

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2014 AND WELCOME BACK TO CLASSES OF 2012 AND 2013

We want to welcome our approximately 255 new J.D. law students, the class of 2014, and the new students in the LL.M. in Environmental Sustainability and LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights programs to the St. Thomas Law Community. We also welcome back our rising second-year and third-year students. Under the leadership and direction of Dean Ray, a number of changes and improvements to St. Thomas Law have taken place over the summer and we are looking forward to the 2011-2012 school year.

We are pleased to have three new full-time faculty members as part of the St. Thomas Law Community. Joining us this year are Assistant Professor Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, Visiting Assistant Professor Alicia Hogges-Thomas and Visiting Assistant Professor Keith Rizzardi. Please see their biographical information contained on page 2 in this newsletter.

Also joining our community is Andres (Andy) Marrero. Mr. Marrero fills the newly created position of Student Affairs and Financial Aid Advisor, you can find out more about his role in this newsletter. We have a new on-site Office of Information Technology (OIT) assistant; Gaston Torres, IT Coordinator, can be found in the Computer Lab located on the second floor of the Law Library and is available to assist you with any IT-related questions or problems. Finally, we want to welcome Keyanna Hartley who was hired as the Executive Assistant to Dean Ray.

The returning students will notice that the Student Affairs, Admissions, and Registrar suites have been reconfigured and updated. We have added office space and now have additional space and staff to assist students with their needs.

The faculty suite space on the second floor has been reconfigured and new offices have been added.

We are pleased to announce that all of the copy machines and printers in the law school have been updated and replaced with new state-of-the art, high capacity units. This should make printing in the law library much more efficient. OIT has sent out instructions on how to use the new printers. If you have any questions or need assistance with the printers, see Gaston Torres, IT Coordinator, in the Computer Lab on the second floor of the Law Library. The University's OIT has improved and updated the wireless internet system. There should be improvement of wireless network connectivity now this upgrade should improve wireless connectivity. If you experience problems with your wireless connection when sitting in the breezeway, you should try moving to an alternate location in the law library or in a classroom. Also, students should limit the number of wireless devices that automatically access the wireless network and avoid accessing streaming video; these unnecessarily use up bandwidth and can impair other students' access. The final upgrades to the network will not be in place until the end of September. After these updates are made, the system should run more efficiently.

Please take a few moments to look through this newsletter for other information.

If you have any questions or problem, please contact the Law School Office of Student Affairs or email me at jhernandez@stu.edu.

NEW PROFESSORS' BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Marc-Tizoc González

Assistant Professor of Law

B.A., University of California, Davis

M.A., San Francisco State University

J.D., University of California, Berkeley

Professor González teaches and writes in the areas of property, poverty, social justice lawyering and Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory. His scholarship has been published in the *California Law Review*, *Harvard Latino Law Review*, *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy and Law*, *Seattle Journal of Social Justice*, *Florida International University Law Review*, and *University of Miami Interamerican Law Review*. He is a co-author of the American Bar Association report, [Diversity in the Legal Profession: The Next Steps](#), and a contributor to the forthcoming *Oxford University Press Encyclopedia of Latino/a Law, Politics and Social Movements*.

Professor González previously taught Property at the Golden Gate University School of Law, and law-related undergraduate courses for the San Francisco State University Department of Raza Studies and the University of California, Berkeley Department of Ethnic Studies, where he was named a Chancellor's Public Scholar, 2010-11, for his curricular innovation and scholarship about the history of San Francisco Bay Area legal advocacy organizations.

As an attorney, Professor González was active in the local bar, serving as an officer or director of the Berkeley Law Foundation, Centro Legal de la Raza, East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association, National Lawyers Guild (nationally and for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter), and San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association. As a staff attorney at the Alameda County Homeless Action Center, he represented individuals seeking federal disability and state welfare benefits and to dismiss infraction citations associated with being mentally disabled and/or homeless. He previously worked at Sundeen, Salinas & Pyle; the East Bay Community Law Center; and Kazan, McClain, Lyons, Greenwood & Harley, PLC, supporting litigation about inter alia asbestos, affordable housing, employment discrimination and trust administration.

Professor González is the treasurer of LatCrit, Inc. (the organization of Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory) and serves on the alumni advisory board of the *Berkeley La Raza Law Journal*, (where he previously served as an editor-in-chief). He is a member of the Society of American Law Teachers and the Law and Society Association and has delivered several continuing legal education workshops on affirmative action in education, and the elimination of bias in the legal profession.

His scholarship is available online via the Social Science Research Network, <http://ssrn.com/author=853428>

Alicia Hogges-Thomas

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

B.A., Harvard College

J.D., Harvard Law School

Professor Alicia Hogges-Thomas began her career as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Michael A. Ponsor. She later worked as an associate at Jones Day and Bryan Cave in Washington, D.C., where she practiced commercial litigation and antitrust law. Subsequently, she served as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Donald L. Graham. Her research interests currently include topics at the intersection of antitrust and patent law. Professor Hogges-Thomas teaches Civil Procedure and Business Associations. She received her B.A. from Harvard College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Keith W. Rizzardi

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

BA, University of Virginia (1991)

JD, University of Florida (1994)

MPA, Florida Atlantic University (1998)

Keith W. Rizzardi earned board certification from The Florida Bar in State & Federal Administrative Practice, serves on NOAA's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and twice chaired The Florida Bar Government Lawyer Section. An experienced litigator, he has appeared before the Florida Supreme Court and in Federal district and circuit courts from coast to coast. A former U.S. Department of Justice trial attorney in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Mr. Rizzardi also spent 11 years working on the Everglades restoration at the South Florida Water Management District, including nearly four years as a managing attorney. He created and maintains ESAblawg.com, an award-winning law blog discussing the Endangered Species Act, and he has published numerous articles in The Florida Bar Journal and the law reviews of Florida law schools. His areas of scholarship include administrative law, environmental law and the professionalism movement.

