Law will provide me in these next two years, and beyond!”

**PAUL SZMANDA '27 J.D.**

Recipient of fellowship funds provided by the Order of St. Thomas More



## NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL EXONERATION CLINIC

Notre Dame Law School's Exoneration Justice Clinic provides students with a year-long opportunity to learn about wrongful convictions and apply their classroom knowledge to real-world cases. Law students review requests from prison inmates for legal representation based on claims of innocence. Working closely with supervising attorneys, students visit incarcerated clients, review case materials, make court appearances, and advocate for criminal justice system reforms.

The Exoneration Justice Clinic has achieved impressive success since its launch in the fall of 2020, including the exonerations of three wrongfully convicted inmates. The Clinic provides students with a powerful example of how their legal training can be used in transformative ways.



“Thanks to your generosity, I have recently been selected as a member of the Exoneration Justice Clinic. This clinic is the primary reason I chose NDLS, which would not have been possible without this fellowship. I am excited to gain valuable, hands-on experience by working with this clinic and further my commitment to equality and justice in the law.

I am confident my education at NDLS will prepare me to be a successful and confident Criminal Defense Attorney, which has always been my primary career goal. I thank you again for making it possible for me to work hard and commit to my studies in order to achieve such aspirations.”

**ANNA MAE PAXTON '27 J.D.**  
Recipient of fellowship funds provided by the Order of St. Thomas More

# Thank You

Members of the Order of St. Thomas More change the lives of Notre Dame Law School students. Please know how grateful these future lawyers are for your unwavering support.

“Your support has not only shaped my law school experience, but it has profoundly **impacted the trajectory of my life**, for which I will always be thankful.” JORDAN PHILLIPS '27 J.D.

“Thank you for **believing in students** like me and helping our dreams become a reality.” SOPHIA SADAKA '27 J.D.

“Knowing the greater Notre Dame community is supporting me, both financially and spiritually, is edifying and **gives me the passion to continue** to strive for excellence as I seek to join their ranks.” JOSEPH REILLY '27 J.D.

“There are no appropriate words to encapsulate the gratitude I have. I am looking forward to **making the most of this opportunity** I have been afforded.” MIGUEL WALSH '27 J.D.





Dear Order of St. Thomas More members,

Your membership in the Order of St. Thomas More is far more than a financial contribution; it is the foundation upon which remarkable students build their careers as future Notre Dame Lawyers.

Your gifts provide the crucial funding that allows law students to choose Notre Dame and pursue a mission-driven legal education. Though you may never meet every student who passes through our Law School, they feel your presence in the strong community that stands behind them, committed to their success.

Working with such dedicated alumni and friends is a privilege—thank you for investing in those who will carry forward the mission of Notre Dame Law School.

With gratitude,

**Sarah Carruthers '10**

*Associate Director, Order of St. Thomas More*

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