



# The Right Choice

AN EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO  
STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

*“Over the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting and hiring many Stetson graduates. Without question, Stetson produces some of the brightest and most industrious new lawyers we’ve hired.”*

**Luis Prats '81**

Shareholder, Carlton Fields, Tampa, Florida



# PREPARED

FOR A BRILLIANT START

**W**hether you're seeking a summer associate or a law clerk, a project assistant or a first-year associate, you can be assured that when you hire a student or graduate of Stetson University College of Law, you are hiring an outstanding individual. Our students benefit not only from a first-rate legal education, but they also learn the practical legal and analytical skills necessary to "hit the ground running" from day one.



From the extensive hands-on training gained in mock trials to the focus on lawyering through clinics, practica and internships, Stetson students graduate with a high degree of practical experience, grounded by a strong foundation of doctrinal courses and a demonstrated commitment to professionalism.

*Stetson's professors are dedicated to teaching law to their students and to helping them master the necessary legal skills. Stetson gives one a solid foundation both in terms of career development and personal growth. I owe my achievements to Stetson and its wonderful faculty.*

*Ying Zhang White '97*  
Attorney, The World Bank



# EXPERIENCE

THAT YOU WANT IN YOUR NEXT EMPLOYEE



**Stetson was the first U.S. law school since 1996 to bring home the world championship at the 2005 Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria. The 2006 team followed up the win with a Silver Medal finish at the international finals.**

**Renowned Advocacy Training.** Strong litigators are valuable to any practice, and in the area of advocacy, Stetson shines. Many of our students devote a large part of their course work to learning the skills and theory required to become successful counselors, negotiators and litigators, so they can immediately apply their knowledge in practice settings after law school. This experience prepares our graduates to meet the demands of representing clients in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies.

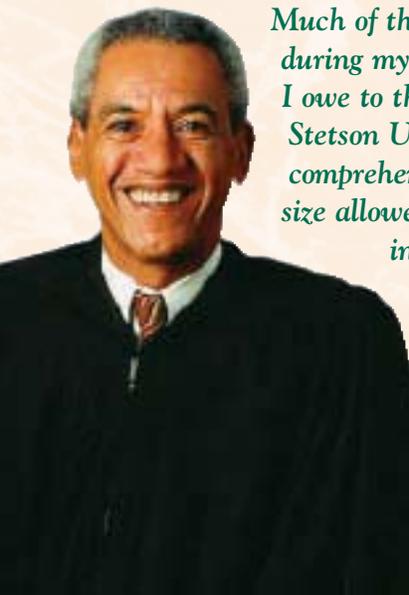
As far as the competitive edge is concerned, suffice it to say Stetson has the most successful advocacy teams in the country. In 2005, Stetson became the first U.S. law school since 1996 to win the world championship at the Willem C. Vis

International Arbitration Moot competition in Vienna, Austria. In 1994, Stetson became the only law school in the nation to win all five major national trial competitions in a single academic year. Stetson has consistently won first place in state, regional and national competitions for mock trial, moot court and client skills since the early 1980s, and *U.S. News & World Report* has continuously ranked Stetson among the best law schools in the nation for trial advocacy since 1995. Stetson is a recipient of the prestigious Emil Gumpert Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Stetson students also have the opportunity to hone skills in appellate advocacy, client counseling, pretrial practice, negotiations and alternative dispute resolution techniques.

## **Superior Research and Writing Preparation.**

Research and writing courses are a key component of the Stetson curriculum. Ranked fourth in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, Stetson's legal research and writing program teaches students skills vital to the successful practice of law, including training in the technology needed to work efficiently in the law office of the future. Top performers in research



*Much of the success that I have enjoyed during my legal and judicial career, I owe to the training I received at Stetson University College of Law. Its comprehensive curriculum and small class size allowed me to develop my skills on an individual basis.*

*Hon. Thomas E.  
Stringer Sr. '74*

Judge, Florida Second District Court of  
Appeal



and writing classes compete for positions on Stetson's award-winning Moot Court Board, which provides additional opportunities for students to develop and refine research, writing, analytical and advocacy skills. The *Stetson Law Review* allows students to hone writing, time management and leadership skills. Stetson students also apply their writing and research skills by working for the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law; the *Journal of International Aging Law and Policy*; and the *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*, all of which reside at Stetson.

