

# ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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## PROFESSOR WIESSNER RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR IN FIELD OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

We are pleased to announce that Professor Siegfried Wiessner's article, "Rights and Status of Indigenous Peoples: A Global Comparative and International Legal Analysis," was included in the top 25 law review articles that have been cited concerning Indian law and Indian rights. The list is impressive and includes the work of some of the most highly regarded scholars in legal education today. Professor Wiessner's article was published in 1999 in the Harvard Human Rights Journal and has been cited 90 times. You can find the complete list of articles at this link: <http://turtletalk.wordpress.com/2011/08/08/top-25-most-cited-federal-indian-lawtribal-law-articles/>

## DEADLINE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER IS SEPTEMBER 1

The deadline to complete the online insurance waiver is September 1, 2011. If you do not want the health insurance policy provided by the University, then you must complete the waiver online. You can access the waiver by going to the University Home Page, then look at the top, and click on "Student Life," at the drop down menu click on "Health and Wellness," and then click on the link that says "Waiver Option." You must complete sign on and complete the waiver process. Please note that in order to waive the University's insurance, you must be covered under a comparable health insurance policy. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact the Head of Campus Health, Nellie Baez, at [nbaez@stu.edu](mailto:nbaez@stu.edu). If you do not complete the waiver process prior to the deadline then you will be enrolled in the University's policy, even if you have coverage. Changes in Federal law allow students to be covered on their parent's policies for a longer period of time. If you are not sure whether you are covered under your parent's policy, you should investigate that as soon as possible.

Also, if you do not want the health insurance provided by the University, you can shop for policies by other carriers. All J.D. students can join the Law Student Division of the A.B.A. and acquire a policy through the A.B.A.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION FAIR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

The Student Organization Fair will be held in the Breezeway on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Additional information will be sent out from the SBA. Any organization that wishes to participate in the Student Organization Fair next week should e-mail Vice-President of the S.B.A. Joe Hunt at [jhunt@stu.edu](mailto:jhunt@stu.edu).

The Student Organization Fair is an opportunity for new and returning students to learn about the various student organizations at the law school.

# **MOOT COURT TEAM BUILDS ON SUCCESSFUL RECORD**

## **St. Thomas University School of Law Student Wins Best Individual Oral Advocate at 2011 Zehmer National Moot Court Competition**

The St. Thomas University School of Law Moot Court Team recently competed in the E. Earle Zehmer National Moot Court Competition in Orlando, Florida. Fourteen teams participated in this competition dealing with workers compensation issues.

St. Thomas University School of Law was given the opportunity to compete in this national tournament when another school dropped out of the competition at the last minute. We were given 48 hours to assemble a team of two competitors and a student coach. In a testament to the dedication and spirit of our Moot Court Team, within 24 hours Allari Dominguez and Michelle Narganes had volunteered to compete, and Victor Waite had volunteered to be the student coach. Although all the other schools already had been working on the brief for two weeks when we entered the competition, and notwithstanding an offer to grant us an extension of time to file our brief, our students completed and filed the brief by the deadline for all schools in the competition.

At the competition, Allari and Michelle went head to head in an epic battle with the Florida Coastal team that ended up winning the championship trophy at the end of the competition. At the conclusion of the final round of the competition, Michelle Narganes was given the award for Best Individual Oral Advocate. Michelle's receipt of this award continues the tradition of success achieved by our Moot Court Team over the last few years.

## **St. Thomas Law Team Advances to Semifinals in Orseck Competition**

On June 22 and 23, 2011, the St. Thomas Moot Court team competed against 11 other teams from the 10 other law schools in Florida. Our competitors were Kyle Teal and Shanna Valentine. Shannon Healy was our student coach, and she assisted Kyle and Shanna with the writing of the brief. For the first time, we also had an alumnus coach: Patrick Delaney, a 2010 graduate. The competition was held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel in Orlando in conjunction with the Annual Florida Bar Conference.

After the first two rounds on June 22<sup>nd</sup> against FIU and Florida Coastal, our team advanced to the semifinals along with FIU, Florida Coastal, and Stetson. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, our team argued on brief and off brief against Stetson, the defending Orseck 2010 champion. Our team performed exceptionally well in these two rounds, but Stetson advanced to the finals along with FIU. Stetson then won the final round.

Our team's performance at the competition was quite an accomplishment. We argued against all three teams that made the semifinals, argued once against the FIU team that made the finals, and argued twice in the semifinals against the Stetson team that won the championship.

## **Intramural Competition**

The Fall 2011 St. Thomas Moot Court Oral Advocacy portion of tryouts were Monday, August 8, 2011. Students were required to have an argument for the Appellant and the Appellee, the State of Florida, prepared. After two days of rigorous competition, the following students were selected as members of the 2011-2012 Moot Court team: Kevin Bally, Francis Carbone, Alexander Dowding, Alexander Esteban, Stephanie Jimenez, Agnieszka (Nicole) Kwapisz, Victoria Llerena, Jennifer Lopez, Stephanie Michel, Erin Pogue, Zachary Rich, Aaron Siddique, Marisol Vallejo, Sabrina Velarde, and Keila Weekes.

Of these fifteen students, Kevin Bally, Alexander Dowding, Stephanie Jimenez, Victoria Llerena, Zachary Rich, Marisol Vallejo, Sabrina Velarde, and Keila Weekes were named the "Top Eight" and asked to compete in the STU Moot Court Intramural Competition. On Thursday, August 11, 2011, at the Fall 2011 Orientation, the final round of the intramural competition was held. Retired Third District Court of Appeal Judge David L. Levy and Circuit Court Judges Peter Lopez, Ilona M. Holmes, and Daryl Trawick comprised the panel for the final two students Victoria Llerena and Zachary Rich. By a unanimous decision, Victoria Llerena was named "Top Oralist" in the Moot Court Intramural Competition.