



ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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SHOULD I TAKE SUMMER CLASSES?

As the spring semester progresses, many student begin considering whether they should take classes in the summer. In last week's newsletter, we provided information about the St. Thomas Law and Barry Law Summer-in-Spain Program. That is a good option for students who want to combine some travel and cultural enrichment and still be able to earn credits during the summer. Students also have the option of visiting at other law schools or taking summer abroad programs sponsored by other ABA accredited law schools.

Taking classes during the summer here at St. Thomas Law does have some advantages. All rising 2Ls are required to take Appellate Advocacy, Constitutional Law I, Criminal Law, and Professional Responsibility (plus at least three other credits) in the fall term. A student can take any of these required classes in the summer instead (but still needs to take a minimum of fourteen credits in the fall). Taking summer classes at St. Thomas Law frees up course selection options for rising 2Ls. In order to graduate in three years, students must take approximately fifteen credits each spring or fall term. By taking summer classes, a student can enable him or herself to take a lesser number of credits (but not below twelve) in a fall or spring term. There are some clinics, internships, and externships available in the summer, but the deadline for applying for those was February 16th. Joint degree candidates must plan on taking summer classes in order to complete both degree requirements in three years.

Financial Aid is generally available for students for the summer term if the student otherwise qualifies for financial aid. However, students must take at least three credits in the summer to qualify for any student financial aid. Other than the need to qualify for financial aid, there is no minimum number of credits that must be taken in the summer; however, students can never take more than nine J.D. credits in the summer term. Tuition in the summer term is based on a per credit hour charge (\$1,272 per credit) and a \$250 student service fee. The term runs seven weeks. This coming summer, it starts on May 23, and the last day of finals is July 25. Please note classes in the summer meet for twice the number of class minutes per week as in the fall or spring. Therefore, very few absences are allowed for summer classes.

If you have specific questions or need additional assistance with academic planning, please see Assistant Dean for Student Affairs John F. Hernandez or Assistant Dean for Academic Support Barbara Singer. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Cece Dykas can assist you with questions or concerns regarding clinics, externships, and internships.

CAREER SERVICES OFFICE PRESENTS DEAN RAY'S ADVANCED INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

Join Dean Ray on Monday, February 27, 2011, from 12:15 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. in Room A-111. Dean Ray will teach students how to succeed in a law office interview including how to prepare, how to make a good first impression, how to respond to questions, how to ask good questions, and how to follow up. Please R.S.V.P. to Jessie Howell at jhowell@stu.edu; lunch will be provided.

ADMITTED STUDENT FACULTY PANEL

Please join the Admissions Department in welcoming admitted 2012 students on campus, Thursday, March 1, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., for the Admitted Student Faculty Panel. Admitted students will get a chance to meet current faculty, tour the campus, and ask questions regarding the school.

SPRING DATES

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| February 28 | Graduation Photos |
| March 5 –March 9 | Spring Break |
| March 19– March 20 | Graduation Photos |
| April 3 | Law Day Luncheon |
| April 4 | Friday Classes Meet |
| April 5-6 | Easter Break |
| April 26 | Last Day of Classes |
| April 27 – 29 | Reading Days |
| April 30 – May 10 | Final Exam Period |
| May 12 | Graduation Ceremony |



SBA SPONSORS FIRST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE CLASSES

On Sunday, February 26, 2012, the Student Bar Association will be hosting the First Annual "Battle of the Classes." The Battle of the Classes will involve competitions between participants from each the J.D. classes graduating in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Each of the classes' "brawn" will be tested in head-to-head sports competitions including basketball, kickball, tennis, dodge ball, and an obstacle course. The will also be "Trivial Pursuit"-type competitions to test the brain power of the class participants. Each registrant will receive a class-designating t-shirt. Although registration is closed, other students are encouraged to come out and support their classmates. The competitions will take place in and adjacent to the Fernandez Center and in the Law School. Registrants should sign in at the Law School Breezeway beginning at 11:00 a.m. Competitions will run through out the day until about 3:00 p.m. A complete schedule of events will be sent out by the Student Bar Association.