

Since 1923, South Texas College of Law Houston (STCL Houston) has remained true to its mission of providing “a diverse body of students with the opportunity to obtain an exceptional legal education, preparing graduates to serve their community and the profession with distinction.”

From its outstanding **Advocacy Program — consistently ranked No. 1 in the nation** — to its extensive Clinical Program with **23 specialized legal clinics**, to its nationally recognized Legal Research and Writing Program, and its internationally award-winning Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program, South Texas College of Law Houston has educated successful, **practice-ready attorneys for nearly a century.**

I. Skills Institutes

No other law school in the nation provides South Texas’ wealth of experiential opportunities to train students for actual practice

A. Advocacy Program

- Ranked No. 1 in the nation, (source: Blakeley Advocacy Institute, UH Law Center (2019))
- “Best Moot Court of This Decade,” (Source: *preLaw magazine* (2016))
- One of only three law schools consistently ranked in the Top 10 for trial advocacy (source: *U.S. News & World Report*)
- **STCL Houston has won 133 national advocacy championships, twice as many as any other law school**
- STCL Houston has won the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Championship 15 times, more than any other law school in the country

B. Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics

- 23 separate, specialized legal clinics — eight more than any other Texas law school
- Each year students provide more than 35,000 hours of pro bono legal services to underserved Houston residents, valued at nearly \$1.8 million

C. Legal Research & Writing Program

- Ranked No. 25 in the nation, (source: *U.S. News & World Report* (2019))
- Winner of five first-place Best Brief awards in the American Society of Legal Writers’ Scribes competition — the most prestigious legal writing competition in the nation; no other law school has claimed this honor more than once

D. Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution

- Students from STCL Houston’s Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution have won 17 first-place national and international ADR competitions in the past five years
- “Top Law School for ADR,” (source: *preLaw magazine* (2019))

E. Transactional Practice Center

- One of the first two programs of its kind in the nation — and the most extensive transactional law program in Texas — this program equips students with the skills essential to business transactional law practice
- The Transactional Practice Certificate Program provides students with intensive, hands-on instruction in the knowledge, skills, and values essential to transactional lawyering



Founded in 1923, the oldest law school in Houston.



Consistently **ranked in the top 10** for trial advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report*



Tuition and fees among the **lowest of 118** private law schools in the U.S.



23 on-site legal clinics enable students to provide more than \$1.8 million of pro bono service to Houston’s underserved community



Winner of 133 national advocacy championships — twice as many as any other law school



Winner of 19 first-place national and international ADR competitions



15-time winner of the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition — more than any other law school



Winner of **five first-place** Best Brief awards (more than any other law school) at Scribes — the nation’s most prestigious legal writing competition

F. **Harry L. Reed Oil and Gas Law Institute**

- STCL Houston offers an oil and gas law curriculum unsurpassed in North America
- Students focused on this area are fully equipped at graduation to enter the competitive energy industry and make immediate contributions to the field — whether working in-house with energy companies or for law firms with energy practices

G. **Institute for International Legal Practice and National Security**

- STCL Houston faculty — comprising some of the nation's most distinguished scholars in international economic law, national security law, and public international law — provide students with a relevant, practical education while contributing to public scholarship on matters of worldwide importance

II. Faculty Scholarship

STCL Houston faculty are leaders in advancing the law in Texas, the United States, and internationally

STCL Houston faculty recently have placed scholarship in 15 of the top 50 and more than one-third of the top 100 law reviews, including Georgetown Law Journal, Iowa Law Review, and Indiana Law Journal

III. Student Statistics/Diversity

STCL Houston serves one of the most widely diverse student bodies in the nation and maintains close to a 90% ultimate bar passage rate

- A. **Total Enrollment: 942**
- B. **Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 19:1**
- C. **Student Minority: 45%**
- D. **"Most Diverse Law School,"** (source: *The National Jurist* (2019))
- E. **Ultimate Bar Passage Rate: 89.91%** (2016 Cohort)
- F. **Total Employed After Graduation: 81%** (2018)

IV. Accessibility/Affordability

STCL Houston has among the lowest tuitions of the nation's 118 private law schools

