

Trinity Western University's proposed School of Law Media Statement

January 29, 2013 – *Langley, BC* – Trinity Western University submitted proposals for a School of Law in June 2012 to both the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Recent media coverage has followed from a letter from the Canadian Council of Law Deans that took issue with TWU's Community Covenant.

We believe that the Supreme Court of Canada decision in 2001 settled the issue that TWU's policies are not a barrier to accreditation. Codes of conduct are normative. They act as a framework for participation and for ensuring an optimal learning environment. Every major organization has a code of conduct. Every university has one, and students who wish to go to a particular university voluntarily agree to it.

Founded in 1962, TWU has been a part of higher education in British Columbia for over 50 years. TWU has six professional schools, including business, nursing, education, human kinetics, graduate studies and arts, media and culture. The School of Law would be its seventh, and is the next natural step for the University.

Trinity Western University is a unique private, faith-based educational community, open to the public, where its members are "called to care about the well-being of others; and be committed to knowledge and understanding that addresses the world's deepest needs" (TWU, *Envision the Century*, 2008).

Trinity Western University's mission focuses on the development of leaders; *to develop people of high competence and exemplary character who distinguish themselves as exceptional leaders in "the marketplaces of life."* (TWU Mission Statement)

The proposed School of Law program will address areas of real need in the current law school options, by focusing on social justice, charities law and entrepreneurial law, and it will also develop lawyers with a focus on service. The proposed School of Law will develop highly competent, professional and ethical graduates who will no doubt distinguish themselves in the legal community and beyond.

The proposed School of Law will form strategic partnerships with agencies that serve the under-assisted and the oppressed. Law students at TWU will have unique opportunities to provide needed legal services to social services agencies and to the less privileged of Canadian society. It will do so at no cost to taxpayers.

Quoted from TWU's proposed [School of Law Vision Statement](#)

The School of Law at TWU will:

1. **Infuse leadership and character development into its very core as a school.** Students will be encouraged to see the profession of law as a high calling in the life of service.
2. **Provide a place where the great questions of meaning, values and ethics are confronted,** debated and pondered, and the broad and diverse communities of Canada are served through a richer understanding of the law.
3. **Develop servant leaders** who believe in and demonstrate a different concept of professionalism than the current marketplace promotes. Our students will be



encouraged to volunteer with local, national and global NGO's that serve the under-developed nations and the vulnerable.

4. **Build core competencies that are the bedrock of the legal profession.**
Beyond the academic and theoretical principles, the curriculum will integrate real-world practice skills, ethics, client relations, negotiation and advocacy.
5. **Support scholarly research** that will renew the foundational principles of jurisprudence, small business law, and charities law, as well as religious rights and freedoms in the Canadian and international context.

For more information read the proposal [FAQ](#).

Media inquiries:

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