

VII. School of Canon Law

Officers of Instruction Faculty

Rev. Robert Kaslyn, S.J., Ph.D., J.C.D.	<i>Dean and O'Brien Professor of Canon Law</i>
Sr. Nancy Bauer, O.S.B., J.C.D.	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Rev. John P. Beal, J.C.D.	<i>Professor</i>
William L. Daniel, J.C.D.	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Chorbishop John Faris, J.C.O.D.	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Green, J.C.D.	<i>Stephan Kuttner Professor of Canon Law</i>
Rev. Msgr. Ronny E. Jenkins, S.T.L., J.C.D.	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Kurt Martens, J.C.D.	<i>Professor</i>
Kenneth J. Pennington, Ph.D.	<i>Kelly-Quinn Professor of Ecclesiastical and Legal History</i>
Rev. John E. Lynch, C.S.P., Ph.D.	<i>Professor Emeritus</i>
Rev. Ladislav M. Orsy, S.J., J.C.D.	<i>Professor Emeritus</i>
Rev. Msgr. Brian Bransfield, S.T.D.	<i>Lecturer; General Secretary, USCCB</i>
Professor Robert Destro	<i>Lecturer in American and Canon Law, Professor, Columbus School of Law</i>
Prof. Sarah Duggin, J.D.	<i>Lecturer in American and Canon Law; Professor, Columbus School of Law</i>
Prof. Mary O'Leary	<i>Lecturer in American and Canon Law; Professor, Columbus School of Law</i>
Mario Ferrante, J.C.D.	<i>Lecturer; Rotal Advocate</i>
Rev. John J. M. Foster, J.C.D.	<i>Lecturer, Vicar General, Archdiocese for the Military Services</i>
Rev. Msgr. William King, J.C.D.	<i>Lecturer, Judge, Diocese of Harrisburg Tribunal, Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish</i>
Rev. Msgr. Roch Pagé, J.C.D.	<i>Lecturer, Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Canon Law, Saint Paul University</i>
Prof. Mark Rienzi	<i>Lecturer, Religious Liberty, Professor, Columbus School of Law.</i>

History

Pope Leo XIII in establishing the University in *Magni nobis gaudi*, authorized the granting of degrees in pontifical law. In 1891, the Reverend Doctor Sebastian Messmer, later Archbishop of Milwaukee and a member of the faculty of the School of Sacred Sciences, held the Myles O'Connor Chair of Canon Law. The Degree of Bachelor in Canon Law was first awarded in 1912, and the first doctor of canon law in 1916. In 1923, canon law was erected as a school in its own right distinct from the School of Theology, which status continues today (from 1976 to 2002 canon law was a department within the School of Theology). The School of Canon Law remains the only graduate program in canon law in the United States with the authorization to grant ecclesiastical degrees..

Purpose

As an ecclesiastical faculty, the School of Canon educates students for licentiate and doctorate degrees in canon law. As authorized by the Apostolic See, the canonical degrees, Licentiate in Canon Law, J.C.L., and Doctorate in Canon Law, J.C.D., are awarded.

The Master of Church Administration Degree, a civil degree, incorporates a foundation in canon law with additional course work in a complementary area of study.

The School is a community of students, faculty and staff engaged in the common enterprise of serving the Catholic Church through the study, interpretation and application of canon law, with particular attention to the needs and opportunities of the Church in the United States. Students are educated both in the theory and practice of the law, and therefore are prepared for the professional practice of canon law in diocesan and religious administration, ecclesiastical tribunals, the teaching of canon law, and for scientific and canonical research.

The primary focus of courses offered in the school is the *Code of Canon Law* for the Latin Church, promulgated by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1983 with attention also to the *Code of Canons in Eastern Churches*, promulgated by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1990. A proper understanding and implementation of the provisions of the current law of the Church require not only acquired skill in the technicalities of legal interpretation, but also a broad grasp of the historical, theological and legal influences which have contributed to its development, interpretation and application. The Faculty of the School inculcate in the students the importance of service to the Church through their own service in providing canonical advice to the bishops of the United States, major superiors of religious institutes and societies, and to individuals. .

In keeping with the conciliar declaration *Gravissimum Educationis*, on Christian Education (n. 11) the curriculum affords clergy, religious, and lay persons a thorough, contemporary, scholarly, pastoral preparation for service to the Church in positions of canonical responsibility.

