



ST. THOMAS
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

CLINICS

INTERNSHIPS

EXTERNSHIPS



ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD

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Founded in 1984, St. Thomas University School of Law is ideally located between the vibrant and diverse cities of Miami and Fort Lauderdale, home to major business, legal, entertainment, sports, and art communities. The School of Law includes a multi-level library, moot court room with amphitheater, well-appointed classrooms, and dedicated offices for student organizations.

St. Thomas Law is committed to not only teaching the law but also to developing our students into advocates with a commitment to service. Our students, faculty, and graduates are leaders who have major impact on local, national, and international communities.

Each year, our law students volunteer more than 22,000 hours of law-related, pro bono services to underserved communities, and our Human Rights Institute provides legal services to over 6,500 immigrants.

St. Thomas Law has been nationally-recognized for the sense of community among its students and the diversity of its student body. A shared commitment to professionalism and small class size make studying law at St. Thomas Law a unique and enriching experience.

St. Thomas Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

ST. THOMAS LAW SCHOOL LEGAL CLINICS, EXTERNSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

The St. Thomas University School of Law is committed to training students to be effective, ethical advocates and to instill in them a devotion to justice and a desire to provide legal services to underserved communities. As part of this commitment, the law school offers eleven clinical/externship courses with a wide variety of placements.

The educational objectives of the Clinical Program at St. Thomas Law are to facilitate opportunities for students to:

- Serve the public,
- *Explore* career possibilities in various areas of legal practice,
- *Gain* first-hand insight into the strategic and ethical dimensions of the profession, and
- *Acquire* valuable legal skills in a supportive educational environment.

APPELLATE LITIGATION CLINIC



Luis Arguelles

“Being in the Appellate Litigation Clinic has been the highlight of my law school career at St. Thomas. Getting hands-on experience with criminal appellate cases is an unparalleled experience, and has helped me hone my legal writing and oral advocacy. Because of the appellate litigation clinic, I am confident that I will be an effective attorney.”

The Appellate Litigation Clinic is a year-long clinic in which students have the unique opportunity to prepare and deliver oral arguments on real cases before the Third Court of Appeal.

Each student will work on two cases, beginning with the review of the trial court record for the cases, conducting legal research, drafting and filing briefs, preparing for oral argument, and arguing the case.



IMMIGRATION CLINIC

This is a year- long clinic available to second and third-year law students designed to provide the legal, ethical, and moral tools needed to give high-quality immigration services to the under- served community.

Students will represent asylum seekers, battered spouses and children, and other non-citizens seeking immigration relief in Immigration Court, and before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Department of Homeland Security.



Aleksei Voiskovich

“ It was a great experience working with real clients with complex and consequential immigration issues. The supervising attorney provided guidance that left me with a deep understanding of the legal theory and its connection with actual practice. I was able to participate in actual hearings in immigration court and represent clients before judges. This was key in preparing me for practice after graduation. ”

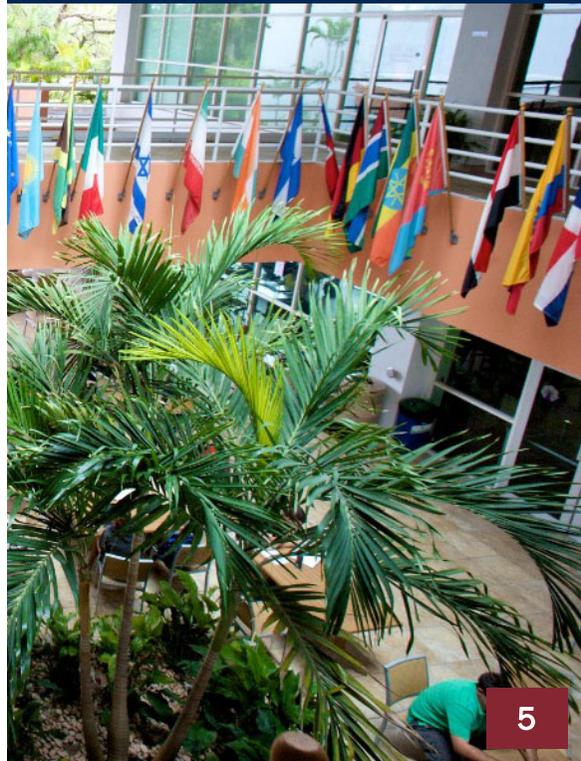
“My experience in the tax clinic was really great! I learned so much with hands on experience and training I received. And what was even better, I feel like I gained an additional family through the process - my tax family. I would, and have, advised many students to join this clinic. The experience will be priceless. ”



Ashley Ann-Bryan

This clinic gives students the opportunity to work with underserved communities and, under supervision, represent low-income clients involved in tax controversies before the IRS, the IRS Counsel, and the U.S. Tax Court.

