



## At Georgia State Law, you don't just learn the law.

Fortune 500 companies, major law firms and local, state and federal government agencies surround our vibrant downtown campus. Students serve the public through our clinics that fulfill unmet needs throughout Atlanta, Georgia and the Southeast while gaining valuable legal experience. Named a best-value school, we provide the foundation of theory and practice you need to make an impact from day one.



THE COST AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION THAT GEORGIA STATE LAW OFFERS ARE IMPRESSIVE.

More importantly, Georgia State is known for the quality of attorneys it produces. The balance of theory and practical education gives Georgia State Law graduates a serious advantage.



CHRISTIAN DENNIS, second-year student

*Hometown:* College Park, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Georgia State University



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“Many would say I’m starting a second career, but personally, I believe practicing law is my first profession and that previous jobs were learning experiences and a means to my career goal.”

**GEORGIA STATE HAS BEEN A GREAT FIT FOR CHRISTIAN DENNIS.**

He earned a bachelor of business administration in marketing and managerial sciences.

After graduation, Christian worked for a major airline. Now he’s narrowing the area of law to focus on. An Inn of Court volunteer, he helps coach aspiring law students and participates in the Black Law Students Association and Student Health Law Association.

“Law school has challenged me mentally,” he adds. “But more importantly, it’s helped me develop skills that are both applicable and critical in any industry.

“Georgia State University has been a great fit for me. The access, location, cost, alumni presence and quality of education made it a top choice. What makes Georgia State Law even better is the steady gain in rankings – and the public is taking notice.”



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“I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO GEORGIA STATE LAW, which has opened doors and offered the tools to become a zealous advocate on behalf of fellow Georgians.”

WILL ROOKS, second-year student

*Hometown:* Atlanta

*Undergraduate Institution:* University of Georgia



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"I realized that, in the face of legislative gridlock, lawyers are the ones debating the issues of the day by arguing matters of first impression."

**GEORGIA BULLDOG WILL ROOKS HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** After obtaining a master's degree in public administration, he became a staffer on Capitol Hill. He became disenchanted after seeing the limitations of relying on policy alone to address various problems.

"I love UGA and Georgia State University," he says. "Both schools offer great atmospheres and benefit from strong cultures."

His first career greatly influenced his perspective on the legal profession and prepared him for the demands of earning a J.D. Will says corporate litigation and transactional practices appeal to him because each case provides an opportunity to learn about different industries.

"With one case or deal, an attorney can become completely immersed in the airline industry, for example. The next matter may require the attorney to learn about securities or the food industry," he says.



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I NEEDED A LAW SCHOOL WITH A SOLID PRESENCE in the legal community, a reputation for producing high-caliber attorneys and a reasonable tuition. Georgia State met my requirements at a price that ensures I can accept employment because of a passion, not a paycheck.

PHIL PARHAM, second-year student

*Hometown:* Savannah, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Armstrong Atlantic State University



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“One of the great things about Georgia State is how much stock the professors put into their students; they’re very invested in our success.”

**NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS OFTEN WORRY THAT TAKING A ROAD LESS TRAVELED PUTS THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE** — in school and perhaps in the eyes

of prospective employers. However, 30-year-old Phil Parham is learning that nothing could be further from the truth.

His mentor, professor Jessica Gabel, has been an especially great influence. “She’s helped me network, provided advice on classes and shown me what the publication process is like so I can learn how to get published as well.

“It’s an environment that cultivates success,” he says. “Everything is here to help you succeed.” Phil says his job experiences prior to starting college are proving to be beneficial.

“Having real-world experience before starting school has helped me find direction. It’s narrowed my focus and enabled me to figure out what I want from a career, a college and a law degree.”



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THE LAWYERS COMING OUT OF OUR PROGRAM  
are every bit as smart and hardworking as those at Emory and UGA.  
We're tougher too. Oh, and we have only a fraction of the debt.



PAUL SHUMAN, third-year student

*Hometown:* Amarillo, Texas

*Undergraduate Institution:* University of Texas at Austin



“GSU and University of Texas – Austin both have very diverse student populations. Both also have an overabundance of really, really smart people.”

