ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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DOMENICK G. LAZZARA NAMED LAW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

We are proud to announce that 3L, Domenick Lazzara, was named "Law Student of the Year" by Lawyers to the Rescue. Lawyers to the Rescue is a nonprofit organization committed to providing humanitarian and financial assistance to individuals and communities in times of crisis. Mr. Lazzara was cited for his tireless work on behalf of Miami's homeless community and successful efforts at recruiting law students to volunteer with Lawyers to the Rescue. His profile will be featured in national legal journals.

Mr. Lazzara is joined by several prominent members of the community including Bennett H. Brummer (Lifetime Achievement Award), Katherine Fernandez Rundel (Lawyer of the Year), and Judge Scott Bernstein (Jurist of the Year).

Mr. Lazzara is the President of the St. Thomas Law Mock Trial Team and Chairman of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity Mock Trial Committee.

In announcing Mr. Lazzara's selection, Mr. Spencer Aronfeld, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lawyers to the Rescue, stated it was hoped Mr. Lazzara's selection will bring some much deserved attention to the excellent caliber of St. Thomas Law students.

Complete information can be found at http://www.lawyerstotherescue.org/Lawyer-of-The-Year.html

ST. THOMAS LAW MOCK TRIAL TEAM PERFORMED WELL IN TWO COMPETITIONS

The St. Thomas Law Mock Trial Team continued to perform well in two competitions recently held.

The Chester Bedell Florida Mock Trial Competition held in Orlando, Florida, consisted of teams from every Florida law school. Twenty two teams competed, and the St. Thomas Law team of Jorge Garcia, William Hannon, Bill McHugh, Sean Ford, and Stacy Wohar made it to the semi finals. Another St. Thomas Law Team of Nicole Martin, Nazish Ahmed, Rachel Walker, and Ian Ward also competed and although not advancing as far still did a good job of representing St. Thomas Law.

The second competition was the Regional National Trial Competition held in Denver, Colorado. Out of 20 teams, the St. Thomas Law team consisting of Daniel Garza and Jenine Abdeljaber also made it to the semi finals. Another St. Thomas Law team, consisting of Guy Noa and Samantha Knobbe, also demonstrated skill and competency.

The St. Thomas Mock Trial Team is coached by Adjunct Professor (and St. Thomas Law alum) Michael Mayer. The coaching staff consists of trial attorneys Alex Stern, Tara Kawass, Jeff James, and Sara Marken. Professor Mayer felt that in both competitions, St. Thomas Law students continue to demonstrate the strength of the St. Thomas Mock Trial Team.

ST. THOMAS LAW REVIEW NAMES NEW FULL MEMBERS AND MEMBER CANDIDATES

The 2011-2012 *St. Thomas Law Review* Board of Editors would like to congratulate the following students on becoming **full members** of the *St. Thomas Law Review*:

Arbella Azizian, Lydia Butler,Trisha Colatorti, Stephanie De La Rosa, Nicholas Ferreiro, Tracey Foglia, Joshua Forman,Christian Garcia, Stephanie Jimenez, Chelsea Jones, Jennifer Lopez, Nicole Loughlin, Rachel Lyons, Susan Martinez, Justina Martynaityte, Stephanie Michel, Alexandra Nagorzanski, Krysten Pogue, Jaimie Quinn, Madelyn Rodriguez, Bethany Ruiz, Joshua Simon, Erik Willman, and Yanina Zilberman.

They also would like to congratulate the following students on becoming **member candidates**:

Stephen Consuegra, Brian Guy, Marbely Hernandez, Katerine Lopez, Ashley Moussa, Guy Noa, Daniella Pineros, Cory Rosenberger, Andrew Roth, Florence Rubio, and Rachel Walker.

SPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN TAX LAW

Starting this semester, the St. Thomas University School of Law will be offering its students the opportunity to participate in the Tax Law Certification Program. Thanks to the efforts of Professor Mark J. Wolff in spearheading this program, law students will now be able to receive a Tax Law Certificate. In order to receive the certificate, students must take a minimum of 12 credits including Federal Income Taxation, Federal Estate & Gift Taxation, and Corporate Taxation. In addition to the required courses, students **must** take at least **one** of the following elective courses: Estate Planning, Selected Issues in Taxation, Comparative International Taxation: Aspects of Law and Policy, Partnership Taxation, Legal Accounting, Family Wealth Management, Tax Clinic, or Advanced Problems in Taxation.

Additionally, students **must** complete **one** of the following: the Tax Clinic, volunteer at least twenty-five hours with the St. Thomas Law/VITA Program, or attend at least two CLE seminars that qualify for credits awarded by the Tax Section of the Florida Bar.

ALEX A. HANNA LAW LIBRARY & STAFF PROFILED IN THE 2011 OCLC ANNUAL REPORT

The Alex A. Hanna Law Library and its staff were recently profiled in the 2011 Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Annual Report recounting their transition to the new library system, Worldshare Management Services (WMS). OCLC is a nonprofit, membership, library organization that serves libraries worldwide. In 2009, the Law Library decided to upgrade its current Integrated Library System, which was more than ten years old. Roy Balleste, Library Director, began his search for the best available product on the market. He wanted a system that provided an optimal search experience for faculty, students, and visitors, while keeping downtime to a minimum during necessary repairs and software updates. In late 2010, OCLC began to deploy its new system, WMS, and the Law Library became an early adopter. The migration was completed, and the Library went live with WMS in June 2011.

SAVE THE DATE

The 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 recipients. Book awards also will be presented during the luncheon. The luncheon speaker will be Scott G. Hawkins, the President of The Florida Bar.