

# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

THE TAFT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## 2023 General Catalog\*

*Committed to providing a quality education responsive to the needs of society, now and into the future.*

### **An Educational Division of The Taft University System**

Degree granting authority for The Taft University System (which includes Taft Law School) is a result of its standing as a fully authorized postsecondary institution by the Colorado Commission of Higher Education. Degree granting authority for Taft Law School in connection with the eligibility of its graduates to sit for the California Bar Examination is based on the school's registration with the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

\* Effective 1/1/23 - 12/31/23



# Taft Law School

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*The Lake Center  
Home of Taft Law School*

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This Catalog is effective for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Taft Law School reserves the right to amend the information set forth in the Catalog through future printings or supplements.

## Statement of Affiliation

Taft Law School (TLS) is an educational division of The Taft University System (TUS) which also includes William Howard Taft University. The Boyer Graduate School of Education and The Deming School of Business are schools within William Howard Taft University.

## Statement of Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policies

Consistent with sound educational policy, TUS does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability, medical condition, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

(Rev. 10/11/22)

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# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

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# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

## *Message from the Dean*

*Over forty years  
of service to  
students.*



**T**aft Law School is an educational division of The Taft University System. Taft Law School has been providing quality distance education programs to mature adults and professionals for over four decades. Few people would have projected when we offered our first continuing education programs to certified public accountants in 1976, that Taft Law School would evolve into one of the most respected nationally accredited distance learning law schools in the country.

Welcome to Taft Law School. I am honored to serve as Dean and to work alongside our professors to help our students develop the tools needed in becoming the best lawyers they can be, instructing them in legal analysis, and fostering a broad understanding of the black-letter law and legal theories. Our Juris Doctorate program will not only teach you analytical skills, but also help you understand legal issues, elements, and intricacies of applied law. Law school is not just for those who want to practice law, but also for those who thirst for legal knowledge and want to advance their education. Law guides all fields of human endeavor, from government to education, business to private life, arts to science, and beyond. Taft Law School will further your capacity to succeed in life. There has never been a better time to attend Taft Law School.

Please see our website for detailed information. I invite you to contact our admissions staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

***Melody Jolly, J.D.***

**Dean, Taft Law School**



*(Melody Jolly is a graduate of Western State University and member of the State Bar of California.)*

## *Institutional Mission, Purpose, and Objectives*

*Offering unique and innovative quality distance learning educational programs.*

**T**he mission and purpose of The Taft University System, which is comprised of William Howard Taft University and Taft Law School, a private independent postsecondary educational system, is to offer unique and innovative distance learning education programs at a reasonable cost to qualified applicants, with a particular focus on those who are mature adults employed on a full-time basis, or for whom place of residence, travel requirements are constraining factors.

The Taft University System is committed to providing a quality legal education responsive to the needs of society, now and into the future. Valuing the rich variety of cultures, races, ages, religions, and ethnic backgrounds in the world today, the School seeks students from all regions of the United States, and English-speaking students from around the world.

It is an objective of the School to utilize advancing technologies in the delivery of its educational services.



## Accreditation and Learning Modalities



1101 17th Street NW, St. # 808  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
www.deac.org  
202.234.5100

*Accredited by the  
Distance Education  
Accrediting Commission.*

### Accreditation

**T**aft Law School, as an educational division of The Taft University System, is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). DEAC, founded in 1926, is the standard setting agency for distance education institutions. It is listed by the United States Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

### Learning Modalities

**T**aft Law School offers nationally accredited distance education degree programs in law and taxation. It employs two learning modalities in the delivery of educational services. Certain Juris Doctor Programs are **directed study programs** with fixed start dates, cohort groups, and require regular and substantive interaction with faculty. Other Taft programs employ an **independent study** modality.

In the direct study programs, students are provided with login information which allows them to access electronic course syllabi, a list of required and recommended course materials as well as the official *Student Handbook* for the program. The majority of weekly assignments contain research/writing projects or quizzes, which are submitted electronically and evaluated by faculty. Students also benefit from examinations throughout the academic year.

All other Taft Law School Programs are monthly enrollment, independent study programs.

The independent study process utilized by the law school has four major elements:

- (1) Distance Education;
- (2) Independent Study;
- (3) Senior Faculty Advisors; and
- (4) Faculty Mentors.

Distance education is a learning modality designed for students who live at a distance from the School's facilities. It is a process that provides, through technology, organized formal learning opportunities for its students. Many, if not all, assignments are submitted electronically.

