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**CHDS thesis provides base for WMU Cooley  
Law School program**

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## CHDS thesis provides base for WMU Cooley Law School program

Monterey CA - August 2014



Brigadier General Mike McDaniel was considering the ramifications of the plethora of homeland security legislation marshalled through Congress following the 9/11 attacks as he enrolled at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security in 2006.

The Patriot Act strengthening the nation's intelligence capabilities and the Homeland Security Act reorganizing 22 federal agencies under the Department of Homeland Security had both passed, along with related regulations and administrative rules.

"I kept asking myself, how are the laws Congress is passing or the Executive Orders from the president affecting homeland security?" McDaniel said. "At the same time, I asked myself is this creating a new area of law?"

McDaniel parlayed his interest in the issue into his CHDS thesis, "The Development and Recognition of Homeland Security Law," and was able to apply his research beginning in January 2011 when he accepted a full-time professor's position with Thomas M. Cooley School of Law. His mission was to establish a Master of Laws curriculum centered on homeland security.

In August 2014, the school merged with a state university to become the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

"There are already over 40 students pursuing their Master of Laws in Homeland Security and, with our affiliation with WMU, we look forward to collaborating with their graduate programs to reach even more students."

McDaniel established the program, and more recently an academic law journal, using his thesis as a roadmap. The research outlined the varied responses to the 9/11 attacks including congressional legislation, executive orders and the associated agency regulations implementing those laws. A series of legislation had been passed as of the writing of the 2007 thesis, including USA Patriot Act; Terrorism Risk Insurance Act; Aviation and Transportation Security Act; Maritime Transportation Security Act; the Border Security and Visa Defense Act; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

McDaniel found that there were very few law school curriculums teaching homeland security as a distinctive area of law, but he predicted that would change.

Demand from the private sector for attorneys versed in this area of law was growing while laws and regulations continued to proliferate. As an example, his thesis notes that the TSA issued 167 pages of regulations on air cargo while the thesis research was underway.

"First, if homeland security is not yet recognized as a separate practice area, it will be, and probably soon," he wrote. "The continuing and even escalating number, and length, of the federal regulations promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security or one of its sub-agencies since 2002 will likely have a great impact on private industry."

Upon accepting the job at Cooley Law School, McDaniel had the opportunity to develop the kind of educational program his thesis predicted would be needed.

"That was the opportunity to put into practice and implement what I had been talking about at CHDS, -- the whole idea of homeland security law as a distinctive field," he said.

Since joining the law school McDaniel has developed a Master of Laws in Homeland Security program in homeland security law, a process that involved developing curriculum and garnering approval from the American Bar Association and the Higher Education Commission.

As part of that program he developed 12 courses that relate to topics in his thesis. And, he uses CHDS resources as he builds the program. McDaniel draws on the work of CHDS instructor Nadav Morag for a course on comparative government in homeland security and employ's Morag's textbook on the subject.

The courses mirror topics identified in the thesis as potentially distinguishable in the realm of homeland security law: Maritime Law and Admiralty Law; Practice before Government Agencies; Administrative Law; Federal Government Contracting; Physical Security of Facilities; Cyber Security; Information Security and Privacy; Risk Management and Insurance; National Security Law; and, Anti-Terrorism.

The school launched the Homeland and National Security Law Review, an online academic journal, in spring 2014 as a mechanism for academics and practitioners to write about homeland security law.

He credits CHDS programs and pioneering academic work in the field for setting a foundation for applying homeland security topics to law education.



### Related Information

Mike McDaniel's thesis [The Development and Recognition of Homeland Security Law](#)

More about the [Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School](#)

More about the [CHDS Master's Program](#)



“There is no question that this program would never had been able to get started without the education and guidance I received from CHDS,” McDaniel said.

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