**Certificate of Concentration Programs.** Many Stetson students choose to focus their elective courses in one of three specialized areas of the law: advocacy, elder law or international law. The certificate programs are a way for students to distinguish themselves

and show employers that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to practice in that area. To earn a certificate, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher within the specialty, and must complete at least 21 credit hours of prescribed core courses and electives.



*When finishing my initial JAG Corps training, I was selected to compete against three other classmates in a trial competition. Many classmates came from top law schools and had appreciable litigation experience. I won the competition, and it was nice to find out that my advocacy training at Stetson was the real deal.*

**Brendan Burke '05**  
Lieutenant  
Judge Advocate General's Corps,  
U.S. Navy

# HANDS-ON

## PRACTICE THROUGH CLINICAL PROGRAMS



**Stetson is one of three schools in the country to share space with a working court, the Tampa branch of Florida's Second District Court of Appeal.**

**S**tetson has been a pioneer in the development of trial practice and clinical programs that teach students the lawyering process through hands-on legal training. Teaching analytical and communication skills is integral to the education process, and the College of Law's five courtrooms are equipped with the latest technology to support the skills training curriculum.

Moreover, employers have found that the habits of thorough preparation, diligence, reliability, careful analysis and self-confidence acquired in the trial and clinical programs are readily transferable to other areas, particularly in the corporate environment.

Stetson's programs provide a wide range of legal venues where students can work, such as the State Attorney's office, the National Labor Relations Board and the Florida Public Employee Relations Commission. Stetson's offerings include:

- Civil Poverty Clinic
- Elder Law Clinic
- Employee Discrimination Clinic
- Environmental Law Internship
- Federal and State Judicial Internships
- Federal Litigation Internship
- In-House Counsel Internship
- Intellectual Property Law Internship
- Labor Law Clinic
- Local Government Clinic
- Mediation Skills Training
- Prosecution Clinic
- Public Defender Clinic



*Less than four weeks after I was admitted to the bar, I argued a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, Georgia. Stetson prepared me to not only meet, but to exceed, the rigorous standards found in a global law firm.*

*Heidi Lawson '96*  
Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton

Stetson's placement statistics are excellent. Approximately 96 percent of Stetson graduates find employment within nine months of graduation. Just as you are looking to choose well, our graduates are also ready to choose well. The real-world experience gained at Stetson provides students the insight needed to find a position that is mutually beneficial to them and their employers.



# EMPLOYER SERVICES THAT MAKE HIRING EASY



**S**tetson's Office of Career Development is a dynamic liaison between students and employers.

From the first semester, students receive help in charting a course for their first internship, first clerkship, first professional position after graduation, and well beyond. In fact, Stetson maintains a lifetime connection with its graduates, enabling us to offer employers an excellent pool of seasoned lawyers.

We assist the legal and business community with placement needs for permanent, summer or part-time positions. We will work with you in reviewing the pool of available second-year students, graduating seniors and alumni to help you find the perfect fit. Your hiring needs, no matter how