Independent study recognizes that education can be an individual process where students with different learning needs and study schedules can be accommodated. It emphasizes learning that is meaningful, where individuals enjoy the learning process, and acquire knowledge to better understand and manage their own careers.

*Senior Faculty Advisors* assist *Faculty Mentors* in developing comprehensive course outlines and assist in documenting that the School's courses are comparable to similarly titled courses in other well-respected institutions with respect to course content and expected student learning outcomes. *Senior Faculty Advisors* do not normally have teaching or student contact responsibilities.

The School's *Faculty Mentors* support the student's independent study learning role by guiding and stimulating the learning process. Faculty members recognize individual learning styles and needs and emphasize the relevance of the material to the individual's situation.

**More detailed information on the teaching modality for a particular program can be found in the *Catalog Supplement* for that program.**



## Program Descriptions

*Juris Doctor students can choose from either a Directed Study or an Independent Study learning modality.*

*Taft Law School is dedicated to the memory of Bernard E. Witkin (1904-95), a legendary legal scholar and a believer in life-long learning.*

### The Juris Doctor-Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs\*

The principal objective of the *Juris Doctor-Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs* is to maintain educational programs that are designed to qualify its graduates for admission to the California Bar. The programs offer instruction in the traditional theoretical subjects generally regarded as the core of the law school curriculum while providing exposure to and training in the approach and skills necessary to successfully complete the California Bar Examination.

As a result of Taft Law School's compliance with specific rules established by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California and the California Supreme Court, graduates of the School's *Juris Doctor - Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs* become eligible to sit for the California Bar Examination. Upon successful completion of all of the requirements for admission to practice law in California, a graduate may become an attorney in the State of California eligible to practice in California and certain Federal Courts. For a summary of these requirements, please go to:

<https://taftu.edu/academics/california-bar-exam/>

### The Juris Doctor-Executive Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs\*

The *Juris Doctor-Executive Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs* are designed for individuals who desire a broad-based education in business law to enhance their career, to obtain an understanding of the regulatory process, or simply for personal enrichment. In addition to obtaining a comprehensive legal education in matters related to business, graduates benefit from increased analytical reasoning and communication skills. ***These programs are not intended to, and will not, qualify graduates to sit for any bar examination.*** It is the best alternative for individuals who hold a strong interest in the law but have no desire to become an attorney.

The typical candidate is the mid-career professional, government employee, educator, or entrepreneur who enjoys his or her present career but could use this advanced legal training to enhance his or her status.

The *Juris Doctor-Executive Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs* have some of the core courses offered in the Attorney Track. However, students in the Executive Track have more opportunities to take elective courses to customize their legal education.

**Taft Law School is currently teaching out the Juris Doctor- Executive Track program.**



\*APPLICANTS INTERESTED IN ANY TAFT LAW SCHOOL DEGREE PROGRAM SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THE CATALOG SUPPLEMENT FOR THAT PARTICULAR PROGRAM.

# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

## Program Descriptions

*Founded in 1984,  
Taft Law School is  
America's Oldest  
Nationally Accredited  
Distance Education  
Law School.*

*But in this world, nothing  
can be said to be certain,  
except death and taxes.  
- Benjamin Franklin*



### Committee of Bar Examiners Rules and Guidelines

The Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California is authorized by law to register, oversee, and regulate certain law schools in California and to administer the requirements for admission to practice law in California. In this regard, the Committee has developed rules and guidelines for the classification of law schools. As described in greater detail in the Taft Law School Catalog Supplements, the School utilizes both directed study and independent study learning modalities in its Juris Doctor Programs.

The Committee of Bar Examiners classifies distance education law schools into two categories, "distance-learning law schools" and "correspondence law schools." By rule, a "distance-learning law school" must require that students participate in not less than 135 hours of synchronous (live) interactive classes per year.

Because Taft Law School students reside in many time zones, Taft faculty believe it would be an unreasonable hardship to require students to attend lectures on specific days and at specific times. Therefore, it has NOT implemented any policies that would require its students to participate in live classes. As a result, for Committee of Bar Examiners purposes, Taft Law School has elected to be classified as a correspondence law school. (It is important for students to note that this classification has no bearing whatsoever on a Juris Doctor-Attorney Track student's eligibility to sit for the bar examination or admission to practice law in California.)

### Disclosure

The method of instruction at Taft Law School for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program is principally by correspondence.