The personal guidance of the faculty is directed at every level of instruction and inquiry to the practical needs of canonists at the present time, as well as to thesis and dissertational work that will acquaint and equip students with the applied methods of canonical research and writing needed by both practitioners and scholars.

Admission

Admission requirements and specifications are provided at the School of Canon Law website at <http://canonlaw.cua.edu/programs/AdmissionCL.cfm>.

Application for graduate study at CUA is through the Office of the Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, <http://graduatestudies.cua.edu/prospectivestudents/index.cfm>.

Admission to study is open to properly qualified persons who meet the following requirements:

1. Official transcripts of undergraduate and, if completed, postgraduate studies.
2. Completion of the required theological and philosophical course preparation (see <http://canonlaw.cua.edu/programs/>)
3. Two or more letters of recommendation from officials or faculty members of institutions previously attended.
3. Results of the Graduate Record Examination, taken within the past five years.

Please note, priests, deacons, candidates for orders, and religious will be asked to submit a letter of support and of good standing from their bishop or religious superior.

First or Preparatory Cycle

The study of canon law presupposes a theological foundation. For those who do not possess an advanced degree in theology or who have had no previous training in philosophy, 24 graduate credits in theology (8 courses or two semesters) are required, at CUA or at an accredited educational institution, covering (in general) dogmatic theology, ecclesiology, sacramental theology, and moral theology. More specifically, these courses should include the following topics:

1. Elements of philosophy: philosophical anthropology, metaphysics, ethics.
2. Elements of theology: an introduction to Sacred Scripture; fundamental theology; the transmission and credibility of divine revelation; Trinitarian theology; Christology; divine grace; in a special way, Ecclesiology; general and special sacramental theology; fundamental and special moral theology.
3. Fundamental institutes of canon law.
4. Latin.

If the requirements of the First Cycle have been satisfied, an applicant may be admitted directly to the Second Cycle. In individual cases minor deficiencies may be supplied during the regular course of studies in the Second Cycle.

Licentiate in Canon Law

Requires six semesters in which the governing norms of the Catholic Church are studied; a thesis is written, and a comprehensive examination taken on the canons of the Code.. Upon the completion of the requirements, the student earns the Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.).

During these semesters, the student become acquainted with the whole corpus of church law, understands the law in terms of its theological, philosophical, and historical background, and learns the method and practice of scientific research. The level of research for the licentiate is that expected of professional canonists, specifically the exacting investigation of canonical questions encountered in curial, tribunal, and similar practice, and the articulation of one's findings in written opinions and briefs.

The School of Canon Law offers three ways to complete the six semesters required for the J.C.L. degree:

1. Three academic years: fall and spring, fall and spring, fall and spring;
2. Two academic years and two summers: fall, spring and summer; fall, spring and summer;
3. Four or Five summers of study during June and July, with on-line courses and on-line Latin during the academic year.

Residence

Depending on the program chosen, on-campus courses fulfill the residence requirements for the licentiate. The actual time necessary to complete the requirements of the degree program will, of course, vary from student to student. Continuous enrollment is required unless an authorized leave of absence has been granted.

Language Requirements

Canon law is an international law. The official texts of the law and of many documents with canonical importance are in Latin. Other texts appear from time to time in various modern languages. Many of the significant commentaries on the law and studies about canon law topics appear in languages other than English.

In order to understand this law more accurately, to interpret and apply it more fully and to instruct others more effectively as to its meaning and proper application, it is important to have access to more than the limited amount available in English translations or studies concerning canon law. The development of an ability to use canonical Latin and the canonical literature in a modern language is an integral dimension of formation as a canon lawyer and subsequent professional work.

Before a formal submission of the proposal for the licentiate thesis, a candidate must demonstrate a fluency in canonical Latin and pass a proficiency examination in one modern language (Italian, German, Spanish, French) administered by the School of Canon Law.

Coursework

The course of studies is divided into six semesters (A-B-C-D-E-F). Semester A is a prerequisite for the other semesters. These courses include required courses and various elective courses offered in the School of Canon Law or in other schools of the university.