After living abroad following undergraduate school and then renovating the interiors of large boats and yachts in Savannah, Ga., the Great Recession prompted Paul Shuman to make a change. “When the economy took a dive in 2008, the boat business took a serious hit. I figured it was time to move and, if ever I wanted to do law school, now was the time.”

Owning a business definitely influenced Paul’s perception of law school. “You should be sure you want to practice law. Most students here are sure, I think, and they work very, very hard at it.”

Paul adds his law school peers have impressed him immensely. “They’re the most highly concentrated pool of extremely bright and motivated people I’ve ever seen in my life.” He also says Georgia State Law is an outstanding value, providing a first-rate education.



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I INITIALLY HOPED TO STAY IN THE ATLANTA AREA after graduation, so Georgia State's exceptional externship opportunities and reputation within Georgia appealed to me. I intend to ultimately leave Georgia now, but am confident that the school's rise in rankings as well as its marketability in the Southeast will help me propel out of the state too.

NICK GABA, second-year student

*Hometown:* Marietta, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Case Western Reserve University



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"I was adequately assured of the rigors and academic expectations of law school by the individuals I surrounded myself with. What I wasn't prepared for were the individuals I've been blessed to meet and form close relationships with."

#### **GEORGIA STATE HAS BEEN A NATURAL FIT FOR NICK GABA JR.**

The son of an attorney, he's long been exposed to the legal profession. However, it wasn't until undergraduate school that he decided to pursue a career in the law as well.

Nick chose Georgia State Law for several reasons. "My father was part of the second graduating class in 1986. I thought it would be exciting to be a part of a law school on the rise."

Other draws include how affordable Georgia State Law is and how much more practical the learning process is. "The location is huge for me too. Atlanta has so much to offer in terms of legal opportunities, community involvement, food and lifestyle. It's amazing."



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## I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT HOW BENEFICIAL REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN IN LAW SCHOOL.

We all look at life and issues — legal or otherwise — through our own personal lens. Real-world experiences add color, dimension and perspective to that lens so you can see the legal issues and real-world implications behind the black and white text of a statute or legal doctrine.



LYNETTE JIMENEZ, third-year student

*Hometown:* Born in Puerto Rico; raised in Jonesboro, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Georgia State University



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"Georgia State is my alma mater twice over and soon to be for a third time. It's always felt like home and has provided me with excellent opportunities, both academically and as a segue into professional life."

**WHEN LYNETTE JIMENEZ WAS 7, SHE WROTE THE PRESIDENT AFTER WATCHING A DEBATE.** Her interest in law began. She pursued Spanish and international business undergraduate degrees, as well as a political science minor. Lynette earned an M.B.A. with the goal of working at the intersection of business and law.

Now, with six years of practical experience, Lynette is completing her final year of law school.

Lynette says deciding which law school to attend came down to the total function of each school's attributes against a backdrop of return on investment.

"Given the sacrifices involved, it's important to consider: courses offered, bar passage rates, student body diversity, accessibility of professors, opportunities to do internships and participate in co-curriculars, the proximity of courts and law firms and their relationships with the school and the financial commitment. There was no doubt Georgia State Law was my number one choice."



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“I CHOSE GEORGIA STATE LAW BECAUSE IT'S A TOP-VALUE SCHOOL AND IS KNOWN IN ATLANTA for producing great litigators. I also wanted something competitive and challenging after college football. Georgia State Law was a good fit.”

KYLE JACKSON, second-year student

*Hometown:* born in Houston; raised in McDonough, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Georgia Institute of Technology



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"You cannot overlook the wide range of opportunities afforded to you simply by attending school in the economic epicenter of the Southeast."

**FOOTBALL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG PART OF KYLE JACKSON'S LIFE.**

However, since age 16, he knew he wanted to be an attorney.

"Trial law is the closest simulation I'll ever have to football again," the former Georgia Tech linebacker says. "You research, train and compete so hard, all for only a 50 percent chance of winning in trial. Yet that's what makes it so appealing."

In addition to his studies, Kyle is on Georgia State Law's Moot Court and Mock Trial teams and a member of the Black Law Student Association. "BLSA has groomed me to be a better professional through mock interviews, resume workshops and networking opportunities."