Students enrolled in either of the *Juris Doctor-Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Programs* at Taft Law School who successfully complete the first year of law study must pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination required by Business and Professions Code § 6060(h) and *Title 4, Division 1, of the Rules of The State Bar of California (Admissions Rules)* as part of the requirements to qualify to take the California Bar Examination. A student who passes the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all legal studies completed to the time the examination is passed. A student who does not pass the examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it must be promptly disqualified from the law school's *Juris Doctor-Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Program*. If the dismissed student subsequently passes the examination, the student is eligible for re-enrollment in the law school's *Juris Doctor-Attorney Track<sup>SM</sup> Program* but will receive credit for only one year of legal study.

Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy the requirements for admission to practice in jurisdictions other than California. A student intending to seek admission to practice law in a jurisdiction other than California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding the legal education requirements in that jurisdiction for admission to the practice of law.

APPLICANTS INTERESTED IN ANY TAFT LAW SCHOOL DEGREE PROGRAM SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THE CATALOG SUPPLEMENT FOR THAT PARTICULAR

## *Administrative Information*



### Enrollment

Certain programs maintain monthly enrollment permitting students to commence study during any month. Other programs offer many convenient start dates throughout the year. Applicants should review the relevant *Catalog Supplement* to obtain more information on the enrollment process for a particular program.

Due to regulatory changes, Taft Law School is not accepting for admission, Juris Doctor-Attorney Track applicants who reside in the following states: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

### Curriculum and Course Descriptions

Detailed information on all School programs including curriculum, course descriptions, and tuition are set forth in the *Catalog Supplement* for that particular program.

### Faculty

The Taft University System employs faculty to undertake the level of instruction or course development that they are assigned. They possess degrees or credentials appropriate to the courses or programs that they are assigned. A complete listing of faculty and their qualifications is set forth in the *Faculty Catalog Supplement*.

### Computer Requirements

The School believes evidence of computer literacy is required to earn a credible graduate degree in any discipline. Technology also plays an important part in a student's ability to communicate with administration, faculty, and fellow students. Accordingly, all students must have access to a computer with the minimum specifications set forth below.

Students are not expected to be computer experts. However, all students must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word®, access to the Internet, and e-mail.

#### **Minimum Hardware Requirements:**

Any modern internet connected desktop or laptop computer capable of meeting the below software requirements will be sufficient. While course materials are accessible to mobile devices, access to a desktop or laptop computer is required for completion of assignments and examinations. Some supplemental materials and activities will require a functioning audio device and speakers. **Reliable and consistent access to the internet is required.**

- Intel® Celeron® 2.0GHz Processor (or AMD® equivalent)
- 2 Gigabytes of RAM



## Administrative Information



*Margaret Trester*  
*Associate Dean*

### Software Requirements

- Microsoft Windows® Vista/7/8/10/11
- Microsoft Office® or comparable software (Able to create .DOC or .DOCX format files)
- Microsoft Edge® Available at no cost when downloaded from the Internet. Any modern browser will be acceptable. [Google Chrome](#) is recommended for the best experience.)
- [E-Mail Capability](#) (Available at no cost from various providers)
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader®](#) (Available at no cost when downloaded from the Internet)

**NOTE: A Macintosh® environment may not be compatible with the School's system and will not be supported by the School's Technical Support.**

### Library and Other Learning Resources

Due to the distance learning modality of its programs, Taft Law School does not maintain a traditional library for student use. In recent years, the availability of information available through a student's computer is virtually limitless. In addition to resources available to the public at no cost, students have access to the online Lexis®/Nexis® library. The School provides students, through its courses, with training in computer-based research.

### Transfer Credit

Transfer credit may be awarded consistent with School policies set forth in the *Catalog Supplement* for each program. The amount of possible credit will vary depending on the specific program. Students seeking transfer credit should include a transcript of their prior college work at the time of application. Transfer credit requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will be notified prior to enrollment of what transfer credit, if any, will be accepted.

Students wishing to transfer credits earned at Taft Law School to another school must check the transfer policy of that school. The acceptance of transfer credits between academic institutions lies within the discretion of the receiving college or university. Credits earned at Taft Law School may or may not be accepted by another institution depending upon its own programs, policies, and regulations.

The *Catalog Supplement* for each format can be viewed by clicking on the below links:

[JDAT Directed Study Catalog Supplement](#)

[JDAT Independent Study Catalog Supplement](#)

### Foreign Students

All courses are presented in the English language. The School does not provide English language services. Students are expected to be proficient in the English language prior to enrollment.

The School does not provide visa services to students. Upon request from a student, the School will provide documentation verifying student status. There is no charge for this service.



# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

## *Administrative Information*



**Christine A. Baldwin**  
*Director of Administration*

### **Evaluation of Assignments Submitted by Students**

Taft Law School retains a sufficient number of faculty to assure that the School's response to, or evaluation of, each student lesson assignment occurs within a few days after receipt. The evaluation of final examinations and the issuance of grade reports will occur within 30 days of the receipt of the final examination.

### **Standards for Student Achievement**

All Taft Law School programs and procedures have been reviewed by an Examining Committee appointed by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission for the purpose of assuring compliance with DEAC academic and business standards. DEAC *Standards* require that graduates of the School's programs exhibit skill and knowledge attainment through the demonstrated achievement of educational objectives and outcomes comparable to those of accredited resident degree programs that are similar in nature and level.

### **Attendance, Withdrawal and Leave-of-Absence Policies**

Since all of the School's programs are presented on a distance learning basis, the School has no residential attendance requirement.

Students may withdraw from the programs at any time within an academic period. In the *Juris Doctor Programs*, leaves-of-absence are only permitted between academic years. In other programs, leaves-of-absence may be granted for good cause at the discretion of the Dean.

### **Student Rights and Grievances**

The School maintains detailed *Student Handbooks* outlining policies on student rights and grievances including policies on sexual harassment and re-evaluation of assignments or examinations. This Handbook should be carefully reviewed by each student.

### **Student Services and Record Keeping**

Taft Law School maintains all records in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines of the California Committee of Bar Examiners and the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). All records will be made available at the principal offices of Taft Law School.

The School will provide each student with two transcripts at no charge and will provide all necessary documentation on behalf of law students to the Committee of Bar Examiners at no charge.

### **Tuition Refund Policy**

The School has adopted a refund policy which is believed to be fair, equitable, and in compliance with regulatory requirements. The School reserves the right to change this policy without notice in order to comply with any legislative or regulatory changes imposed by the government or accrediting agencies. Different programs are subject to different refund policies. Specific detailed refund formulas are included in the [Consumer Information Guide](#) and in each enrollment agreement.

### **Student Handbook**

Prospective applicants can review the *Student Handbook* for each format of study by clicking on the below links:

[IDAT Directed Study Student Handbook](#)

[IDAT Independent Study Student Handbook](#)



## *Administrative Information*



**Joan L. Slavin**  
*Director of Student  
Services*

### **Financial Aid and Tuition Financing**

Taft Law School, through The Taft University System participates in the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan and Graduate PLUS Programs. To obtain a Direct Loan or a Graduate PLUS Loan, a student must be enrolled and meet all of the criteria required by the Department of Education. Students who qualify for these loan programs may borrow money to cover their educational expenses. Students in the independent study programs do not qualify for these loans.

#### ***Federal Direct Loans***

Federal Direct Loans are low interest loans made to the student by the U.S. Department of Education. The loan must be used to pay for direct and/or indirect educational expenses. Subsidized loans are need-based, while unsubsidized loans are not. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates, withdraws from school, or falls below half-time enrollment status.

#### ***Federal Direct PLUS Loans***

Graduate students are eligible to borrow under the PLUS Loan Program. This loan is credit-based. Applicants are required to complete the FAFSA and are given an opportunity to request the maximum eligibility under the Federal Direct Loan Program before applying for a Graduate PLUS loan. Students are responsible for all interest accrued during the life of the loan.

#### ***Grants and Other Financing Options***

The School offers various financing alternatives for payment of tuition. For short-term financing the School permits students

to pay tuition on an installment basis. This generally requires an initial payment equal to 30% of the tuition with the balance paid, depending on the program, over a term of five to twelve months.

In the Juris Doctor Programs, special grants-in-aid are available to outstanding prospects such as graduate degree holders and certain members of professional groups such as CPA's and law enforcement personnel. These grants are generally equal to 5-10% of the tuition.

For more information, please refer to the Financial Aid section of the website and/or contact the School.

### **Employer Acceptance and Tuition Reimbursement**

Many businesses and professional firms recognize the value of nationally accredited distance learning programs for employee education. The Taft University System has established the *Partners in Professional Education<sup>SM</sup>(PIPE<sup>SM</sup>) Program*. This is a cooperative undertaking between employers and the System to provide graduate level educational opportunities to qualified employees. Through the *PIPE<sup>SM</sup> Program* eligible employees may obtain tuition grants ranging between five and twenty percent or tuition.

Many organizations sponsor employer-assisted tuition reimbursement programs. Taft Law School will provide all reasonable assistance to supply the necessary documentation to students seeking employer reimbursement.



# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

## *Administrative Information*



### **Release of Academic Information**

The School adheres to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Therefore, students may review the contents of their permanent records as they are maintained at Taft Law School's offices. Such inspection must be completed in person by the student at the location where the information is retained. Since the School subscribes to the policy that a student's academic records are confidential, information will be released only upon written instructions from the student except as noted below. Information regarding a graduate's name, city of residence, attendance dates of graduates, degrees earned, and date of degrees are considered public information and may be released at the option of the School.

### **Student Loan Deferrals**

Taft Law School students are eligible to defer repayment of existing federally insured student loans during their enrollment period.

Applicants are encouraged to check with their lenders to confirm deferral eligibility in their particular circumstances before enrollment.

There is no charge for the completion of loan deferral forms.

### **Consumer Information Guide**

The Taft University System publishes a [\*Consumer Information Guide\*](#) that is made available to current and prospective students of Taft Law School and William Howard Taft University. This Guide, which is a supplement to this *General Catalog*, contains a great deal of useful information including but not limited to policies on student privacy, satisfactory academic progress, campus security and crime statistics, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, voter registration information, and Constitution Day.

### **Reservation of Rights**

Taft Law School reserves the right to change any of its policies, including but not limited to tuition, fees, unit value per course, course offerings, curricula, grading policies, graduation and degree requirements, and admission standards and policies. All affected students will be given adequate prior notice before the changes to the academic standards are implemented. The School further reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant at its discretion and to disqualify, discontinue, or exclude any student at its discretion.

This *Catalog* supersedes all previous editions. The policies expressed in this *Catalog* and future revisions will be controlling regardless of any policies stated in a previous edition received by the student upon his or her admission.



# TAFT LAW SCHOOL

## *William Howard Taft*



William Howard Taft  
27<sup>th</sup> President of the  
United States &  
Chief Justice of the  
Supreme Court

**D**istinguished jurist, effective administrator but a reluctant politician, William Howard Taft spent four uncomfortable years in the White House. Large, jovial and conscientious, he was caught in the intense battles between Progressives and Conservatives, and got scant credit for the achievements of his administration.

Born in 1857, son of a distinguished judge, he was a member of the Yale University baseball team and later started the tradition of the President throwing out the first ball on the opening day of the major league baseball season. After graduation from Yale, he returned to Cincinnati to study and practice law. He rose in politics through Republican judiciary appointments, through his own competence and availability, and because, as he once wrote facetiously, he always had his “plate the right side up when offices were falling.”

But Taft preferred law to politics. He was appointed a Federal circuit judge at age 34. He aspired to be a member of the Supreme Court.

His route to the White House was via administrative posts. President McKinley sent him to the Philippines in 1900 as chief civil administrator. Sympathetic toward the Filipinos, he improved the economy, built roads and schools, and gave the people at least some participation in government.

President Roosevelt made him Secretary of War, and by 1907 had decided that Taft should be his successor. The Republican Convention nominated him the next year.

Taft disliked the campaign - “one of the most uncomfortable four months of my life.” He pledged his loyalty to the Roosevelt program, popular in the West, while his brother Charles reassured eastern Republicans. William Jennings Bryan, running on the Democratic ticket for a third time, complained that he was having to oppose two candidates, a western progressive Taft and an eastern conservative Taft.

Progressives were pleased with Taft’s election. “Roosevelt has cut enough hay,” they said; “Taft is the man to put it into the barn.” Conservatives were delighted to be rid of Roosevelt — the “mad messiah.”

Taft recognized that his techniques would differ from those of his predecessor. Unlike Roosevelt, Taft did not believe in the stretching of Presidential powers. He once commented that Roosevelt “ought more often to have admitted the legal way of reaching the same ends.”

Taft alienated many liberal Republicans who later formed the Progressive Party, by defending an Act, which unexpectedly continued high tariff rates. A trade agreement with Canada, which Taft pushed through Congress, would have pleased eastern advocates of a low tariff, but the Canadians rejected it. He further antagonized Progressives by upholding his Secretary of the Interior, accused of failing to carry out Roosevelt’s conservation policies.

In the angry Progressive onslaught against him, little attention was paid to the fact that his administration initiated 80 antitrust suits and that Congress submitted to the state’s constitutional amendments for a Federal income tax and the direct election of Senators. A postal savings system was established, and the Interstate Commerce Commission was directed to set railroad rates.

In 1912, when the Republicans renominated Taft, Roosevelt bolted the party to lead the Progressives, thus guaranteeing the election of Woodrow Wilson.

Taft, free of the Presidency, served as a Professor of Law at Yale and as President of the American Bar Association until President Harding appointed him Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1921, a position he held until just before his death in 1930. To Taft, the appointment was his greatest honor. He is the only person to serve as both President of the United States and as a member of the Supreme Court.