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY LAW FACULTY

All 2Ls and 3Ls should be aware of some new policies and procedures that were adopted by the faculty that may have an impact on your curriculum planning. All of these changes can be found in the new 2011-2012 Handbook.

As you all know most classes have a mandatory curve, with a range for the mean of each class. For example the first year courses all have a mandatory mean of 2.25 to 2.5. Prior to 2011-2011, grades of "D" or "F" were not used in calculating the mean. Beginning in 2011-2012 and going forward, the "D" grades and "F" grades (if applicable) will be used in calculating the mean of all classes. This means that if professors give low grades they will also be able to give a greater number of high grades to meet the mandatory mean for the course. It also will make the curves, true bells curves that do not disregard the lower grades. Note that no professor is required to give any "Ds" or "Fs".

We no longer have a separate "Residency Requirement." All St. Thomas Law students automatically meet the minimum residency requirements set out by the A.B.A. The requirement is met by virtue of the fact that we have a set curriculum required of all first year students, all J.D. students are required to take at least 90 credit hours, and no student can take more than 18 credits in the fall or spring or 9 credits in the summer. No student can graduate in less than 2 years.

Students should also be aware of a change that actually went into effect in 2010-2011. Students who graduate in the summer term (August) are no longer eligible to sit for the July Bar Exam. The summer term now starts later than it previously did and students who need to attend summer classes will not have completed all of the requirements of graduation prior to the administration of the July Bar Exam. Accordingly, students planning on taking the July Bar Exam must graduate in the spring term. The earliest Bar Exam that any student who graduates in the summer term will be able to take is the following February exam.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND FINANCIAL AID ADVISOR

Mr. Marrero will now be handling all aspects of Financial Aid for the law students. *Law students should no longer go through the University BASIC office for Financial Aid matters.* Mr. Marrero will handle the processing of all law student loans, assist with any problems concerning paperwork or documentation, requests for budget adjustments, provide on-going counseling regarding student debt, provide periodic in-house seminars on minimizing and structuring student debt, see to it that student scholarships are properly allocated, and assist and advise military-veteran law students with securing benefits that may be available. Mr. Marrero is a full time professional staff member of the Law School Student Affairs Office. He has broad experience in law student financial aid and we are pleased to have him as part of our Student Affairs team. His office is located in Room 101 in the newly reconfigured Student Affairs Suite, immediately adjacent to the Admissions Office, across from the Law School Registrar's counter.

Mr. Marrero can be reached at amarrero@stu.edu or 305-474-2409. To help us, help you, it will be important that you respond to any email Mr. Marrero should send you in the future. We are pleased to be able to provide you personalized assistance with your financial aid matters and confident that Mr. Marrero will make the process more efficient.

REMINDER REGARDING DESIGNATED SMOKING AREA

St. Thomas Law is a non-smoking environment. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas, the walkway between the Law Library and the Annex Building and the Outdoor Room Adjacent to the Annex Building and the Patio Area in the Front of the Annex Building .

DONOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE MID SEPTEMBER

Due to the generosity of our alumni and other donors, we have a limited number of donor scholarships available for St. Thomas Law students. The scholarships are listed in the catalog and scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500 for the school year. We will be sending out notifications regarding the scholarships and scholarship applications via email later in the semester. All students who meet the criteria for a scholarship are encouraged to apply.

NEW ROOM NUMBERS ASSIGNED

In order to create a more efficient way of designating a particular location in the law school, all rooms in the law school have been assigned numbers. In the near future you will see room numbers for all of the various offices and rooms. Some suites of rooms share a common number (for example the Student Affairs/Student Services Suite is Room 101). The renumbering resulted in the classrooms getting new numbers. The classrooms have been renumbered as followed:

| Formerly: | Now: | Formerly: | Now: |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2 | 102 | Computer Classroom | A111 |
| 3 | 103 | 1 | A112 |
| 4 | 104 | | |
| Moot Court Room | 108 | | |
| Library Seminar Room | 109A | | |
| Atrium Conference Room | 201 | | |
| 2-1 | 219 | | |
| 2-2 | 218 | | |

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

New 1L's who have not submitted their "Student Update" form should stop by the Registrar's Office to complete the form as soon as possible. We are required by the ABA to have employment status on record for each student for the academic year. The Student Update and Employment Status forms were part of your orientation packet. Additional copies of the forms are available at the Registrar's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are proud to announce that Raquel Moya is the St. Thomas law recipient of the 2011 Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship. She was awarded the scholarship at the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Gala, which was held on June 4, 2011 at the Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Marina. Congratulations, Raquel!

Every year the local chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) presents a \$1,000 scholarship to a student selected by the school as the top student in litigation skills or mock trial competition. William McHugh is the St. Thomas law student recipient of the ABOTA scholarship. Congratulations, William!

The St. Thomas Chapter of The Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division was recognized at The Florida Bar Annual Conference in Orlando, FL for the "Most Significant Member Services Project during 2010-2011." The project was named "Judicial Laugh and Learn." At this "laugh and learn" a panel of judges shared their funniest courtroom experiences off the record. This event was so popular amongst the students, that fellow Florida law schools are planning to do the same event in their schools. This year the St. Thomas chapter plans to add a twist to the event by having the judicial staff share their funniest courtroom stories. So be on the lookout for the date of the next STU Chapter "Laugh and Learn" as it promises to be an event not to be missed.