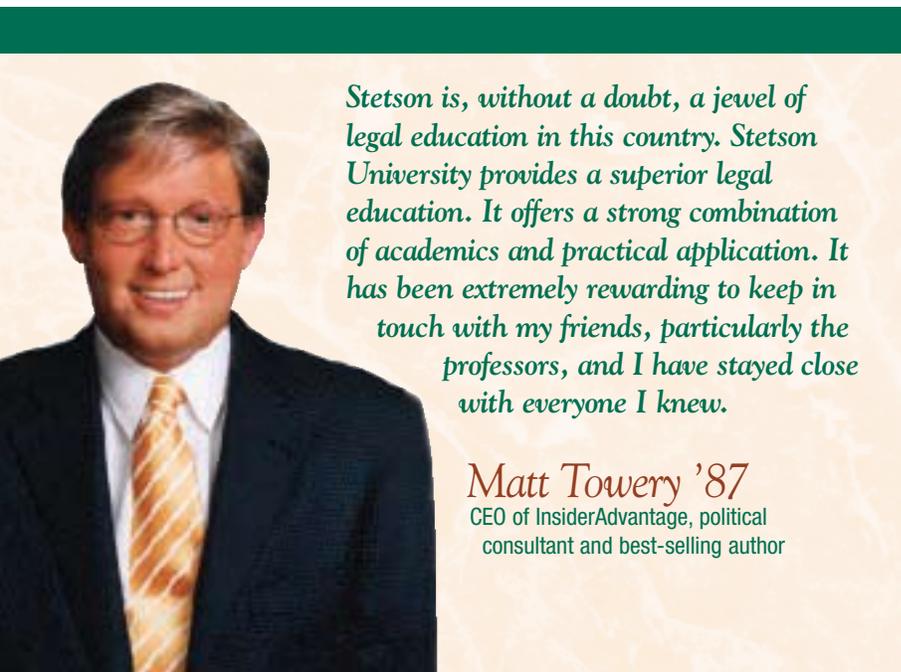
specialized, will be met quickly and efficiently through our variety of services.

**On-Campus Interviewing.** Interested employers may schedule on-campus interviews year-round. Résumés are sent before the interview date to provide you with 100% pre-screening. Then, when you are ready to meet your selected candidates, Stetson's beautiful campus and historic buildings offer a pleasant and professional atmosphere for interviews.

For out-of-town interviewers, overnight accommodations are available on-campus at no charge. Each suite provides a separate bedroom, bathroom and private sitting room in which to conduct interviews.

Many local employers also prefer to interview on campus, finding it an efficient and cost-effective method of hiring. Interviewing rooms are provided in the Student Center on the St. Petersburg/Gulfport campus, and employers may also conduct interviews at our Tampa Law Center.

**Résumé Referral Program.** The Career Development Office collects and forwards résumés of interested and qualified students to employers not able to conduct interviews



*Stetson is, without a doubt, a jewel of legal education in this country. Stetson University provides a superior legal education. It offers a strong combination of academics and practical application. It has been extremely rewarding to keep in touch with my friends, particularly the professors, and I have stayed close with everyone I knew.*

**Matt Towery '87**  
CEO of InsiderAdvantage, political  
consultant and best-selling author



on campus. In addition, Stetson keeps on file résumés of students and alumni categorized by areas of expertise. We can also assist with arranging telephone interviews of our students.

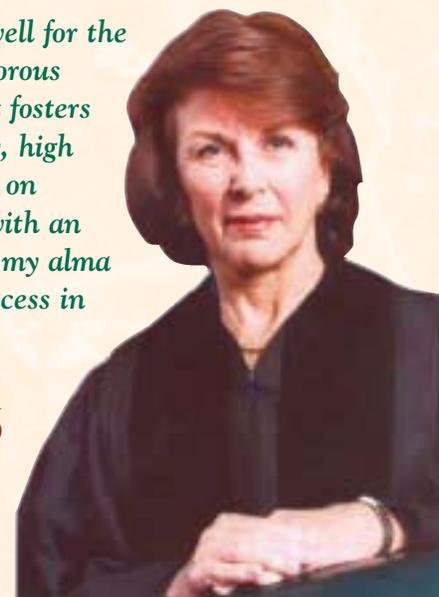
**Jobs Online.** The Career Development Office posts job opportunities daily on our Web site. Employers may submit a position online at [www.law.stetson.edu/career](http://www.law.stetson.edu/career) by completing the Employer Data Sheet, or the sheet may be printed and faxed to (727) 347-5692.

