2012-2013 FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST FOR LAW SCHOOL VETERAN STUDENTS

In order to facilitate the financial aid process, the Office of Financial Aid developed the following checklist to be used as a guide. In addition to veteran's educational benefits offered by the VA Administration, the Office of Financial Aid at St. Thomas University provides financial assistance to qualifying law students who are U.S. citizens and/or eligible non-citizens with a valid Social Security Number, in the form of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans. Eligibility for federal assistance is subject to meeting eligibility requirements established by the U.S. Department of Education. For additional eligibility requirements please visit the financial aid home page at www.stu.edu/financialaid.

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

1. **Apply for admissions** at St. Thomas University School of Law at www.stu.edu/law.

2. **Apply for Veteran's Educational Benefits.** For information on the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or the "New GI Bill," please visit www.gibill.va.gov and submit all required documents requested by the VA Administration.

3. **Additional Information on Veteran's Benefits.** St. Thomas University has created a web portal for students who are veterans. Please visit www.stu.edu/veterans for additional information and services.

4. **Request your Personal Identification Number (PIN)** at www.pin.ed.gov. Your federal student aid PIN is used to electronically apply for federal student aid and access your federal student aid records online. Your PIN serves as your electronic signature. Be sure to keep your PIN in a safe place.

5. **2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** on the web at www.fafsa.gov. The result of your FAFSA is called the Student Aid Report (SAR) and it summarizes the data you reported on your application. You will receive your SAR via e-mail confirmation. Please be sure to read and review this information carefully for accuracy. Should you need to make corrections you may do so electronically by submitting a FAFSA correction online at www.fafsa.gov.
   St. Thomas University's Federal School Code is 001468

6. **Loan Entrance Counseling.** Federal regulations governing the borrowing of Federal Student Loans require that all students receiving a Direct Stafford and/or Direct Grad PLUS Loan must complete a Loan Entrance Counseling. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford or Graduate PLUS Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete an Entrance Counseling online at www.studentloans.gov before your loans can be disbursed. You will only be required to complete the Loan Entrance Counseling once.

7. **Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN).** You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete a Stafford Unsubsidized MPN online at www.studentloans.gov. You may be eligible to borrow up to $20,500 per academic year through the Stafford Loan program. These loans are unsubsidized so interest will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 6.8%. This loan is subject to a 1% federal loan fee deducted at the time of disbursement. There is no credit check required and no payments are required while you are in school at least half-time. Several repayment options are available. You will only be required to complete this MPN once.

8. **2012-2013 Direct Stafford Loan Request Form.** You must submit this form every time you are requesting a new loan online at www.stu.edu/faforms. If you are completing this form for the first time, you will be required to create your own username and login. If you are requesting a loan for both the Fall and the Spring semesters be sure to select both terms on this form.

9. **Direct PLUS Loan MPN for Graduate/Professional Students.** In some cases, it may be necessary for you to request more than the maximum loan limit under the Stafford Loan Program. The Direct PLUS Loan program may allow you to borrow up to your cost of attendance minus all other forms of financial aid you will be receiving. This loan is subject to credit approval by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Interest on this loan will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 7.9% and a 4% federal loan fee will be deducted at disbursement. Although the Direct PLUS Loan enters repayment immediately after the loan is fully disbursed, you are not required to make payments while you are in school at least half-time. To apply for a Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students you must complete a Grad PLUS MPN online at www.studentloans.gov. You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. In some cases, you may be required to apply for this loan using an endorser. To learn if you will need to apply with an endorser, you may complete the "Request Direct PLUS Loan" Process online at www.studentloans.gov after May 1, 2012.

10. **2012-2013 Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Request Form for Graduate Professional Students.** You must submit this form every time you are requesting a new Grad PLUS loan online at www.stu.edu/faforms. However, before you request a Grad PLUS Loan you must first request a Stafford Loan (above). If you are requesting a Grad PLUS Loan for both the Fall and the Spring semesters be sure to select both terms on this form, and indicate the amount of loan you are requesting from the Grad PLUS Loan program.

