



Mock Trial Team at the National Trial Team Competition

## ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

**Shardy Sanon**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with The Baez Law Firm in Miami (see p. 4).

**Erika Streim**, a 3L student, accepted a Law Clerk position with the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office (see p. 4).

**Daylin Farinas**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Eddy Leal, P.A. in Miami (see p. 4).

## COMMERCIAL BAR PREPARATION PROGRAM SELECTION FOR SPRING GRADUATES

All 3Ls who plan to take the July 2017 Bar examination following graduation need to make a Bar Preparation Program selection by submitting a Bar Review Selection Form to the Law School Registrar's Office. You can pick any ONE of the following three options: BARBRI Bar Review Program, KAPLAN Bar Review Program, or THEMIS Bar Review Program.

You must notify the Law School Registrar of your final and official selection (or make any modifications to the selection that you have already made) by **Friday, March 3, 2017**. We will not be able to make any modifications to your selection after that date, so make sure you finalize your selection by 5:00 p.m. on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. **After that date**, we will be invoiced and pay for your program, so **NO ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE**. Making an election with the representatives, or filling out their registration forms (which may be required by the programs), does not act as the election that you are making with the law

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- February 23:** Diversity in the Legal Field L & L, Room 104 @ noon
- February 25:** VITA Tax Preparation, Hanna Legal Information Center @ 10:00 a.m.
- February 27 – March 3:** Human Trafficking Academy @ 8:00 a.m.
- March 6 & 7:** Graduation Expo, Convocation Hall
- March 8:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m.
- March 8:** CD Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ noon
- March 9:** Elder Law Symposium, Moot Courtroom @ 9:00 a.m.

---

school. The law school is going to pay for whichever program you have notified us you are taking by completing the law school form. Similarly, submitting the Bar Review Selection Form to the Law School **does not** automatically register you for your desired bar prep program. Be sure to contact the appropriate Bar Prep Program representative for registration requirements.

If you have any questions, or would like a detailed explanation of what the various programs offer, representatives from each program are available in the Cordero Breezeway on various days and times throughout the semester, or you may contact a representative via e-mail. For questions with regard to BARBRI, contact Madison Nesbitt at [madison.nesbitt@barbri.com](mailto:madison.nesbitt@barbri.com); for Kaplan, contact Sabine Baptiste at [sabine.baptiste@kaplan.com](mailto:sabine.baptiste@kaplan.com); or for Themis, contact Nachman Gutowski at [nachman.gutowski@themisbar.com](mailto:nachman.gutowski@themisbar.com). Please speak to the program representatives for more details on each program.

Make sure you do your homework and thoroughly research which program will be best suited to your study needs. Remember that each representative is going to try to “sell” you on his or her program. Be a wise consumer and pick the program that works best for you.

Remember the **deadline** to submit your selection of one of the Bar Review Programs provided by St. Thomas University School of Law upon your graduation is **Friday, March 3, 2017**. You can submit the form in person at the Registrar’s counter or to Ms. Cathy Hayes in the Law School’s Student Affairs Office.

**Please note that your selection is final upon submission and cannot be changed after the deadline date. In addition to the Bar Review Selection Form, make sure to fill out the registration form with the appropriate Bar Prep Program Provider.**

## **ST. THOMAS LAW ALUMNUS APPOINTED CHAIR OF 11<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Committee on Professionalism has appointed **Armando G. Hernandez**, ‘10, a litigation attorney with Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell, to Chair of the Circuit’s local professionalism panel. These panels play an integral role in advancing the overall objective of improving professionalism in the Miami-Dade County legal community by providing an informal, educational process to address conduct inconsistent with the defined Standards of Professionalism and Civility. Each panel receives, screens, and acts upon complaints of unprofessional conduct by attorneys practicing in the Circuit.



“This is a wonderful recognition of Armando's commitment to professionalism and his leadership skills,” said Scott Sarason, administrative partner in Rumberger’s Miami office. “His impact on the legal community extends beyond the courtroom, as he is highly respected among his peers for his efforts to foster civil conduct in our highly competitive and demanding profession.”

Hernandez received the first-ever “Excellence in Professionalism Award” presented by the 11th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee in 2016. As an inaugural member of the local panel, he evaluated and presided over complaints and/or grievances. He also authored articles regarding panel matters, opinions, and decisions for the Dade County Bar Bulletin. He has also spoken on professionalism and civility as part of Professionalism Day, as well as for the Dade County Bar Bench and Bar Conference.

Hernandez’s legal practice focuses in the areas of product liability and casualty litigation. In his

---

product liability practice, he defends manufacturers and distributors of personal watercrafts, boats, boat engines, motorcycles, golf carts, ladders, and other products. His casualty practice consists of representing trucking companies, tractor trailers, and fleet vehicles.