**Research Pool.** Do you have limited clerking needs or a short-term research project? You can hire a part-time clerk from our Career

Development Student Research Pool. We continuously recruit qualified students who are available and on-call for temporary assignments.

*My years at Stetson prepared me well for the practice of law. Stetson offers a rigorous curriculum in an environment that fosters excellence. The small student body, high academic standards, and emphasis on clinical practice provide students with an outstanding legal education. I give my alma mater substantial credit for my success in the legal and judicial system.*

*Justice Carol Hunstein '76*  
Supreme Court of Georgia



# FLORIDA'S

## FIRST LAW SCHOOL



Florida's first law school, Stetson University College of Law, has been producing outstanding lawyers, judges and other leaders for more than a century. The College of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association and has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1931.

Stetson has led U.S. law schools in integrating fast-breaking digital communication developments into legal education. Our libraries, courtrooms and classrooms are second to none, featuring the latest technology. Training in computerized and traditional research is an important part of the curriculum, preparing Stetson lawyers to be comfortable in the most sophisticated law office.

Stetson recognizes its role in preparing its graduates to enter the global legal

marketplace. Summer abroad programs in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tianjin, China; Freiburg, Germany/The Hague, Netherlands; and Granada, Spain, introduce students to legal issues surrounding multilateral trade agreements, cross-border transactions, emerging market economies, and transitional democracies. Stetson's Master of Laws program in International Law serves those wishing to specialize in international business and public law.

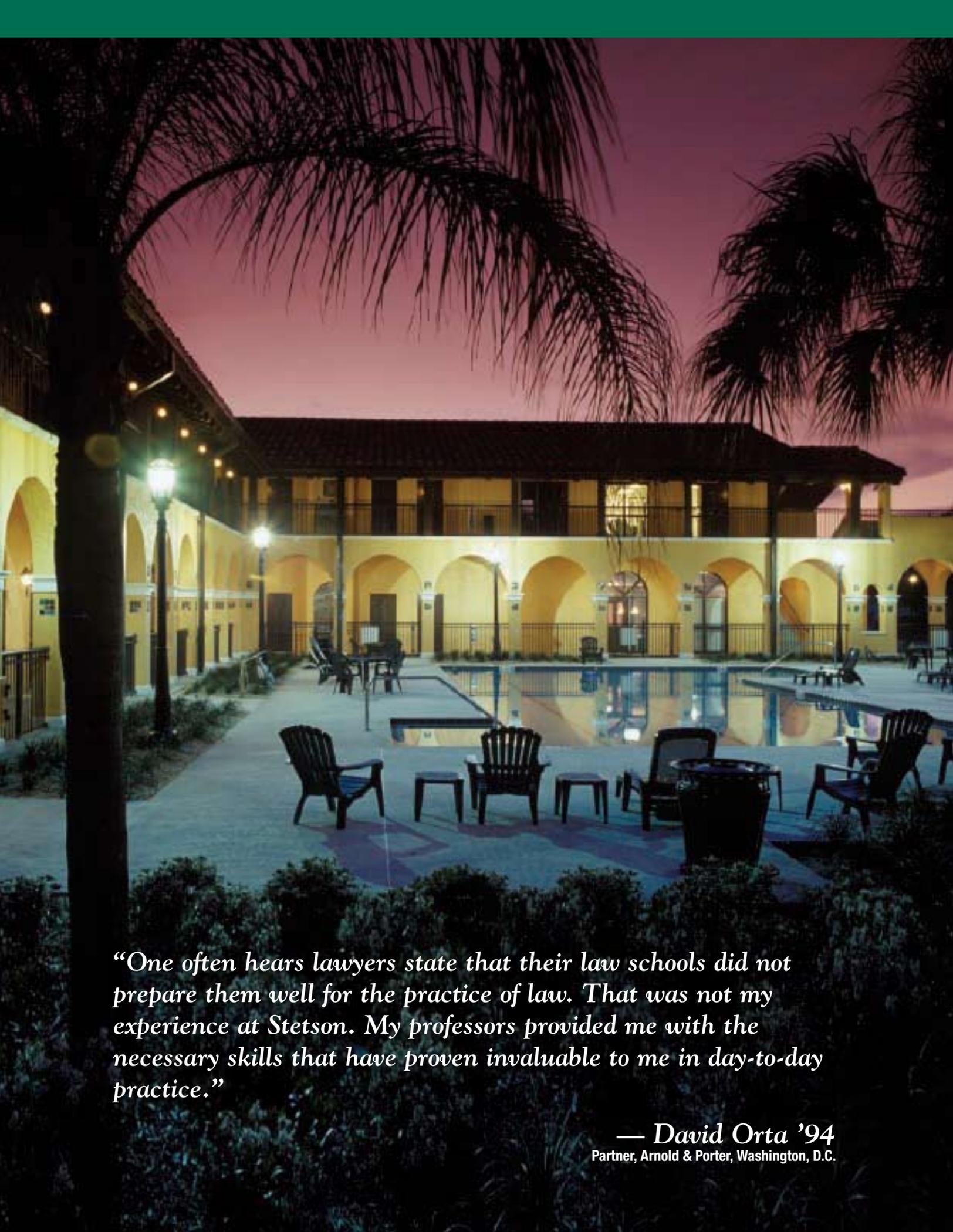
Many J.D. students choose to specialize their studies through Stetson's J.D./M.B.A. dual-degree program or the Certificate of Concentration programs in advocacy, elder law or international law. Stetson also offers an online LL.M. degree program in elder law, starting in fall 2007.