Additional Documentation: In some cases, you may be required to submit additional forms of documentation such as: proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, income verification, copies of a valid Driver's License or Social Security Card, proof of Selective Service Registration, and/or proof of non-default before your financial aid request can be completed. Your financial aid file can only be processed once you have submitted all required documents. It is important that you submit all required documents in a timely manner to the Office of Student and Financial Affairs to avoid any unnecessary delays. You can view the status of your financial aid file online at https://bobcat.stu.edu.

Award Notification: You will receive an award notification shortly after your financial aid file has been completed. By accepting a loan as part of your financial aid package, you incur a binding obligation to repay the loan in full, including interest and any applicable fees. You can view your award letter and check on your financial aid status online at https://bobcat.stu.edu.

Your loan period is determined by the start date and end date of the term for which you are requesting aid. Funds for each term will be disbursed by the U.S. Dept. of Education at the beginning of the term. All loan proceeds will go towards paying your tuition and fees. If your total financial aid disbursements, including VA benefits, exceed your tuition and fees. St. Thomas University will issue you a refund.

Direct Deposit and Refunds: If after your financial aid payment has been received by the University your student account reflects a credit balance, a refund for the credit balance will be directly deposited into your personal bank account. To complete the Direct Deposit Form, please go to www.stu.edu/BASIC , select Forms, and complete the Direct Deposit Form. For assistance, please contact the University's Student Accounts Office at (305) 474-6977.

All unpaid balances are the responsibility of the student.

If you are or will be receiving tuition reimbursement from your employer, your Tuition & Fees portion of the Cost of Attendance will be adjusted accordingly. Please inform an Enrollment Specialist at B.A.S.I.C. Office prior to the beginning of the semester to avoid unnecessary financial hardship.

For information regarding the conditions of your financial aid award, including Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress, Dropping and Withdrawing, and Loan Repayment options please visit our website at www.stu.edu/lawfinancialaid.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

To assist you with your financial planning we have included the following Estimated 2012-2013 Cost of Attendance (COA) based on full-time enrollment (24 credits for the year). Your total financial aid award (including all scholarships, grants, loans, and other awarded financial assistance) cannot exceed the total COA based on your housing status provided on your FAFSA. These are estimated costs, it is strongly recommended that you review your individual financial needs before borrowing any student loans and borrow only what you need. When planning your educational costs, it is essential that you also plan for future repayment of any amounts borrowed.

Estimated 2012-2013 Cost of Attendance for Fall and Spring (August – May)

	On-Campus	Off-Campus	With-Parents
Tuition & Fees	$36,226	$36,226	$36,226
Books & Materials	1,250	1,250	1,250
Room & Board	16,380	14,072	2,707
Loan Fees	1285	1285	1285
Transportation	2,206	3,213	3,213
Personal Expenses	3,641	3,641	3,641
TOTAL	**$60,988**	**$59,687**	**$48,322**

Estimated figures are based on 2011-2012 tuition costs and are subject to change without notice

*As per federal regulations consumer debt (e.g. mortgage, car loans, personal loans, and credit card) cannot be included in the Cost of Attendance.

CHAPTER 33 YELLOW RIBBON

Students who are eligible for 100% Yellow Ribbon (Chapter 33) will receive up to $17,500 and up to $8000 Yellow Ribbon Match per academic year (July 1-June 30) in educational benefit to cover tuition and fees at a private university. Depending on your years of service, you may be eligible for housing and book allowance payable by Veteran's Administration. Your veteran's educational benefit is determined by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. For more information contact your VA Representative.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andres Marrero, Student & Financial Affairs Advisor
Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Room 101C
Phone: (305) 474-2409
Fax: (305) 623-2357
Email: amarrero@stu.edu

By Mail: St. Thomas University School of Law
Student and Financial Affairs Office
16401 N.W. 37th Avenue
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054
Via web: www.stu.edu/lawfinancialaid