The course of studies normally is as follows:

3 Year Program

Semester A

CL 701 History of Canon Law (3 credit hours)
CL 711 General Norms I (3 credit hours)
CL 721 Structures of the Particular Church (3 credit hours)
CL 731 Sacramental Law (3 credit hours)
Latin I (1 credit hour)

Semester B

CL 712 General Norms II (3 credit hours)
CL 720 Ordained Ministry (3 credit hours)
CL 726 Lay Ministry (2 credit hours)
CL 734 Juridical Structures of Matrimony (3 credit hours)
Latin II (1 credit hour)

Semester C

CL 715 American Law for Canonists (3 credit hours)
CL 724 Consecrated Life (3 credit hours)
CL 741 Procedural Law (4 credit hours)
Elective
Latin III (1 credit hour)

Semester D

CL 716 Religious Liberty (3 credit hours)
CL 750 Teaching Office (2 credit hours)
CL 751 Sanctions (3 credit hours)
Elective

Semester E

CL 728 Supra-Diocesan Structures (3 credit hours)
CL 739 Matrimonial Jurisprudence (3 credit hours)
CL 744 Temporal Goods (3 credit hours)
CL 746 Protection of Rights (3 credit hours)

Semester F

CL 727 Philosophy and Theology of Law (3 credit hours)

CL 760 Roman Law (3 credit hours)
CL 771 Eastern Law (2 credit hours)
Comprehensives (1 credit hour)
Thesis (1 credit hour)

SUMMER PROGRAM

Summer I

CL 711 General Norms I (3 credit hours)
CL 721 Structures of the Particular Church (3 credit hours)
CL 731 Sacramental Law (3 credit hours)
CL 734 Juridical Structures of Matrimony (3 credit hours)

Online Fall I

CL 701 History of Canon Law (3 credit hours)
Latin I (1 credit hour)

Online Spring I

CL 712 General Norms II (3 credit hours)
Latin II (1 credit hour)

Summer II

CL 715 American Law for Canonists (3 credit hours)
CL 724 Consecrated Life (3 credit hours)
CL 726 Lay Ministry (2 credit hours)
CL 741 Procedural Law (4 credit hours)
Latin III (1 credit hour)

Online Fall II

CL 728 Supra-Diocesan Structures (3 credit hours)
Latin III (1 credit hour)

Online Spring II

CL 720 Ordained Ministry (3 credit hours)

Summer III

CL 716 Religious Liberty (3 credit hours)
CL 750 Teaching Office (2 credit hours)
CL 751 Sanctions (3 credit hours)
Elective

Online Fall III

CL 739 Matrimonial Jurisprudence (3 credit hours)
Latin III (1 credit hour)

Online Spring III

CL 760 Roman Law (3 credit hours)

Summer IV

CL 746 Protection of Rights (3 credit hours)
CL 771 Eastern Law (2 credit hours)
Elective

Online Fall IV

CL 744 Temporal Goods (3 credit hours)

Online Spring IV

CL 727 Philosophy and Theology of Law (3 credit hours)

Summer V

Comprehensives (1 credit hour)
Thesis (1 credit hour)

Two Year Program

Semester A

CL 701 History of Canon Law (3 credit hours)
CL 711 General Norms I (3 credit hours)
CL 721 Structures of the Particular Church (3 credit hours)
CL 731 Sacramental Law (3 credit hours)
Latin I (1 credit hour)

Semester B

CL 712 General Norms II (3 credit hours)
CL 720 Ordained Ministry (3 credit hours)
CL 726 Lay Ministry (2 credit hours)
CL 734 Juridical Structures of Matrimony (3 credit hours)
Latin II (1 credit hour)

Summer I

CL 715 American Law for Canonists (3 credit hours)
CL 724 Consecrated Life (3 credit hours)
CL 741 Procedural Law (4 credit hours)
Elective

Semester E

CL 728 Supra-Diocesan Structures (3 credit hours)
CL 739 Matrimonial Jurisprudence (3 credit hours)
CL 744 Temporal Goods (3 credit hours)
CL 746 Protection of Rights (3 credit hours)

Semester F

CL 727 Philosophy and Theology of Law (3 credit hours)
CL 760 Roman Law (3 credit hours)
CL 771 Eastern Law (2 credit hours)
Elective

Summer II

CL 716 Religious Liberty (3 credit hours)
CL 750 Teaching Office (2 credit hours)
CL 751 Sanctions (3 credit hours)
Elective
Comprehensives (1 credit hour)

Thesis (1 credit hour)

Thesis

Each student must submit a thesis, approximately fifty to sixty pages in length, in which a significant (taking account of the thesis length) canonical issue is investigated. The thesis must demonstrate the student's familiarity with basic methods and techniques of research, technical mastery of a limited subject matter, and ability to exercise sound canonical judgment and formulate accurate conclusions.

