



St. Thomas Law News

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME LAW STUDENTS!

The faculty, administration, staff, and returning law students welcome the new J.D. class of 2020. The fall class consists of a diverse group of students from many different colleges and universities. We are proud to say that, in times when many law schools have lowered their standards for their entering class, St. Thomas Law has continued to seek out and find the most qualified students. The entering statistics for the class of 2020 (LSAT, undergraduate GPA) improved in virtually all categories.

We also would like to welcome the new LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights students. The LL.M. students represent a number of different countries, and bring a passion for human rights and social justice to our campus.

CAMPUS EVENTS

August 22:	L & L Department of Justice, CPD-113 @ 12:00 p.m.
August 25:	Professionalism Day
August 28:	Student Organization Fair
August 29:	L & L SEC Student Honors Program, CPD-113 @ 12:00 p.m.
August 30:	Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.
September 4:	Labor Day (No School)

ST. THOMAS LAW: GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Karina Hidalgo-Gato (2L) worked as an Intern with the Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in Sunrise. CAIR-Florida is a non-profit organization that is composed of dedicated and concerned Muslim activists. The mission of the Florida Chapter of CAIR is to present an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to all Floridians.

Patrick Calixte (2L) worked as a Judicial Intern with Judge Patrick A. White, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami.

Arisnelvys Gonzalez, a 2017 graduate accepted an Associate position with Rubenstein Law in Miami, specializing in Plaintiff's Personal Injury Firm.

Nicole Soto, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate position with The Tarich Law Firm, P.A. in Aventura, specializing in Condominium and Real Property Law.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LUNCH & LEARN

On, Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 12:00 p.m., in CPD-113, Gera R. Peoples, Special Counsel to the United States Attorney, will visit campus to share internship and employment opportunities that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has to offer, including the Summer Law Intern Program (SLIP) and Honors Program for entry-level attorneys.

Students must RSVP to lbfernandez@stu.edu. Lunch will be provided.

INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW NO. 6 IN THE WORLD

The most recent *Washington & Lee Global Law Journal* Ranking (2009-2016) ranks our *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*, in terms of its impact, No. 6 worldwide from among all human rights law journals in the world. It bested long-established reviews such as the *Human Rights Quarterly*, the *Human Rights Law Review*, and the *International Review of the Red Cross*. Congratulations on the sustained quality work of the IHRLR team since its inception in 2005!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAY 2017 GRADUATES

We would like to congratulate the May 2017 graduates on successfully completing their degree. The valedictorian for the Juris Doctor students was Caroline Nuche.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

All first-year students who have not submitted their "Emergency Contact & Information Update Form" should stop by the Registrar's Office to complete the form as soon as possible. The form was part of your orientation packet. Additional copies of the form are available at the Registrar's Office.

HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER DEADLINE

The deadline to complete the online insurance waiver for this academic year is **Friday, September 8, 2017**. If you do not want the health insurance policy provided by the University, then you must complete the online waiver application at <http://ststudentinsurance.com/> by the deadline date.

The University's new health insurance plan (which runs from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018) is issued and administered by the Student Educational Benefit Trust (SEBT), and is underwritten by Aetna, which means that it maintains most of the providers and benefits offered by Aetna.

Please note that, in order to waive out of the University's insurance, you must be covered under a comparable health insurance policy. If you do not waive out of the insurance by the deadline date, you will be enrolled and billed for the school's health insurance plan, even if you have coverage. Each full-time student is automatically enrolled each year. Therefore, he or she must waive out of the University health insurance plan each year.

Law students that registered for less than 12 credits are **not** automatically enrolled in the insurance program. If a student who is taking less than 12 credits wants to join the University insurance program, he or she can do so by going online to the campus health website and enrolling in the health insurance program.

BOOHER INN OF COURT PROFESSIONALISM SEMINAR

St. Thomas Law was a Co-Platinum Sponsor of The Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court Professionalism Seminar Luncheon and Presentation held on May 30, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Fort Lauderdale. The Honorable John P. Seiler, Mayor of Fort Lauderdale spoke on Ethics and Professionalism in the legal profession.

FBA LUNCHEON

On May 2, 2017, the Honorable Adalberto Jordan, United States Circuit Judge, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, was the guest speaker at the Federal Bar Association's final Hyatt Luncheon of the season.

Judge Jordan provided court statistics and addressed many questions from the audience.

PALERMO PROGRAM MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

On May 22, 2017, more than forty 9th and 10th graders from Carol City Senior High School participated in the Honorable Peter R. Palermo Program Mock Trial Competitions at St. Thomas Law with their teacher, Asiah Wolfolk-Manning, Esq., Dean **Garcia** welcomed the group. Guest volunteer judges included Alumna **Eneami Bestman**, '15; Jeff James (Miami-Dade School Board Attorney); Jonathan Osborne (AUSA); Loreal Arcscott (City of Miami Gardens Attorney); Nexcy De La Rosa-Monroe (The De La Rosa-Monroe Law Firm, PLLC); and Shuntal Dean (Kubicki Draper). Special recognition and thanks goes out to Palermo Program President **Denise Pichardo** (3L), Vice-President **Cynthia Rosa** (3L), and Professor **Gary Kravitz**.

DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION "PUT SOMETHING BACK" AWARD LUNCHEON

On May 5, 2017, Alumni **Mark R. Brown** '00 and **Yohania Santana** '17 were recognized for their outstanding commitment to *Pro Bono* work at the 28th Annual DCBA and Put Something Back Recognition Luncheon. Yohania was one of two students who received the Outstanding Volunteer award for her work with Dade Legal Aid in the Domestic Violence Department. Mr. Brown is a Senior Supervising Attorney in the Family Law Department at Dade Legal Aid, and received the Robert L. Shevin Public Service Award.

NEW MEMBER-CANDIDATES OF THE ST. THOMAS LAW REVIEW

Please join the 2017-2018 *St. Thomas Law Review* Executive Board in welcoming the new member-candidates to the *St. Thomas Law Review*. The new member-candidates are **Diana Alcalá, Vanessa Baez, Nathacha Bien-Aime, Ashley-Ann Bryan, Akia Espinoza, Anthony Fernandez, Jennifer Garcia, John Jordan, Natasha Mathurin, Yesenia Rodriguez, Franklin Sandrea-Rivero, Jeremy Skinner, Christina Trueba, Cynthia Ventura, and Jamie Wilson**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MOOT COURT BOARD MEMBERS

The Moot Court Executive Board would like to congratulate the newest members of the team **Peter Abraham-Orejuela, Christina Ackemjack, Luis Arguelles, Hector Beason, Victor Borimonoff, Danielle Capitini, Manon Ferdani, Na'imah Lafferty, Riona Maharaj, Natasha Mathurin, Gabrielle McCabe, Jose O De La Cruz, Jesse Ochoa, Melissa Paniagua, Eric Rojo Dotel, Franklin Sandrea-Rivero, Dharma Sierra, Dung Truong, Yisel Villar, and Joel Walker**.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Susan Papagikos (2L) was appointed to the Florida Bar Standing Committee/Unlicensed Practice of Law.

Jessica Bracho (3L) had her article, "Oh, the Remnants of Sexism are Alive and Well: The Fear of Sexual Power," accepted for publication by the *Journal of Law and Social Deviance*. This was a paper written for her seminar, Sexual Identity and the Law, and also to satisfy her senior writing requirement.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ileana Garcia, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Lapekas Law, PA in Miami, specializing in Tax Defense & Litigation.

Bernadette Guerra, a 2017 graduate, was accepted into the LL.M. in Litigation and Dispute Resolution program at George Washington University.

Carolina Nuche, a 2017 graduate, was accepted into the LL.M. in Taxation program at Boston University.

Leighton Regis, a 2017 graduate, was accepted into the LL.M. in Taxation program at Northwestern.

Ryan Zagare, a 2006 graduate, accepted a position as an Assistant County Attorney at the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office. Before joining the County Attorney's Office, Ryan was an Associate and later a Shareholder at Kenny Nachwalter, P.A. in Miami.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Lenora Ledwon** is the author of the lead article in the latest issue of *The William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, with a piece entitled '*Breaking Bad*' *Contracts: Bargaining for Masculinity in Popular Culture*, 23 *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law* 397 (2017). (This journal is ranked a top ten journal in gender and the law studies).

Professor **Jennifer Martin** was elected to The American Law Institute (ALI). The ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law.

Professor **Leonard Pertnoy** was a featured speaker at The Florida Bar 2017 Masters Seminar on Ethics. The Masters Seminar on Ethics was held in June 23, 2017, in Boca Raton, FL.

Professor **Michael Vastine** is the President-Elect of the South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Some of his speaking engagements: *Essentials of Federal Court Litigation Practice*, a CLE Luncheon of the AILA South Florida Chapter, in Miami; *Immigration Litigation: Federal Court and Beyond*, presented by the AILA Central Florida Chapter and the Orange County Bar Association, in Orlando; *Effective Lawyering Under the Trump Administration*, a Teleseminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (National); three panel presentations at the AILA South Florida Chapter Annual Conference, in Miami Beach: *Strategies in Removal Cases; Litigation Roundtable; Habeas Corpus, Detention/Detainers and Stays of Removal*; and a talk on *Immigration, Deportation and Controlling our Borders*, hosted by the Sarasota (FL) Chapter of the ACLU of Florida.

Professor Vastine was also the primary author of an *amicus curiae* brief, filled on behalf of AILA in the Connecticut Supreme Court, in *Jerzy G. v. State of Connecticut*, presenting the question of whether equal protection demands that Connecticut courts retain jurisdiction in criminal post-conviction (including appellate) Sixth Amendment-related litigation, notwithstanding the physical deportation of the defendant during the period for asserting those rights.

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