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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS ENTERING ST. THOMAS LAW AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS LAW!

Congratulations! This is an exciting time for all of us at St. Thomas University School of Law as we welcome you to our family.

We know you are anxiously awaiting the start of your legal studies and perhaps wondering what you should be doing this summer before your arrival to St. Thomas Law. In response to student requests, we have created a number of summer programs to help you prepare for the transition into law school.

This newsletter highlights the summer programs that will be available to all of you this summer, and provides you with additional information that will be useful to you as you prepare for the start of your law school experience.

As always, if you have additional questions, feel free to contact us at admitme@stu.edu.

Again, welcome and congratulations!

Jessica Fonseca-Nader
Assistant Dean for Enrollment & Scholarships



ST. THOMAS LAW'S ADMISSIONS TEAM

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, March 10, 2018
Admitted Student Day

Thursday, March 15, 2018
Admitted Student Reception

Friday, July 20 - Saturday, August 4, 2018
Introduction to Legal Studies

Saturday, August 4, 2018
Admitted Student Picnic

Monday, August 6 - Thursday, August 9, 2018
Mandatory First-Year Orientation

Monday, August 13, 2018
First Day of Classes

Visit www.stu.edu/orientation
for more First-Year Orientation information.

CONTACT ST. THOMAS LAW

305- 623-2310
admitme@stu.edu
www.stu.edu/law/admissions

MESSAGE FROM DEAN ALFREDO GARCIA



Welcome to St. Thomas University School of Law. The law school you choose to attend will significantly impact the type of lawyer you will become. At St. Thomas University School of Law, you will become a leader not only in the law, but also in ethics, service and overall professionalism.

Learning the law in our unique, student-centered community promises to be one of the most exciting times of your life. You will study law with leading scholars and practitioners, who have degrees from some of the world's most prestigious institutions and will serve not only as teachers, but also as mentors. The open-door policy and small class size at St. Thomas Law ensures you ready access and genuine interaction with the faculty guiding your legal education.

You will experience and practice the law first-hand through our extensive, award-winning clinical and internship programs, including such unique opportunities as the United Nations internship in New York City, our in-house Immigration and Tax clinics and the Florida Supreme Court internship in Tallahassee. Through our Pro Bono program and other specialty programs such as our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, you will gain hands-on experience working with community organizations, clients, courts, and more. Our Summer-in-Spain program allows you to discover other cultures and learn about the international dimension of the legal system.

St. Thomas is continually ranked as one of the most diverse law schools in the nation. This global diversity enriches our community and promotes a truly cosmopolitan learning environment. The city of Miami, with its diversity, as well as its significant legal, business, entertainment, and arts communities, reinforces the international flavor of our campus.

Our alumni have distinguished careers as members of large law firms, public service entities, the judiciary, and the business and entertainment worlds. Our cutting-edge, celebrated programs in Intercultural Human Rights and the Environment are training a new generation of leaders and advocates while making a significant difference for people struggling for human dignity and basic rights across the globe, and for our planet struggling for its health and its future.

At St. Thomas University School of Law, you will study, practice, and experience the law in a law school community unlike any other in the nation. Our small size coupled with our diversity makes for a friendly, yet challenging, environment where excellence and exploration are fostered, and where great legal minds are cultivated.

I am glad that you are joining our uniquely collaborative academic community for this challenging and exciting journey through the law.

Alfredo Garcia
Dean and Professor of Law

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. THOMAS LAW



ST. THOMAS LAW TRIAL TEAM WINS NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The St. Thomas University School of Law's Trial Team continued its championship run by being crowned the 2018 ABA Labor and Employment Law National Trial Competition Champions. The Competition featured six law schools from around the country - Harvard Law School, Northwestern University School of Law, University of California Hastings College of Law, William and Mary Law School, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and St. Thomas University School of Law; all champions in their own regions. Students Luis Garcia, Chanae Wood, Karina Harduvel, and Jillian Tate represented St. Thomas Law in the Competitions.

THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL HOLDS SESSION AT ST. THOMAS LAW

Each year, St. Thomas Law is honored to host the Third District Court of Appeal. The event gives the student body and faculty an opportunity to observe the court's active appeals. Our law students who participate in the St. Thomas Law Appellate Litigation Clinic often appear before the court and present arguments along with some of the best appellate attorneys in the state.



ST. THOMAS LAW STUDENT APPOINTED TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS

St. Thomas Law student, Diego Sanchez, was selected as a member of the Equal Justice Works (EJW) National Advisory Committee. His term as a member began on July 1, 2017 and will end on June 30, 2018. As a member, he will be tasked with providing feedback on EJW's existing programs and new initiatives and assisting with outreach to member schools and students throughout the country.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



ST. THOMAS LAW'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACADEMY RECEIVES \$2.5 MILLION GIFT



PROFESSOR ROY BALLESTE TRAVELS TO DUBAI TO SPEAK AT UN FORUM ON SPACE



ST. THOMAS LAW GRADUATES AT BAR INDUCTION CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES (ILS)

Orientation

Friday, July 20, 2018 (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Classes

July 23 - August 3, 2018 (Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Classes will start at 9:00 a.m. on July 24.

Exams

Saturday, July 28 and August 4

Introduction to Legal Studies is a non-credit program offered to all admitted students. The program offers an introduction to the study of law, which allows students to gain a head start on acquiring skills essential to succeed in law school. ILS is designed to help students become more effective and productive in their law school studies.

