



► **Joseph Camano '24**

HOMETOWN:
Virginia Beach, Virginia

EDUCATION:
Randolph-Macon College, English music and Asian studies

NEXT:
Sidley Austin, New York

"I served as vice president for the Wheelchair Tennis Team at UVA. I greatly enjoyed representing the University while competing in various out-of-state wheelchair tennis tournaments throughout my second and third year. I also served on the Virginia Tax Review and as a research assistant for Professor Cathy Hwang. ... You'll be faced with many new and unexpected opportunities. Don't be afraid to say yes to them."

► Retired Staff Sgt. Bryan Blaylock '23 spent several tours in the Marines overseas. His service dog, Ronga, was a steady partner at UVA Law.



Fostering Community

BUILDING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Many student organizations focus on bringing together students of different racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, as well as people of different sexual orientations and political affiliations.

Community Fellows

The UVA Law Community Fellows Program fosters a sense of belonging, collegiality and mutual respect by selecting first-year students to serve as ambassadors to their peers throughout their time at the Law School, and later in the professional world. Participating students gain insight and mentorship and develop professional skills such as leadership, negotiation and fostering the free exchange of ideas.

The Peer Advisor Program

Through the Peer Advisor program, second- and third-year law students help entering students acclimate to law school by offering friendship and support.

Common Law Grounds

Students and faculty participate in Common Law Grounds, in which participants seek to understand diverging viewpoints as a first step toward identifying and articulating areas of agreement and fostering a culture of open and civil dialogue.

Other groups include:

- Agape
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- The Federalist Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Korean American Law Student Association
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Latin American Law Organization
- Law Christian Fellowship
- Law Republicans at UVA
- Middle Eastern and North African Law Student Association
- Muslim Law Students Association
- Older Wiser Law Students
- Rex E. Lee Law Society
- South Asian Law Student Association
- St. Thomas More Society
- Virginia Law Families & Partners
- Virginia Law First-Generation Professionals
- Virginia Law Veterans
- Virginia Law Women
- Women of Color



Roadmap Scholars Initiative

► During the summer of 2024, the first three cohorts of Roadmap Scholars convened at the Law School

Ask any student what sets **VIRGINIA LAW** apart from other top law schools and they will tell you about the extraordinary sense of community found here.

At UVA, a rigorous and academically challenging professional education is paired with a collegial environment that promotes inclusivity and encourages students to share and learn from each other's unique perspectives.

Teamwork, cooperation, skilled communication, respect and an understanding of different points of view are integral to a profession that serves an increasingly diverse society.

Launched in 2022, UVA Law's **ROADMAP SCHOLARS INITIATIVE** helps first-generation and low-income undergraduate students prepare for applying to elite law schools and entering the legal profession.

The initiative is distinguished by its summer in residence at UVA followed by a legal internship, along with generous financial and counseling support throughout. ► law.virginia.edu/roadmap

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AND EQUITY**

Assistant Dean **Mark C. Jefferson**
(434) 924-9294
mjefferson@law.virginia.edu

law.virginia.edu/diversity



► **Hunter Heck '24**

HOMETOWN:
Panhandle, Texas

EDUCATION:
Texas Tech University,
philosophy and
Spanish

NEXT:
Gibson, Dunn &
Crutcher in Dallas,
and clerkships on the
Texas Supreme Court
and U.S. Court of
Appeals for the Fifth
Circuit

*"Everyone here
has bought in
on cultivating
a supportive
and friendly
environment. The
faculty support
is unmatched."*

As the Law School's **Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Equity**, **Mark C. Jefferson** works to strengthen and advance the school's commitment to being a diverse and equitable institution in which every member—including students, faculty and staff—feels an equal sense of belonging.

"I firmly believe that in a community as plural as ours is, along every social register, we can't help but benefit from being deeply invested in engaging with and learning from each other," Jefferson said. *"UVA Law is committed to creating an equitable environment where each person is provided the kinds of support that allow them, both as a member of our community and as an individual, to flourish and succeed."*



► Judge
Roger L.
Gregory kicks off
Black History
Month.



► Community
Fellows
participate in an
ice-breaker.



► Students
join a
community
Iftar dinner.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Student organizations are empowered to develop and implement a variety of programs to support their members and the entire community, including career networking receptions, social and mentoring events with faculty, and talks by lawyers about their professional experiences. Some recent events have included:

Unpacking Privilege: An Experience-Based Dialogue on Diversity, sponsored by the Student Bar Association as part of Diversity Week

BLSA Black History Month Kickoff, with Chief Judge Roger Gregory of the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Common Law Grounds: Student Debt—Who Is Responsible?, featured students and faculty discussing issues across the political divide

50 Years of Title IX, with Suzanne Goldberg, U.S. Department of Education

Women in Big Law and Women in Public Service, sponsored by Virginia Law Women

Nowruz Celebration, sponsored by the Middle Eastern and North African Law Student Association

Jewish Law Students Association Bag Brunch

Trans Youth Rights Panel, hosted by Child Advocacy Research and Education, and Lambda Law Alliance

Latin American Law Organization Salsa Dancing Class