Students perform outreach services by providing education on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. taxpayers to the community particularly those for whom English is a second language. Students are encouraged to attend Tax Court sessions. There is a required, weekly clinic class component.



CRIMINAL PRACTICE EXTERNSHIP

Placements in the law school's Criminal Practice Externship provide an intense exposure to actual trial experience and motion practice. Students assigned to the State Attorney's Office experience representing the State of Florida in criminal prosecutions.

Students assigned to the Public Defender's office represent indigent adults and minors charged with felonies and misdemeanor crimes. Issues often involve the legality of searches and seizures, identification procedures, or confessions along with defenses of insufficient evidence, mistaken identity, alibi, entrapment, or self-defense.



Erika Hernandez

“ My time as a Certified Legal Intern at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office has been one of the best experiences I have ever had in law school. I met incredible people who made me feel like family at the office and who taught me the nuts and bolts of the job. The greatest part was getting field experience and understanding the occupation. It was an amazing opportunity to learn about myself as a professional and an individual, but most importantly, it helped me realize that this is the field I am passionate about.”



CIVIL PRACTICE EXTERNSHIP

“ I was a Legal Intern for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) District Seven Legal Office. My experience with the Coast Guard has forever changed how I will select future employment. The environment was supportive, protective and respectful. Students will gain experience in a variety of areas of law. And, when students discover an area of interest, the office provides them with assignments, which build both their resume and their practical skills. Students will finish their term at this office with more certainty in what they want to study, and more practical skills in that area of practice. ”

The Civil Practice Externship provides an opportunity for students to observe and participate in lawyering at government agencies and non-profit, public interest settings. Typical placements include legal aid services, city and county attorneys offices, state and local government agencies, school boards, and healthcare facilities.

Participation enhances the development of a broad range of lawyering skills, helps students advance personal career goals, enables critical reflection of the legal profession and legal institutions, encourages self-directed learning through reflection, and promotes core competencies and professional values that produce skilled and ethical lawyers and professionals in our society.



Jaimie Carlson



BANKRUPTCY EXTERNSHIP

The Bankruptcy Externship is a single-semester externship that offers a comprehensive set of legal services focused on assisting and empowering low-income individuals in their interaction with the bankruptcy system.

Under the supervision of law faculty, the attorneys at Put Something Back and the mentors from the local bankruptcy bar, students represent debtors in bankruptcy cases and meet with judges and local practitioners, participate in several joint classes with other local law schools' bankruptcy clinics, and may be invited to attend events sponsored by the Bankruptcy Bar Association.

“Taking the Bankruptcy Clinic was one of my best decisions in law school. Both the course and clinic involved a decent amount of work reading what seem like obscure opinions, submitting weekly skills-based assignments, and attending various phases of bankruptcy court proceedings. I ended up using my exposure to the bankruptcy code and clinical experience to contribute on several client matters during my summer associate internship at Legal Services of Greater Miami.”



Dufirtson Neree

ELDER LAW EXTERNSHIP

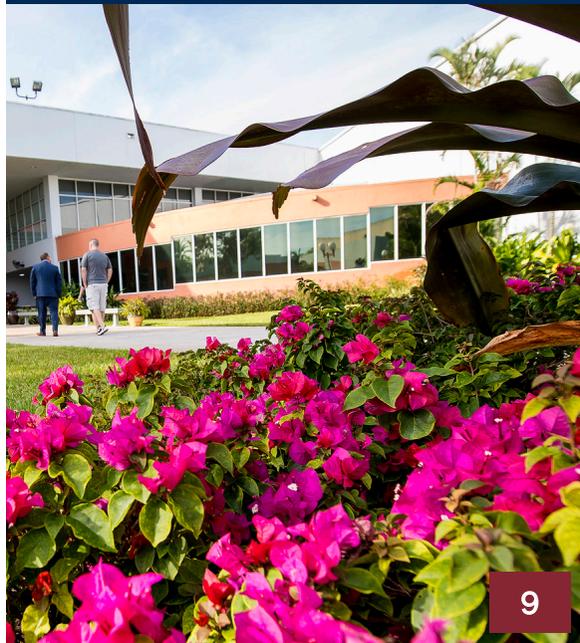


Vanessa Pressoir

The Elder Law Externship addresses the ethical and practical issues of representing the elderly. Issues include income maintenance, health care, long-term care, competency, guardianship, and probate.

Students will become familiar with the medical considerations of an aging population. Student are assigned to the Probate division of the Circuit Court and work, together with members of the Florida Bar's Elder Law section, to learn strategies and case management skills.