Among his professional achievements, Hernandez has been recognized as a Florida Trend “Legal Elite Up & Comer” (2014-2015) and Super Lawyer's “Rising Star” (2015-2016). He was also honored among the Top 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers in South Florida by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Hernandez’s civic activities include providing hours of pro bono time to various efforts. He has worked tirelessly for the Venture Law Project, drafting manufacturing and supply agreements with foreign entities in Africa for a small start-up company. He was recently selected to serve on the Venture Law Project Advisory Board. Hernandez also participates with the Miami Dade Commission on Ethics on Ethical Governance Day, educating young students on the importance of civic duty. He also serves as President of the Peter T. Fay Inns of Court.

### **FIFTH ANNUAL ELDER LAW SYMPOSIUM**

The Elder Law Society invites the St. Thomas Law community to its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder Law Symposium entitled “The Future of Elder Law: How the Changing Demographics of the Elderly Community are Affecting the Laws Protecting Them. The symposium is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Moot Courtroom.” Breakfast and registration begin at 8:00 a.m. Anyone interested in attending the symposium must RSVP to [elderlawsociety@gmail.com](mailto:elderlawsociety@gmail.com).

### **FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL RECEPTION**

On February 9, 2017, St. Thomas Law students attended the 36th Annual Federal Judicial Reception, honoring the Federal Judiciary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. *St. Thomas Law was a Silver Sponsor.*



### **CLASS ACTION LITIGATION FORUM LUNCH & LEARN**

On February 7, St. Thomas Law students attended the Class Action Litigation Forum presented by attorneys **Frank Quesada** '06 (STU law alumnus) and his partner John Ruiz, founder of MSP Recovery Law Firm. The firm recently won a major victory in federal court, and the first of its kind nationwide, in which the court certified as a class all Florida Medicare Advantage Organizations who were not properly reimbursed by insurance companies for payments made on behalf of Medicare enrollees. In addition to discussing class action litigation strategy, Mr. Quesada and Mr. Ruiz took students through their careers, from law school to now, providing pointers on how to succeed.



---

## **ST. THOMAS LAW REVIEW NEW EDITORIAL BOARD**

Please join the *St. Thomas Law Review* in congratulating the incoming 2017–2018 Editorial Board. The Editor-in Chief – **Chanae Wood**; Managing Editor – **Elizabeth Irazabal**; Executive Editor **Becky Saka**; Articles Solicitation Editor – **Jennifer Weiss**; Executive Notes and Comments Editors – **Johanne Larosiliere** and **Frank Samitier**; and Senior Articles Editors – **Idelys Martinez**, **Amanda Spencer**, and **Jessica Vega**.

## **35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEDERAL SECURITIES INSTITUTE**

On February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, St. Thomas Law student **Leighton Regis**, '3L, was invited to the Thomson Reuter's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Securities Institute. Mr. Regis heard from speakers like Justice Leo Strine, Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, who spoke on ethics; Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock; and several other top experts throughout the nation, regarding new Delaware corporate law developments and anticipated deals that can significantly impact corporate transactions in the current calendar year.



Pictured: (Left to Right) Hector Lans, Gregory Yadley (Partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick), Curtis Alva (Alva & Gleizer, PLLC), and Leighton Regis.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Shardy Sanon**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with The Baez Law Firm in Miami. The Baez Law Firm offers clients legal representation in criminal defenses, civil rights, and civil litigation in south and central Florida, from Miami to Orlando to Tampa, and all points in between.

**Erika Streim**, a 3L student, accepted a Law Clerk position with the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office.

## **ALUMNI(AE) NEWS**

**Daylin Farinas**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Eddy Leal, P.A. in Miami, specializing primarily in commercial and real estate litigation and transactions.

**James E. Rauh**, a 2003 graduate, was promoted to Shareholder at Greenspoon Marder (Miami Beach) within the firm's alcohol beverage industry group.

## ***Faculty Announcements***

Professor **Siegfried Wiessner** participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference on the New Haven School of Jurisprudence at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, co-sponsored with Yale University and Tulane Law School. His lecture explored "New Haven in Context: A Critical Appraisal of American Classics in International Law." He also moderated a panel of distinguished scholars from Singapore, China, and Australia on discrete issues of international and domestic dispute resolution.

---

On October 27, 2016, Professor Wiessner gave a lecture on “Indigenous Peoples: The Battle over Definition” as part of the Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation, organized by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev & University of Haifa under the title, “The Legal Geography of Indigenous Communities: Negev Bedouins in Comparative Perspective.”

[Submit Information](#) | [Contact Newsletter](#) | [Past Issues](#)