For all that is new at Stetson, some things remain constant. The College of Law continues to provide students with a challenging educational experience, a collaborative learning community, an appreciation of excellence, and an awareness of social responsibility. We remain true to our mission today as we prepare students for productive and enriching careers—as we prepare them to make a brilliant start with you.

*Stetson University College of Law provides the highest quality in legal education in a unique and stimulating learning environment. The focus on professionalism ensures that Stetson graduates are highly regarded in the practice of law. I am proud to be a graduate of Florida's first law school.*

**Rhea F. Law '79**

President and CEO  
Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A.



*“One often hears lawyers state that their law schools did not prepare them well for the practice of law. That was not my experience at Stetson. My professors provided me with the necessary skills that have proven invaluable to me in day-to-day practice.”*

*— David Orta '94*  
Partner, Arnold & Porter, Washington, D.C.

# STETSON LAW AT A GLANCE

**FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME** programs for the J.D., dual J.D./M.B.A. and LL.M. degrees

**SMALL CLASSES** and individual attention to student needs

One of the first law schools in the U.S. to **SHARE SPACE WITH A WORKING COURT**, Florida's Second District Court of Appeal

**WORLD-CLASS FACULTY** dedicated to student teaching and scholarship

**CONCENTRATION PROGRAMS** in advocacy, elder law, higher education law and policy, and international law

Home to **THREE ACADEMIC LAW JOURNALS**

**SUMMER LAW PROGRAMS** in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tianjin, China; Freiburg, Germany/The Hague, Netherlands; and Granada, Spain

Ranked **FIRST IN THE NATION** for trial advocacy and **FOURTH** in legal writing by *U.S. News*

2005 Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot **WORLD CHAMPIONS**, the first American law school to win since 1996; also won Silver Medal in 2006

First law school in Florida and one of the first in the U.S. to require **PRO BONO SERVICE**

**HEADQUARTERS** for the National Conference of Law Reviews and the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law

**HONORS PROGRAM** for top-ranking students



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[www.law.stetson.edu/career](http://www.law.stetson.edu/career)

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** It is the policy of Stetson University College of Law not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, age, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in its educational programs, admissions policies, financial aid, or other school-administered programs. The policy is enforced by Stetson and/or federal law under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries regarding compliance with these statutes may be directed to the Stetson University College of Law Dean, the Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Legal Affairs, or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. The College of Law is an equal opportunity educational institution.