He adds one of the biggest advantages of Georgia Tech holds true for Georgia State too. "Both schools benefit from having campuses in the heart of Atlanta. The same vast network I could access while at Tech continues to be accessible while I attend Georgia State."



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“ I LOVE THAT STUDENTS AT GEORGIA STATE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR STUDIES.

Almost 20 years ago, when I was earning a bachelor's degree in management, my peers were passionate about learning business. Today my classmates are just as serious about learning the law.

ERIC GREGORY, second-year student

*Hometown:* born in Toronto; raised in Atlanta

*Undergraduate Institution:* Georgia State University



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“Georgia State Law’s tuition is reasonable, location is fantastic and rankings are strong. There also are many other nontraditional students here, and the staff are very responsive to our needs.”

**ERIC GREGORY ENTERED LAW SCHOOL WITH A SPECIFIC VISION:**

to specialize in automotive/consumer protection law. With a family and an exotic car dealership, he also needed flexibility. Thankfully, Eric didn’t need to look far. Only 20 miles from his business, his undergraduate school — Georgia State University — was the perfect fit.

“I have access to clinics and real-world training, and the schedules are pretty flexible. In fact, I’ve been able to switch between the full- and part-time programs depending on my work schedule,” he says. “As a result, I’m going to earn my degree in three-and-a-half years, which is important to me.”

Juggling his business, law school and family time has forced Eric to be diligent about scheduling. “During exams, it’s really hard,” he says. “The preparation is truly a full-time venture so, when comparing schools, consider the professors’ expectations, flexibility and willingness to work with students on family time. Having friends and family who will support you and help keep you focused on the future is imperative.”



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“ ATTENDING GEORGIA STATE LAW ALLOWS ME TO BE IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY AND GET A GREAT EDUCATION AT AN UNBELIEVABLE PRICE. ”

CRYSTAL KESLER, second-year student

*Hometown:* Knoxville, Tenn.

*Undergraduate Institution:* Belmont University



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“Being a leader on my basketball team helped me open up, which has come in handy for Student Trial Lawyers Association and Moot Court with regard to speaking.”

**AS A COLLEGIATE ATHLETE, CRYSTAL KESLER’S ASPIRATION WAS TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL OVERSEAS.** After five knee surgeries, that goal became a medical impossibility. Understandably discouraged, she began thinking about a business class she really enjoyed.

Now, Crystal is having difficulty deciding which area of law to pursue. “Georgia State Law’s professors are so great that they make everything interesting, which makes narrowing hard.”

Crystal uses her athletic experience to her advantage. “I’ve learned how to take a hit — literally and figuratively — and come back from it,” she explains. “Law school is all about taking the hit too. Whatever the situation, your client will have a problem and, in their eyes, you are the fixer.”

She adds a great environment makes a difference. “Law school itself is stressful. There’s no need for your atmosphere to compound that. I wouldn’t make it through law school without the friends I’ve made at Georgia State.”



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“ OUT OF ALL THE SCHOOLS I APPLIED TO, THIS SCHOOL WAS VERY WELCOMING TOWARD ME and the admissions people actually recognized my name. I felt like the office genuinely took the time to get to know me through the application process. ”

CHRISTINE LEE, first-year student

*Hometown:* Norcross, Ga.

*Undergraduate Institution:* University of Georgia



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"Though I didn't realize it when I was deciding which law school to attend, I've come to think that it's most important to go where you really feel at home. You should choose a place where you'll feel comfortable, even on your worst days."

**GEORGIA BULLDOG CHRISTINE LEE BELIEVES IN THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.**

Since age 13, she's worked in South America several times, where she saw huge disparities in education, health care and hygiene.

The experience had a profound effect. She decided to pursue law school halfway through her undergraduate studies following a conversation with her English professor. "It made me think of my work with underprivileged populations and groups of people who don't have a proper way to be heard," she says.

Now a first-year law student, Christine has immersed herself in networking events and student organization activities. "The students here are from all walks of life," she says. "I've met many different people from many different backgrounds; it's been quite humbling and enlightening at the same time."



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