

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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GRADUATION REGALIA SURVEY TO BE TAKEN

Some students have requested the law school change the regalia provided to law school graduates. Unlike most law schools, St. Thomas Law currently provides at no cost to each J.D. and LL.M. graduate a graduation gown, a mortar board cap, a tassel and hood. We purchase these for every graduate. So, each graduate gets to keep all of the regalia, and it costs him or her nothing.

Some students have requested that we switch to a tam-style graduation cap. A survey of law schools across the country shows that although some have adopted the tam-style cap, others use the mortar board-style cap. If you are interested in seeing the difference, you can "Google" the terms and look at images. A "tam" is velvet and sort of puffy, a "mortar board" is a flat square covered in fabric with a v-shaped cap attached. Unfortunately the tam-style hat in and of itself is very expensive and is associated with a regalia package that is cost prohibitive for the law school to purchase for each graduate.

As an alternative, if graduates really want a tam, we can rent the regalia for each graduate (including the tam), rather than purchase it. Most law schools do rent the graduation regalia.

Whatever decision is made will be made for the graduating classes in the foreseeable future. Therefore, we will be polling all law students to find out their preference.

If we rent (rather than purchase) the gown, tam-style cap, and hood then graduates will be required to turn in the regalia at the law school at the conclusion of the ceremony. Students would be able to keep only the tassel. If a student failed to timely turn in the regalia then he or she will be charged for the regalia (approximately \$300.00). Any "balance" associated with a failure to turn in the regalia will create a "block" on the student's account, which would preclude students from getting transcripts, dean's certificates, etc. There will be no balance, however, if the graduate timely turns in the regalia.

The survey will be sent out by e-mail. So, please complete the survey when it is sent out, and provide your feedback. We will be finalizing the plans for the graduation beginning with this December and going forward.

DONOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN

We will begin accepting applications for this year's Donor scholarships next week. The deadline for the applications will be October 31, 2011. Donor scholarships are monies donated by alumni and others to provide scholarships to current students. The amounts of the scholarships and the eligibility criteria vary. The amounts are generally between \$500 and \$2,500 for the school year, and the awards are generally split between the fall and spring semester. In some cases, the award is given entirely in the spring semester. Students are encouraged to apply for any (or all) scholarships that may be applicable. If a student is already receiving the maximum amount of cost of attendance by a combination of loans and/or scholarships, or both, then receipt of a donor scholarship acts to reduce outstanding debt; otherwise, the scholarship will result in a refund to the student (usually in the spring semester). Decisions regarding recipients are made by a committee, and the recipients will be notified mid-November.

Be on the lookout for the application and email regarding the scholarships and application process.

SUSTAINABILITY AND 21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

This is to remind you, James Strock, CEO of Strock & Company, will be the guest speaker for a one-hour seminar titled "Sustainability and 21st Century Leadership," on **October 11, 2011, at 12:00 noon** in the Moot Court Room. Students are welcome to attend this free event co-sponsored by St. Thomas Law's LL.M. in Environmental Sustainability; the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources; the Special Committee on Smart Growth and Green Buildings; and the Committee on Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Ecosystems.

GRADUATION PHOTOS

Students graduating in December will have only two opportunities to have their photos taken for the graduation program. The photographer will be on campus Saturday, October 15, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday, October 19, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the **Bobcat Hall of Fame (across from main cafeteria)**. To help this process run smoothly, there is a sign up sheet on the **Student Organization Board** located on the bulletin board across the hall from the Legal Writing Suite.

GUIDELINES TO ASSIST WITH SPRING REGISTRATION

Registration for the Spring 2012 term will begin in early November. Here are some guidelines you should keep in mind when you begin to register for classes. Except for students in one of the joint degree programs or students in their last semester who have obtained prior approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, all students are required to take at least 12 J.D. credits (and can take no more than 18 credits). Joint degree students cannot take more than a combined total of 21 credits from both programs during the course of the semester.

Fall 2011 entrants are required to take Civil Procedure II, Contracts II, Torts II, Property II, and Advanced Legal Research and Writing. Fall 2011 entrants remain in their same section and are automatically registered by the Registrar.

All other students are provided a registration date and time. Students register online by logging on to "My Bobcat" and then going to "Web Advisor." Students must register during their assigned time or otherwise wait until the open registration session that follows the designated registration times. Fall 2011 entrants are required to take Constitutional Law II.

Any student with an outstanding balance of \$1,000 or more is blocked from registration and cannot register until he or she reduces his or her balance below \$1,000. Students with outstanding balances should be working now with Andy Marrero and the Business Office to make sure they will be cleared for registration.

Some classes will reach capacity during the regular registration session. No overrides or exceptions are provided during the regular registration session. Students needing to take a particular class should attempt to register for another section of the class (even if the time is less convenient). Any student who wants to register for a class that is full will need to submit an override request form to the Registrar between January 9 and January 11, 2012 (the first three days of Drop/Add week). On this form, you will need to explain why you need (or want) to take the class that is full. You then will be advised prior to the Friday of Drop/Add week (January 13), whether your request has been approved. You need not seek the approval of the professor regarding the override; the Administration will do so if the override is otherwise able to be granted. Please note that some classes are limited in size due to the seats available, or the format, in which the class is to be taught, or both, so not all requests can be granted. Students should register for any section of any required course they need to take that is available. Remember that a student can modify his or her schedule at any time during the drop/add period. So, students should continue to monitor class availability.

Students planning on taking the Florida Bar should consider taking Sales, Remedies, Family Law, Florida Constitutional Law and Florida Practice and Procedure as elective courses. These topics are tested always (or frequently) on the Florida State Bar Examination. **Also, please note the Florida Bar has expanded topic coverage on the exam, and the topics covered in Juvenile Law and Commercial Law Survey also will be covered on upcoming Florida Bar Examinations. Therefore, we are offering these classes in the spring term.**

Students needing academic advisement or assistance should contact Assistant Dean Hernandez or Assistant Dean Singer and schedule an appointment.