True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrong-doing by its prohibitions.

From Cicero’s *De re publica*

Those who apply themselves to the study of law should know, in the first place, from whence the science is derived. The law obtains its name from justice; for (as Celsus elegantly says), law is the art of knowing what is good and just.

From Justinian I’s *Corpus Juris Civilis*

For two thousand years, the study of Classics was the preparation for law in the western world. Studies in language, history, philosophy, religion, & art allow us to confront all aspects of the human condition. Those who have gone before have left a legacy of struggles with the meaning of law & justice in society.

In the 21st century, Classics remains the core discipline of the humanities. It is the ideal major for developing the skills legal professionals will need: problem solving, critical reading, persuasive writing & speaking, listening, general research, & task organization & management.
SUCCESS IN CRITICAL THINKING & VOCABULARY

Courses in Latin & ancient Greek are particularly successful at training students in analysis, problem solving, critical thinking, & the close reading of complex textual material. After even a year of Latin or ancient Greek, students regularly report a significantly greater understanding of the use of English.

LAW & ANCIENT LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Pre-law students familiar with Latin & ancient Greek will readily understand the meaning & origin of legal terms such as habeas corpus, amicus curiae, nolo contendere, prima facie, sua sponte, per curiam, certiorari, mandamus, & many others.

Pre-law students will also gain historical perspective from the Classics course in English, CLSA:2151 Roman Law, Order, & Crime, a history of law, crime, & punishment in Roman antiquity.

CURRICULUM IN CLASSICS

In addition to completing the general requirements of the University, Classical Languages majors complete at least 36 s.h. of coursework, including either (1) three years of Latin & two of ancient Greek (or vice versa) & a composition course in one language or (2) four years of one of the languages, a composition course, & 2-3 other relevant courses. Ancient Civilization majors complete 30 s.h. of coursework, including courses in ancient art, archaeology, history, philosophy, religion, science, & ancient languages or literature.