Comprehensive Examination

In addition to regular course examinations or the equivalent, at the conclusion of the six semesters of courses the student sits for a comprehensive oral examination to demonstrate mastery of the whole corpus of Church law. A student who twice fails the comprehensive examination is no longer eligible to receive the licentiate.

Dual-Degree Program

In conjunction with the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, the School of Canon Law offers a dual-degree program for students who qualify for admission to the canon law program and to the law school program. The dual-degree program makes it possible to earn a J.D. degree in American law and a J.C.L. degree in canon law. Requirements of the respective degree programs must be met, but some courses in the law program are accepted as electives for canon law, and some canon law courses are accepted as law electives. For more information, contact the dean of the School of Canon Law.

Master in Church Administration (M.C.A.)

The Masters in Church Administration (M.C.A.) degree is a one-year residential program providing graduate education for curial and parochial officials engaged in a wide variety of ministries in the diocese other than Canonical Affairs or the Diocesan

Tribunal. The M.C.A. offers a foundation in Church law combined with a second focus of study from other Schools at the Catholic University of America and which would reflect the individual's present or future diocesan service – for example, business administration, theology (spirituality, ecumenism, systematic theology, liturgy, etc.), sociology.

Please note: The M.C.A. is not an ecclesiastical degree and is distinct from the licentiate in canon law (J.C.L.) and the doctor of canon law (J.C.D.) degrees offered by the School.

M.C.A. Admissions Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college of university.

- a. Superior achievement and the ability to pursue graduate work as indicated by official transcripts from previous institutions of study.
- b. The results of the Graduate Record Examination (G.R.E.)
- c. Non-native English-speakers should demonstrate evidence of English proficiency through submission of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores or through some other means.
- d. At least two academic letters of recommendation.

M.C.A. Coursework

- a. Four canon law courses will be taken in the fall semester:
 - CL 711—General Norms I
 - CL 721—Structures of the Particular Church
 - CL 744—Temporal Goods
 - TRS 665A: Basic Principles of Latin Canon Law
- b. Four additional courses in canon law or in another discipline (theology, business, etc.) will be taken in the spring semester.
- c. Students must maintain an average of 3.0.

M.C.A. Major Paper or Practicum

- a. The student is expected to write a major paper of 25 to 30 pages synthesizing the courses taken through the course of the year. The student will undergo an oral examination on the content of the paper after it has been accepted by the director. The paper and oral examination must be completed at the conclusion of the spring semester.
- b. In place of the major paper, the student could choose to develop and propose to the Director of the MCA Program a practicum dimension to the M.C.A. The practicum – practical experience in the student's specific field of interest – requires prior presentation of a proposal detailing the expected hours of the practicum; location; on-going supervision; and expectations of the student and supervisor. Upon conclusion, the student will submit a maximum 10-page paper, relating the practicum to the course work and including an evaluation by the student's practicum supervisor.
- c. The major paper and the practicum are each worth six credits.

Doctorate in Canon Law

Admission

The doctoral program consists of two distinct stages. First, for admission to the doctoral program, the student must have successfully received the licentiate degree (J.C.L.) and demonstrated superior academic ability as demonstrated by achievement of an overall A- average in the various components of the licentiate program (i.e., coursework, thesis, comprehensive examination) taken in the aggregate. However, within this overall average, the grade for the thesis must be at least A-. For students who did not earn the licentiate degree from CUA, the student must submit a thesis or major writing project for faculty review and two letters of recommendation, from professors on the faculty where they earned their licentiate degree. A decision is made by the faculty conjointly. All students considering the doctoral program must write a formal application letter to the Dean, explaining their reasons for advanced canonical study.

Admission to the second stage, doctoral candidacy, follows upon the successful development and submission of the dissertation proposal and requires a separate faculty vote of approval. Prior to such submission, a candidate must demonstrate a fluency in canonical Latin and pass proficiency examinations in two modern languages (Italian, Spanish, German, French) administered by the School of Canon Law.

