

# ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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## EXTERNSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS AND CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES

St. Thomas Law offers a number of externships, internships and clinical courses that allow students to get real world experience, foster networking opportunities and explore areas of interest for possible post graduation employment. These courses are listed in the catalog. Statistically, students who engage in these kinds of activities pass the bar at a higher rate and have more employment options. There are deadlines for applying to some of the programs, and some of them require that you have clearance from the Florida Bar.

One of the exciting and unique opportunities available to St. Thomas Law students is the *Pax Romana* Internship at the United Nations in New York. Below, you will find an article by St. Thomas Law student Pia Lestrade Dahms, providing an overview of her early experiences at the United Nations. Students who are interested in this opportunity should consult with Professor Wolff for additional information.

### AN INTERN'S FIRST DAYS AT THE UNITED NATIONS HQ

By Pia LESTRADE DAHMS (*Guest Contributor*)

Life as an intern at the UN is a very busy one, but it is a different kind of busy from law school. As an intern at the Sovereign Order of Malta mission to the UN, my tasks include attending daily committee meetings, attending meetings in the General Assembly, researching various topics, and writing reports that we send to Rome. Right now I am working on a speech that we will deliver in the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Because the General Assembly is called to consider a lot of different issues, it allocates relevant items among six main committees. Even though the Sixth Committee mainly focuses on international legal matters, every committee and meeting is actually involved with international law and international conventions. Further, it is during committee meetings that relevant items are discussed, resolutions drafted, and decisions are presented for consideration at plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

The opening session of the General Assembly is generally a very busy time at the United Nations ("UN"), since many heads of state, heads of government, and other high level officials of the 193 member-states and other entities gather in the same place at the same time to make speeches on issues of particular concern. However, this year has been interesting because of the issue concerning the Palestinian bid for membership change. This has made the UN even more of a focal point worldwide, with people from all over the world watching to see which option Palestinian President Abbas would opt for.

The life of an intern at the UN also involves going to receptions. I have gone to receptions hosted by Honduras and by the Korean Mission. At these receptions, I stood one foot away from Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the President of the General Assembly for this session, who is from Qatar.

Aside from these exclusive events, there is a strong UN intern community. The interns have a Social Committee, which posts weekly events ranging from intern lunches, "networking" events, debates, etc. The Social Committee is also in charge of coordinating a picture of the interns with the Secretary-General. Apart from the intern activities, the UN also offers classes in language, pilates, ballet, etc.

Outside of the UN community and premises, New York City offers countless types of events. I have been to a multitude of

different events ranging from gallery openings, Rotary International Breakfast events hosting diplomats, a Rotary lunch at the Harvard Club, Pax Romana events, Fashion Night Out, and the U.S. Open.

Looking back on the first few weeks of my internship at the United Nations ("UN"), I have seen and experienced quite a lot of wonderful things.

## THE DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION YLS SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENT

The Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, FICPA's Young Certified Public Accountants, and the Dade County Medical Association are sponsoring a Social Networking Event. This event will take place Thursday, November 10, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Epic Hotel, Kyma Lounge, 270 Biscayne Boulevard Way Miami, Florida. Features include a full liquor open bar and passed hors d' oeuvres (drink specials thereafter).

There is a \$10 cover per person at the door to attend the social networking event. For more information, please e-mail Monica Ospina at [mospina@cbh.com](mailto:mospina@cbh.com). Anyone interested in attending this event should RSVP to [www.dadecountybar.org/111011ylsne.php](http://www.dadecountybar.org/111011ylsne.php)

The social networking event is co-sponsored by Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP and Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC.

## FAWL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) is offering several limited scholarships to law students who have made or seek to make contributions to the community in the areas of health, safety, human rights or human welfare. Males, as well as females, are eligible for the scholarships.

The deadline for the application is **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**. Completed applications should be return to Laura K. Wendell, c/o Elizabeth Osorio, [eosoria@wsh-law.com](mailto:eosoria@wsh-law.com), Scholarship Co-Chair, or mailed to Laura K. Wendell, c/o Elizabeth Osorio, 2525 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables, FL 33134. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Laura K. Wendell at (305) 854-0800.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: HIGH PROFILE CASES, MEDIA AND THE LAW

The law school community is invited to attend a panel discussion entitled: *High Profile Cases, Media and the Law* on **Thursday, November 3 at 5:30 PM** in the Moot Court Room. St. Thomas Law School Dean Douglas Ray will be moderating the panel. The panelist will be Professors Tamara Lawson, who has written on the "C.S.I. effect" how unrealistic media representation of "evidence" has caused some juries to expect too much. Joining Professor Lawson on the panel will be alumnus, Jose Baez (1997). Mr. Baez was the defense counsel in the high profile case involving Casey Anthony, has appeared on *Nightline* and *Good Morning America*, and became an instant "celebrity" attorney following Ms. Anthony's acquittal. The Panel will address how media scrutiny can impact litigation and the difficulties and constraints imposed upon an attorney when a case is closely scrutinized by the media.

## ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC LAW SOCIETY (STMCLS) TOY DRIVE

STMCLS is collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots to distribute to kids who would not receive any toys. The holiday season is about giving, especially to those less fortunate. Place your donations in the Toys for Tots boxes located around campus. The boxes will be on campus November 1 through December 9, 2011.

Little kids should never have to go without. Spread the Holiday spirit this season. HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM STMCLS!