



ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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ST. THOMAS LAW MOVES FORWARD IN FREDERICK DOUGLASS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The St. Thomas Law Moot Court Team competed in the Frederick Douglass Southern Regional Moot Court Competition in Birmingham, Alabama, and finished in the top three and thereby qualified for the National Finals in Washington, D.C., at the National BLSA Annual Convention March 7-11, 2012. More than 100 teams competed in the Regional Competitions, and our team is now one of 18 teams that qualify for the National Finals. This is an amazing accomplishment by our Moot Court Team members Kevin Bally and Keila Weekes, who were coached by Professor Robert Mensel, Alumni Moot Court member Victor Waite, International Moot Court Team member Lanessa Owens, BLSA President Robert Strickland, and Professor Stephen Plass.

FERRELL MOOT COURT COMPETITION RESULTS

Sunday, January 29, 2012, Howard University School of Law won the 2012 Susan J. Ferrell Intercultural Human Rights Moot Court Competition, narrowly edging out the team from Florida International University College of Law. The University of Virginia School of Law ranked third. The title of Best Oralist went to Kimberlee Martin (FIU), followed by Michael Licari (Valparaiso), Onaivi Momoh (Howard), Latoya Love (North Carolina Central), and Fatou Sanko (UM). The Best Memorial was written by Howard, followed by the University of Virginia, and FIU. The most illustrious competitor, from farthest away, was the team from the American School of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Dean Cece Dykas opened the ceremony honoring the winners of the event.

The Final Round was an exciting intellectual give-and-take conducted by an inspiringly hot bench consisting of Professor Nicholas Rostow (National Defense University), our very own Professor John Kang, and Danielle Boaz, Ph.D. candidate and LL.M. IHR Valedictorian of 2007.

The problem this year surrounded events akin to the Arab Spring; it also involved human trafficking in the forms of domestic servitude, mail-order brides, and the involuntary removal of organs. St. Thomas Law students did an excellent job of providing the forum for this competition. The problem was written in a special drafting course by our students Kristina Billan, Talle Gilmore, Pia Lestrade, and Marjorie Uzquiano. Talle Gilmore, Ferrell Competition Coordinator, organized the event under the guidance of Professor Siegfried Wiessner and Professor Roza Pati. Lazarita Chumpitazi took care of the key aspect of entering and totaling the scores, assisted by Mindy Clarke.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Spring graduation is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2012, at St. Thomas University in the **Fernandez Family Center for Leadership and Wellness**. Law school graduation registration begins on Monday, February 13, through Friday, February 17, 2012, at the law school Registrar's Office counter. Joint degree students must register with both the law school Registrar and with the university Registrar. The deadline for registering with the university Registrar is Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Jostens will be returning to campus to provide graduating seniors an opportunity to order individualized announcements and class rings. Jostens' individualizes announcements by imprinting graduates' names on the announcements. For those interested in purchasing announcements or class rings, Jostens will be on campus Tuesday, February 28, and Monday, March 19, 2012, in the **Evelyn & George Goldbloom Convocation Hall**, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Or you can go online to college.jostens.com.

Pictures of our graduates will be placed in the graduation program. We would like the program to include photographs of the entire graduating class. The law school will pay the sitting fee for each student, so there is no cost to you. We will have a photographer on campus taking graduation photos on Tuesday, February 28, and Monday, March 19, in the **Evelyn & George Goldbloom Convocation Hall**, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To help this process run smoothly, there is a sign up sheets on the **Student Organization Board**, which is located on the bulletin board next to the women's bathroom and down the hall from the Legal Writing Suite.

COMMERCIAL BAR PREPARATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO GRADUATES

You should start thinking about which Bar Review Program is right for you. As part of your graduation registration process, you will be required to complete a Bar Review Selection Form and submit it to the Registrar's Office. On this form, you will notify the law school of your Bar Review Program selection, which state bar you will be taking, and when you will be sitting for the Bar Examination.

The bar review programs options available to St. Thomas Law students are (1) BARBRI Complete Bar Review Program, (2) Kaplan Complete Bar Review Program, (3) Themis Complete Bar Review Program, (4) BARBRI Complete Bar Review Program PLUS Kaplan 3 day and 6 day Program, or (5) Themis Complete Bar Review Program PLUS Kaplan 3 day and 6 day Program. All of the programs make materials available to 1ls and 2Ls that allow students to review the types of material used by each program. Signing up to receive those materials from the various representative does not constitute making the election to use that program upon graduation.

If you have any questions, or to get detailed explanation of what the various programs offer, representatives from each program are available in the Cordero Breezeway, (Kaplan, Monday and Thursday, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.; Barbari, Wednesday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and Themis on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.). For questions regarding Kaplan, contact Ana Ramirez at ana.ramirez@kaplanpmbri.com; for BARBRI, contact Elyse Dubois at elyse.dubois@thomsonreuters.com; and for Themis, contact John Miquel at john.miquel@themisbar.com. Please speak to the program representative for a more detailed explanation.

Make sure you do your homework and thoroughly research which program will be best suited to your studying needs. Remember each representative is going to try to "sell" you on his or her program. Please note your selection is final upon submission and cannot be changed. Be a wise consumer, and pick the program (or combination, as provided above) that works best for you.