Residence

The residency requirement for the Third Cycle is one year or two semesters. During the residency requirement, a candidate must have completed the Seminar in Sources (CL 702). The actual time necessary to complete the requirements of the degree program usually extends to three or four semesters, chiefly dependent on the time needed to complete the dissertation (below) According to

School of Canon Law policy, the student has four years to complete the writing, defense, and publication of the dissertation. This period of time is calculated from the beginning of the semester following admission to candidacy.

Continuous enrollment is required unless an authorized leave of absence is granted for very serious reasons; such a leave cannot be longer than a maximum of four semesters.

Coursework

During this cycle the candidate is to be registered for dissertation guidance and is to complete four courses or seminars.

Dissertation

The candidate must submit a written dissertation to the faculty, reflecting a level of research expected of Ph.D. candidates. The candidate must defend the dissertation during an examination on the dissertation and on 10 theses closely related to it or subjects of special study. If the dissertation is approved, the specified number of printed copies must be deposited in the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Courses Offered

A full listing of graduate courses offered by the School of Canon Law is found below. Consult [Cardinal Station](#) for additional information about courses and to determine course offerings by semester.

CL	692	Directed Readings (Licentiate)
CL	696	Licentiate Thesis Research
CL	698A	Licentiate Comprehensive Examination (w/Classes)
CL	698B	Licentiate Comprehensive Examination (w/o Classes)
CL	700	Study Visit Roman Curia
CL	701	History of Canon Law
CL	702	Seminar in Sources
CL	711	General Norms I
CL	712	General Norms II
CL	713	Selected Issues in General Norms
CL	715	American Law for Canonists
CL	716	Religious Liberty
CL	717	Selected Issues in Canon and Civil Law
CL	718	Constitutional Law of the Church
CL	719	The Second Vatican Council and the Code of Canon Law
CL	720A	Ordained Ministry
CL	721	Structures of the Particular Church
CL	722	Administration in the Diocesan Curia
CL	724	Law for Consecrated Life
CL	725	Selected Issues in Consecrated Life
CL	726	Special Issues in Lay Ministry
CL	727	Philosophy and Theology of Law
CL	728	Supra-Diocesan Structures of the Church
CL	728N	Medieval Papacy
CL	729	Liturgical Law
CL	730	Liturgical Law: Selected Issues
CL	731	Sacramental Law: Selected Issues in Discipline of Church's Sanctifying Office
CL	732	The Sanctifying Office: Parts II and III
CL	734	Juridical Structure: Sacrament of Matrimony

CL	735	Selected Issues in Marriage
CL	736	Theology of Marriage: Foundations in Theological Anthropology
CL	739	Matrimonial Jurisprudence
CL	740	Selected Issues in Matrimonial Jurisprudence
CL	740A	Jurisprudence of the Roman Rota
CL	741	Procedural Law
CL	742	Selected Tribunal Issues
CL	743	Procedural Law in the Causes of Saints (Beatification and Canonization)
CL	744	Temporal Goods
CL	745	Due Process
CL	746	Protection of Rights in Administrative Life of the Church
CL	747	Selected Issues in the Law on Clergy
CL	748	Confidentiality and the Law
CL	750	Teaching Office of the Church
CL	751	Sanctions
CL	756	Selected Issues in Church Structure
CL	757	Selected Issues in Chancery Practice
CL	758	Special Procedures: More Grave Delicts
CL	760	Roman Law
CL	771	Survey of Eastern Canon Law
CL	784	Ecumenism and Canon Law
CL	788	Special Issues in Church Governance
CL	800	Seminar in Canonical Studies
CL	802	Readings in General Norms
CL	803	Readings in Clergy, Laity, Ministry
CL	804	Readings in Church Structures
CL	804A	Readings in Eastern Church Structure
CL	805	Readings in Religious Law
CL	805A	Readings in Liturgical Law
CL	806	Readings in the Church's Office of Teaching
CL	806A	Bishop and Magisterium
CL	807	Readings in the Church's Office of Sanctifying
CL	808	Readings in the Church's Office of Governance
CL	808B	Eastern Churches: Synodal Governance
CL	808C	Eastern Churches: Relationship with Rome
CL	809	Readings in the Law on Temporal Goods
CL	810	Readings in the Law on Penalties
CL	811	Readings in Procedural Law
CL	892	Directed Readings (Doctorate)
CL	996	Doctoral Dissertation Research
CL	998A	Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (w/Classes)
CL	998B	Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (w/o Classes)