



O'KEEFFE PRE-LAW STUDIES

AT THE KING'S ACADEMY



"Denise Brown creatively engages pre-law students in rigorous academic dialogue as a part of exceptional courses at The King's Academy. We look forward to taking advantage of resources that have been generously provided to grow the program and expand the expert faculty."

- RANDAL L. MARTIN, PRESIDENT

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The King's Academy piloted its pre-law program in 2016, and it was immediately well-received by students. Recognizing TKA's commitment to excellence in all that it does, donors sought to accelerate the school's development of this groundbreaking program that is based on Christian principles and emphasizes Constitutional rights and freedoms. Recently the Esther B. O'Keeffe Charitable Foundation made a substantial gift to further its pre-law program. In recognition of the gift, the program has been named the O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program. The school now has significant resources targeted to making the

program stimulating, engaging, and relevant to addressing contemporary legal issues.

TKA's program will also reach beyond the school's campus to the broader Palm Beach County community through events and activities, and by bringing relevant speakers to campus. A robust online component is also in development, which will allow schools and students across the country to have access to a pre-law program that teaches legal studies from a Christian perspective. TKA students who complete the program will earn a special endorsement on their diploma upon graduation.

"There has been tremendous demand for the program since its inception just two years ago, and we have nearly doubled the number of students enrolling in pre-law courses since last year."

- DENISE BROWN, ESQ., O'KEEFFE PRE-LAW STUDIES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FACULTY PRE-LAW STUDIES

HEADMASTER DOUGLAS RAINES

Douglas Raines attended Palm Beach Atlantic University and Lynn University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology; Master of Science in School Counseling and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. Raines is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education with a focus on Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. He enjoys building relationships with students and inspiring them to find God's best for their lives. As Headmaster at The King's Academy, Raines oversees the academic curriculum and enriches programs to cultivate learning.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR DENISE BROWN, ESQ.

Experienced attorney and educator Denise Brown leads the program; Brown is a Florida-bar-licensed attorney with a background practice of commercial litigation and appellate law. In addition to her prior practice, she served as staff attorney for the US District Court in the chambers of the late Honorable James C. Paine. Brown has taught and developed law courses for more than eighteen years, including courses at the University of Miami School of Law, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and Valley Forge Christian College, among others. Brown earned her JD from The University of Miami and her MBA from Palm Beach Atlantic University.



PROGRAM FACULTY SARAH M. SHERMAN, ESQ.

Sarah Sherman graduated with high honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BA in Law and Society, and earned her JD from the University of Miami. She is admitted to both the Florida and Georgia bars. Sherman has experience in both civil and criminal courts. She began her career as a civil plaintiff's attorney before serving the State of Florida as an Assistant State Attorney. Sherman also served in the international criminal law arena, working for the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office Overseas Territories Division. There she coordinated law enforcement trainings and prison reform initiatives throughout the Caribbean. She also co-drafted parole and probation legislation for potential adoption in several countries in that area.



PRE-LAW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

Designed as an introductory course to the pre-law program, students are given an overview of types of law, the U.S. court system, the general process of litigation, and dispute resolution. Special focus is placed on the unique history and structure of our court system, including the foundational Biblical concepts for our system of jurisprudence. Careers in law are also explored.

Key projects for students include:

- Drafting laws based on TKA-related topics
- Drafting a complaint and participating in discovery exercises to prepare for trial
- Participating in a Mock Trial exercise to get a feel for how a real court case functions
- Experiencing guest speakers in conjunction with a "Careers in Law" unit
- **Signature Field Trip:** Tour of the Palm Beach County Courthouse and observation of a trial

BUSINESS LAW & ETHICS

Students are given an introduction to contract law in conjunction with a biblical perspective in the areas of negotiation, agreement, and business relationships. Tort liability, prevention, and mitigation are examined. Further, students explore basic legal concepts in property (personal, real, and intellectual) in accordance with the biblical principle of stewardship and property rights under the U.S. Constitution.

Key projects for students include:

- Drafting an actual contract
- Participating in a premises liability walk-through and making recommendations in a presentation
- Identifying intellectual property in the current marketplace
- Experiencing guest speakers in conjunction with discussions on corporate law
- **Signature Field Trip:** Visit to the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches for a lesson on contracts and property in action

"Our students are fortunate to be able to grapple with complex and relevant legal concepts through exciting and innovative coursework in a unique O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program. This program provides another opportunity to prepare students with critical thinking skills and experiential learning in a truly distinctive way." - DOUGLAS RAINES, HEADMASTER

PRE-LAW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The history of the U.S. Constitution is presented with a special focus on biblical themes in the founding document. Students learn about separation of powers, federalism, and equal protection. Students also explore key enumerated and unenumerated rights granted by the U.S. Constitution in light of recent cases.

Key projects for students include:

- Developing a project-based understanding of the concept of judicial review and how it has shaped our society
- Participating in Oxford-style debates on First and Second Amendment issues
- Crafting fictional school policies on right-to-privacy issues
- Drafting letters to lawmakers taking a stance on equal protection issues
- Participating in a progressive case-study on eminent domain and governmental takings
- **Signature Field Trip:** Participation in a civil discourse exercise on First Amendment rights in Federal Court

CRIMINAL LAW

Students are given an introduction to basic concepts of criminal procedures. Students learn about the elements of a crime, the types of crimes, and possible defenses. Criminal punishments are explored, with a special focus on the biblical perspective of justice.

Key projects for students include:

- Conducting role plays on arrest, interrogation, and plea bargaining
- Participating in a forensics unit to understand how the role of investigation connects to proving a criminal case
- Having the option of participating as a juror in Palm Beach County Youth Court
- Experiencing guest speakers in the field of law enforcement, state attorneys, and criminal defense attorneys
- **Signature Field Trip:** Tour of Palm Beach County Jail

"The enthusiasm of the students is infectious, and it renews a love for my profession and all the possibilities it offers." - DENISE BROWN, ESQ., PROGRAM DIRECTOR

LEGAL ADVOCACY SKILLS

In this capstone course, students develop trial and appellate advocacy skills. The course culminates with an appellate argument before a three-judge panel. Biblical principles are explored in conjunction with a study on ethics in advocacy.

Key projects for students include:

- Learning to advocate for a client in written and verbal formats
- Using real cases to prepare a brief and oral argument on assigned topics
- Experiencing adversarial court proceedings
- **Signature Field Trip:** Observation of Oral Argument at the Fourth DCA



TKA's Pre-Law students learn about contract law at the Washington Nationals' spring training facility.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM & CLUB

The Mock Trial Team competes in a state-wide competition based on a mock court case provided by the Florida Law-Related Education Association. Students may try out for competitive roles of attorney or witnesses, or they may choose to support the competitive team by being a club member. Area attorneys work with students to prepare the case and develop courtroom skills. Team members have an opportunity for additional outside training, such as the Harvard Mock Trial Seminar.



TKA's Mock Trial team traveled to Harvard University to attend the Angela R. Mathew High School Seminars Program presented by the University's Mock Trial Association. TKA Senior Angie Lares won the Outstanding Attorney Award.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LEGAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

- Volunteer as a guest speaker for a particular topic or career highlight.
- Conduct a training session for Mock Trial team.
- Serve as a judge for Mock Trial Team or Appellate Advocacy.
- Assist with curriculum development by sharing updates on a particular practice area.
- Host a field trip to your firm or court appearance.
- Advocate for the program in your professional community.
- Spearhead fundraising efforts for the program in your circle of influence.
- Contact Denise Brown, Program Director, at dbrown@tka.net to discuss how you can get involved

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals and firms are encouraged to support existing programs and help provide the groundwork for new ones. Please consider partnering with us through the following:

- **Courtroom Classroom**

Mock Courtroom for training in trial and appellate advocacy skills

- **Mock Trial Team**

National-level training for competitive team of students

- **Mock Trial Club**

Training for students who support and practice with Mock Trial Team

- **Capstone Trip to U.S. Supreme Court**

Experiential trip for students who complete the program

- **Scholarships Program**

TKA scholarship for students interested in the pre-law program

- **Online Law Course Expansion**

Development and production of additional courses to expand the program nationally

- **Guest Speaker Sponsorship**

Honorarium for classroom guest speakers

- **Field Trip Experiences**

Examples include:

- Intro to Law: Palm Beach County Courthouse
- Criminal Law: Palm Beach County Jail
- Business Law: area businesses, such as the new baseball stadium in West Palm Beach
- Constitutional Law: Immigration and Naturalization Ceremony (U.S. District Court)
- Legal Advocacy Skills: Fourth DCA and Escape Room for Logic Exercises

- **Pre-Law Studies Resource Sponsorship**

Resources to support curriculum

For sponsorship opportunities please contact Rosario Larson, Director of Development. 561.686.4244
rlarson@tka.net



THE KING'S ACADEMY O'KEEFFE PRE-LAW SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

The King's Academy O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program offers scholarships to encourage quality students to consider a future in legal studies by enrolling in one or all of TKA's pre-law studies courses. The O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program will provide scholarships from a pool of up to

\$50,000 per year to new or current 9th-12th grade TKA domestic students who have applied and been tested for admission or are currently enrolled in The King's Academy. The scholarships are directly applied to TKA tuition as there is no additional cost for the pre-law program of study.

Contact Denise Brown, Program Director, at dbrown@tka.net for information and application deadlines.



THE KING'S ACADEMY

Where Christ is King

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