ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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ST. THOMAS LAW TRIAL TEAM WINS "BEST CLOSING" TEAM AT NOVA

The St. Thomas Law Trial Team won the Nova Closing Argument "Mock Madness" Competition held on March 25 and 26, 2012. This is the fourth year in a row that the St. Thomas Law Trial Team has won Best Team at the Competition. In addition, Sean Ford took home 1st place in the competition, earning the "Best Closer" award in the Mock Madness Closing Argument. This is the third time the St. Thomas Trial has won Best Closer in the last four years. The final round was a head-to-head battle with St. Thomas Law Teammate Ian Ward who took home 2nd place in the competition.

MEDIA AND LAW SYMPOSIUM TO BE HOSTED AT ST. THOMAS LAW

On March 30, the St. Thomas Law Review and the Daily Business Review will host a symposium titled *Media and the Law: Adjusting Trial Strategy in Light of Media Portrayal and Public Perception*. The symposium will focus on how judges, litigants, and members of the media face an increasing number of challenges regarding public influences and potential jury misconduct as technology advances. Tickets are $25; the program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and include breakfast, lunch, and an evening reception. Credits for Continuing Legal Education are pending approval with the Florida Bar.

The luncheon will feature keynote speaker Professor Charles Nesson, Weld Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Founder and Faculty Director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Professor Nesson will discuss the use of the internet in the courtroom.

The symposium will also include three panels and will be moderated by Benedict P. Kuehne of the Law Offices of Benedict P. Kuehne, P.A. Each panel will be comprised of three to four members of the legal profession who have faced challenges in their handling of high-profile cases as a result of media coverage and exposure, and members of the media who inform the public of such cases.

2012-2013 ST. THOMAS LAW STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

The St. Thomas Law Student Bar Association (SBA) recently held election and new officers were elected by the student body. The new officers are: President: **Jacqueline Bowden**, Vice President: **Rachel Walker**, Treasurer: **Francoise Blanco**, and Secretary: **Jessica Klein**.

The students also selected the Outstanding Professors (first year and upper level), Outstanding Staff Member, and Student Organizations of the year and the results are as follows: Outstanding First Professor: **Professor Robert Mensel,** Outstanding Upper Level Professor (tie): **Professor Amy Ronner** and

Professor John Kang, Outstanding Staff Member: **Amar Patel**, Honor Organization: **Moot Court**, and Organization: **Tax Law Society/VITA** of the Year.

2012-2013 ST. THOMAS LAW MOOT COURT EXECUTIVE BOARD

The St. Thomas Law Moot Court Board is please to announce their newly elected 2012-2013 executive board: President: **Victoria Llerena**, Executive Vice President: **Alexander Dowding**, Vice President of Membership: **Zac Rich** and **Sabrina Velarde**, Secretary: **Justina Martynaityte**, Treasurer: **Leo Silveira**, Competition Chair: **Francis Carbone,** and Alumni Chair**: Gregory Vinogradsky**.

2012-2013 ST. THOMAS LAW *INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW* EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are pleased to announce the newly elected Executive Board for the St. Thomas Law *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*. The *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* Executive Board for 2012-2013 is Editor-in-Chief: **Alexandra Salvador**, Managing Editor: **Andres Vazquez**, Executive Editors: **Isabella Poschl** and **Sarah Dunaway**, Article Procurement Symposium Editor: **Lauren Smith**, and Student Articles Editor: **Mindy Clarke**.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Amy D. Ronner**, recently published a new article, "Does Golyadkin Really Have a Double? Dostoevsky Debunks The Mental Capacity and Insane Delusion Doctrines," in 40 *Capital University Law Review* 1 (2012). Professor Ronner presented the paper at the Georgetown 2012 International Conference on Law and Narrative.

On March 6, 2012, at the American Society for Public Administration's Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Professors **Alfred Light** and **Keith Rizzardi** joined two senior officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service to host a "best practices workshop" on the use of social media by federal advisory committees. The presentations surveyed the language of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the challenges presented by public access to FACA committees, and then explored the specific social media tools used by federal administrators and communications officers to fulfill FACA's public access goals. Professors Light and Rizzardi also took the opportunity to introduce many governmental and academic attendees of the ASPA Conference to the Environmental Sustainability LLM Program at St. Thomas University.

On March 8, 2012, Professor **Roza Pati** was the keynote speaker at the University of Dayton's *Consciousness Rising* - an annual social justice convention that raises interdisciplinary awareness about human trafficking and empowers students to learn about real world issues, work toward practical solutions, and serve one another as civically engaged citizens. At Sears Recital Hall, 200 students and faculty attended Professor Pati's keynote address, titled *Law, Policy, and Politics of Human Trafficking — and the Clarion Call to End It*. Questions and answers followed.

JEWISH LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION PASSOVER SEDER

The St. Thomas Law National Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA) will be holding its annual Passover Seder on Monday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Presidential Dining Room. This room is in the same building as the undergrad cafeteria and the bookstore. A rabbi will participate to teach and discuss the traditions of Passover. All students and faculty are welcome to attend. Any questions should be submitted to Aaron Gray (agray@stu.edu).