Academic Content

ILS will expose students to learning methods and preparation and study skills necessary for success in law school. Through participation in two law courses, students will learn how to prepare for class, including how to read and brief cases, and how to outline class notes to effectively study for exams. The classes and examinations will introduce students to the teaching and testing methodologies used in law school.

Scholarship Opportunity

Students who are in the top 5% of the class at the end of the program will earn a one-time \$5,000.00 scholarship award. Students in the top 20% at the end of the program will earn a one-time \$2,000 scholarship award.

The ILS program is free to deposited students.



For housing information contact:

contact:

Richard McNab
305-628-6554
rmcnab@stu.edu



CORE GRAMMAR FOR LAWYERS

Core grammar is a component of your Legal Research and Writing course. To allow students the opportunity to reap the benefits of the program, and get a head start on the Legal Writing requirement, students will receive a Core Grammar password when they reserve their seat for the Fall 2018 St. Thomas Law class.

Visit

www.CoreGrammarForLawyers.com
to take your practice test today.

FINANCIAL AID

By: Andres Marrero, Director of Law Student Financial Services

As the start of your law school career approaches, figure out your finances and develop a budget plan.

The two primary federal loan programs available to law students are the Federal Direct Stafford Loan and Federal Direct PLUS Loan Programs.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to complete the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Now is also a good time to check your credit report for accuracy. Some forms of financial aid, including the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, will require that you are in good credit standing. Visit www.freecreditreport.com for a copy of your credit report.

Before you borrow, remember loans must be repaid and you should borrow only what you need to assist you with your educational expenses.

St. Thomas Law also provides various Donor Scholarships administered through the Office of Student Affairs. These scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of eligibility criteria and availability of funds. All scholarships awarded to you by St. Thomas University are based on full-time enrollment and may only be applied to Fall and Spring tuition costs incurred at St. Thomas University School of Law.

Make sure you keep copies of all your award notification letters, and correspondence you receive from your school, lender, or loan servicer. Keep these documents readily available and organized.

For more information
on financial aid,
please visit
www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid,
call Andres Marrero at
305-474-2409, or email
lsfinaid@stu.edu

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING



Many students have inquired about what to do this summer to prepare for law school. The best thing you can do is read, read a little more, and continue reading. Read newspapers and news magazines about current local and world events, and read books, including novels and biographies. Numerous books offer advice and strategies for navigating law school. These books offer insight into the first-year of law school and beyond. Here are a few books that we recommend:

Introduction to Law

- John Makdisi & Michael Makdisi - *Introduction to the Study of Law: Cases and Materials*
- Benjamin N. Cardozo – *The Nature of the Judicial Process*
- Jay M. Feinman – *Law 101: Everything you Need to Know About the American Legal System*
- H.L.A. Hart – *The Concept of Law*

Developing Practical Skills for Law Students and Lawyers

- Hon. Ruggero J. Aldisert – *Logic for Lawyers : A Guide to Clear Legal Thinking*
- Richard Michael Fischl & Jeremy Paul – *Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams*
- David Hricik – *Law School Basics: A Preview of Law School and Legal Reasoning*
- Richard C. Wydick – *Plain English for Lawyers*
- Susan M. Reinhart - *Strategies for Legal Case Reading & Vocabulary Development*
- Ward Farnsworth - *The Legal Analyst: A Toolkit for Thinking about the Law*
- Ruth Ann McKinney - *Reading Like a Lawyer: Time-Saving Strategies for Reading Like a Lawyer (2nd Edition)*
- Keney Hegland - *The Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell*
- Andrew McClurg - *1L of a Ride: A Well-Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School*

For “Fun”

- Karl N. Llewellyn - *The Bramble Bush*
- Franz Kafka - *The Trial*
- Katherine McKinnon - *Women's Lives, Men's Laws*
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky - *Crime & Punishment*
- Jonathan Harr - *A Civil Action*

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS. GET INVOLVED.

Our student organizations are a vital part of the St. Thomas Law community and offer members the opportunity to enhance their legal education by developing skills and professional relationships beyond the classroom. This is accomplished through events and activities that broaden our students' knowledge of specific areas of law, while connecting with faculty, alumni and members of the legal community.



- American Bar Association Student Division
- Asian-American Law Student Association (AALSA)
- Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
- Business Law Society
- Caribbean Association of Law Students (CALs)
- Criminal Law Society
- Cuban American Student Bar Association (CASBA)
- Elder Law Society
- Entertainment and Sports Law Society (ESLS)
- Environmental Law Society
- Federal Bar Association - Law Students Division (FBA)
- Federalist Society
- Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL)
- Florida Bar Young Lawyer's Division
- Hispanic American Law Student Association (HALSA)
- Intercultural Human Rights Law Review
- Intellectual Property and Cyber Law Society
- International Law Society
- International Moot Court
- Jewish Law Students Association
- LAMBDA Law Society
- Maritime Law Society
- Moot Court Board
- Peter T. Fay American Inns of Court
- Phi Alpha Delta - Soia Mentschikoff Chapter (PAD)
- Public Interest Law Society
- Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law
- St. Thomas Law Review
- St. Thomas Law Trial Team
- St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society
- St. Thomas Law Journal of Complex Litigation
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Tax Law Society
- Volunteer Income Tax Association (VITA)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will students receive their registration packet?

Registration information will be posted on MyBobcat in July. The Office of Admissions will email you as soon as the information is available. