

# ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA TO VISIT ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will be visiting St. Thomas University on November 15, 2011. He will be participating in an academic convocation on that morning involving the entire University community and discuss the role of a Catholic Law School and then will address the law students in a special session in the afternoon. The events will take place at the Fernandez Center. More information will be provided in the near future with regard to specific times of the events and the adjustment to class schedules.

## NEW TAX LAW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM APPROVED

St. Thomas Law has developed an excellent reputation in the area of tax law. In fact, our graduates are "over represented" in acceptances to the top LL.M. (Taxation) programs and pursue careers with the top tax firms. Virtually all attorneys can benefit from a familiarity with the basics of Federal tax law. To provide a mechanism that serves to provide St. Thomas law student with a foundation in the essentials of tax law, the faculty has approved a new Tax Law Certification program. Graduates will be able to obtain a Certificate in Tax Law by successfully completing Federal Income Taxation (Law 812), Federal Estate and Gift Taxation (Law 901), and Corporate Taxation (Law 903). In addition to these required courses, students seeking the Certificate must take at least one of the following electives: Estate Planning (Law 902), Selected Issues in Taxation (Law 916), Comparative International Taxation: Aspects of Law & Policy (Law 953), Partnership Taxation (Law 907), Legal Accounting (Law 910), Family Wealth Management (Law 885), Tax Clinic (Law 911), or Advanced Problems in Taxation (Law 899A). To qualify for the Certificate, the student also must complete a skills component, which can be met by either taking the Tax Clinic (Law 911) or completing at least 25 hours of *pro bono* work through the St. Thomas Law/VITA Program. Last, the student also must attend at least two continuing legal education (CLE) seminars that qualify for credits awarded by the Tax Section of the Florida Bar. All of these requirements (the required classes, the additional required elective class(es), the skills requirement, and the CLE requirement) must be completed prior to graduation. No substitutions are allowed. The student must apply for the certificate at least three weeks prior to graduation, and the student must seek approval for the Certificate from Professor Mark Wolff.

## NEW COURSES AVAILABLE FOR SPRING REGISTRATION

New courses have been approved by the faculty and added to our curriculum. New courses available on the Spring 2012 schedule are Commercial Law Survey, Complex Litigation, Entertainment Litigation, Federal Appellate Project, Guardianship Law, Natural Law Seminar, and Poverty Law & Economic Justice. Descriptions for these courses have been sent out by e-mail to all students and are available at the Registrar's counter.

Complex Litigation was approved as a 2 or 3 credit course. It is being offered as a 2 credit course in the Spring 2012 term.

Please note that the course previously called "Admiralty I" has been renamed. It is now called "Admiralty Procedure." Also, the Appellate Litigation Clinic now is called Appellate Litigation Externship. The Bankruptcy Clinic now is called Bankruptcy Externship. The Family Court Clinic now is called Family Court Externship.

New topics are being added to the Florida Bar Examination beginning with the February 2013 administration. Students now may want to consider taking Commercial Law Survey and Guardianship Law to help prepare for the Bar Examination. Other elective courses that include subjects currently on the Bar examination are Remedies, Sales, Family Law, Florida Constitutional Law, Florida Practice and Procedure, The Art of Lawyering, and Florida Criminal Procedure.

Students needing assistance with academic advisement should see Assistant Dean John F. Hernandez or Assistant Dean Barbara Singer.

## **FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are pleased to announce that Assistant Professor Michael Vastine was elected to the Board of Directors of the South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the largest AILA chapter in the country. Professor Vastine indicated that part of his motivation in running for the position was to elevate the St. Thomas Law profile among the immigration bar (and potential employers of our students). Last week, the South Florida Chapter of the AILA hosted a live Webcast at St. Thomas Law School.

## **FIRE DRILL PLANNED**

A fire drill is planned for the law school complex on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. It should be around 12:00 noon and last only about twenty minutes. Students in class at the time of a fire drill should gather their belongings, exit the class at the nearest exit, and proceed to the closest parking lot. The parking lots have been designed as "primary areas of refuge." Professors in those classes should ensure all students have evacuated. Students in the Breezeway should gather their belongings and exit toward the parking lots adjacent to the tennis courts. Students in the library should gather their belongings, take the nearest exit, and proceed to the closest parking lot. Students, faculty, and staff members located elsewhere in the building should proceed to the closest exit and then go to the closest parking lot. There will be administrators assisting with the evacuation in the main building, the library, and the annex building. The elevators are **not** to be used in the evacuation. If anyone is unable to exit using the stairs then he or she should remain at the closest stairwell, advise an administrator, faculty member, or another student of their location, and that person should report that information to any first responder. All students, faculty, and staff should remain in the safe zone of the parking lot until the all clear signal is given. Once the all clear is given, classes will resume.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Our annual Donor Scholarship and Law Day Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 3, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. in the Evelyn and George Goldbloom Convocation Hall. We will be honoring our named scholarship donors and their student recipients, and students evidencing outstanding achievement in academics. The Cali Book Awards for the outstanding student in each class will be given out during the luncheon. The luncheon speaker will be Scott G. Hawkins, the President of the Florida Bar.