- A. **"Best Value Private Law School,"** (source: *The National Jurist* (2014))
- B. **88% of students receive grants or scholarships | More than \$4 million awarded** (per academic year)

V. Notable Alumni

STCL Houston alumni represent the law school as senior law firm partners, civic leaders, senior governmental representatives, and business executives, including Texas Supreme Court justices, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and CEOs of Fortune 500 corporations. STCL Houston graduates practice law in all 50 states and in 17 nations across the world

- A. **Texas Supreme Court Justices**
 - Justice Eva Guzman '89
 - Justice John Phillip Devine '86
- B. **U.S. and State Legislators**
 - John Culberson '88, member, U.S. House of Representatives
- C. **Business/Civic Leaders**
 - Richard Anderson '82, CEO, Amtrak; Former CEO, Delta Airlines
 - Don Jordan '69, former CEO, Reliant Energy
 - Maria Chapa Lopez '86, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida
 - Derrick Johnson '97, president and CEO, NAACP

For more information about South Texas College of Law Houston, please visit www.stcl.edu.



PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT SINCE 1923



Brittany Mandarino

J.D. Candidate

With 10 years of experience in education, Brittany Mandarino saw a startling gap in students' access to resources tied to socio-economic issues. Students from lower-income families frequently have limited education experiences and tools. As time goes on, these same students often make their way into the juvenile justice system.

"I felt that I couldn't do enough to help as a school administrator," Mandarino said. "I needed to find a way to keep growing as a professional, an educator, an advocate, and a leader."

A colleague told her, "For women and especially women of color, you need a J.D. in order to sit shoulder-to-shoulder with the policymakers in Austin and to bring about real change."

After much consideration, Mandarino applied to schools nationwide and was offered substantial scholarships from other law schools. However, STCL Houston was still the most affordable. She also learned that South Texas alumni comprise over 25 percent of Houston's legal workforce, presenting strong networking and internship opportunities.

"You can go anywhere to learn the law," Mandarino added. "You come to South Texas to learn how to be a lawyer who contributes meaningfully."



Gerald Ruiz

J.D. Candidate

Gerald Ruiz recognized small businesses and communities needed legal help with transactional matters. He saw how under-represented entities lost money and how it affected people. Ruiz knew he needed to go to law school to help them.

Unfortunately, balancing a full-time job while attending law school is no easy task. After researching different programs, Ruiz decided South Texas College of Law Houston was the right choice. Now in his second year, Ruiz finds the school to be really accommodating. South Texas welcomes students who need to work part-time and full-time while pursuing their law degrees. That, coupled with some flexibility offered by his employer and the support of his family, has allowed him to focus on school and take a role helping fellow students.

"I've been able to apply for programs and even become a Langdell [scholar]," he said. "I'm really grateful for everything South Texas has done for me."

The Langdell Scholar Program is a unique skill-building program in which upper-level students like Ruiz are nominated by faculty to give back. The Langdells help fellow students learn the critical skills needed to be successful in law school.

"I really enjoy when students come to me at the end of a semester and thank me for helping them," he said. "I get a lot out of being a small part of their success and knowing that I was able to help them."



Mai P. Kelley

J.D. Candidate

In 2007, at the age of 21, Mai Kelley moved from her native country of Vietnam to the United States. Mai's mission from her mother was clear: to learn fluent English and support herself. Mai is honoring those wishes.

Influenced by her mother's ability to carefully weigh decisions and genuinely care for others, Kelley initially considered a career in other fields until learning more about the legal system as she became a U.S. citizen. Honoring her commitment to her mother, Kelley works full-time during the day and attends South Texas College of Law Houston at night as a part-time student.

"South Texas has made it very achievable for me to juggle between life, school, and work," Kelley said. "I've had the honor to study with some of the most sought-after law professors and national speakers here, even as a night student. I don't know if you would get the same level of dedication from the faculty elsewhere."

After interning for the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps in summer 2019, Kelley plans to graduate in December 2021. She hopes to become a Navy judge advocate, advising commanders on crucial legal steps in the midst of war zones worldwide.

It's a courageous outlook from a student maximizing her opportunities.