“The opportunity to work at the probate office in Miami has been one of the best experiences in law school. I was new to the area of probate, but the judges and attorneys at the office took the time to make me feel comfortable and help me understand everything that was going on. Whenever I had a question or concern I never hesitated to approach any of the staff or even the judges in that division because they accepted St. Thomas students with open arms. I recommend anyone who would like to experience probate in a real world scenario to participate in this clinic. You won't regret it.”



FLORIDA SUPREME COURT INTERNSHIP

During the Florida Supreme Court Internship, the intern functions as a law clerk to an individual Justice or as a central staff law clerk working for all of the Justices. Duties include reviewing and making recommendations on petitions for discretionary review, attorney disciplinary matters, and extraordinary writ petitions, conducting legal research, and preparing memoranda on pending cases.

The intern will have the opportunity to attend oral arguments, discuss cases with staff attorneys and the assigned justice, and assist in the drafting of orders or opinions. The intern also will attend special lectures, group discussions, and training sessions.



Catherine Yepes

“The moment I walked into the Supreme Court, I realized how fortunate I was to have this once in a lifetime opportunity. I gained invaluable insight into the meticulous work that creates the foundation of our judicial process. The work environment in the Supreme Court was nothing short of amazing, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity that St. Thomas Law provided me with.”



JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP

This is a single-semester internship that provides experience within the judicial system. Students learn about judicial decision-making and use their analytical, research, and writing skills to draft opinions and memoranda for pending matters under the direct supervision of judges, their law clerks, and staff attorneys.

By observing court proceedings, students become familiar with court procedures and legal advocacy. Placements include the state judicial circuit courts, the Florida District Court of Appeal, the United States District Court, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

“The Judicial Internship experience was the best thing I could have done to give me an inside view of the area of law I wanted to practice. I was selected to work with Judge Mindy Glazer in the 11th Judicial Circuit - Probate Division. During this experience I learned how to apply many of the legal aspects of my education into real practice. Not only was I able to review court documents, I had the opportunity to watch attorneys advocate for their clients. The Judicial Internship experience was priceless and I would recommend it to any law student who has the time to do so.”



Tyler Sanchez



UNITED NATIONS INTERNSHIP - NEW YORK

Located at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, the United Nations Internship is a residential, single-semester placement at Permanent Missions, inter-governmental organizations (IGO's), and non-governmental organizational (NGO's) credentialed to the United Nations.

The interns function as accredited representatives to the UN and follow major policy issues on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, Commission on the Status of Women, HIV/AIDS, Law of the Sea, International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, Human/Child Trafficking, and the Human Rights Council. Each intern prepares analytical reports on issues and a final in-depth research paper in one area, with these materials selectively published and shared electronically across the worldwide Pax Romana International network, through Pacem In Terris.



Sabryna Raymond

“ My short time at the United Nations deepened my knowledge about the intricacies of its structure and also exposed me to things I wouldn't have witnessed from the classroom. Although at the beginning it felt daunting, Ambassador Oscar de Rojas ensured that myself and the other interns assimilated smoothly into the UN. I truly enjoyed my time with the Order of Malta, and I highly recommend it for those interested in international law. The experience will give you the opportunity to network while also exploring aspects of international law that you didn't know about before. ”





Howard Blumberg, Esq.
Appellate Litigation Clinic



Professor Michael Vastine
Immigration Clinic



Professor Gordon Butler
Tax Clinic



Kenneth F. Noto, Esq.
Criminal Practice Externship



Magda Abdo-Gomez, Esq.
Bankruptcy Clinic



Timothy M. Martin, Esq.
Civil Practice



Jacqueline Schneider, Esq.
Elder Law



Mark J. Wolff
United Nations
Internship



Cece Dykas, Esq.
Florida Supreme Court
Internship



Judge Darrin P. Gayles
Judicial Internship



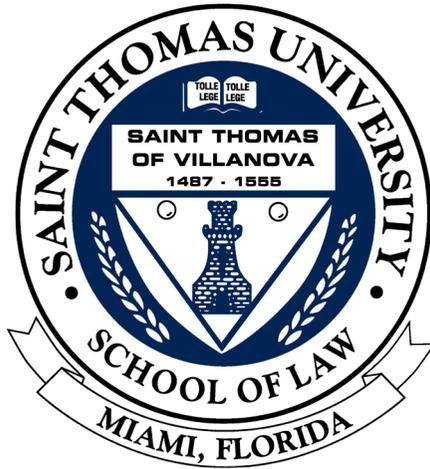
Judge Michele Towbin Singer
Judicial Internship



Judge Peter Lopez
Judicial Internship



Judge Marcia G. Cooke
Judicial Internship



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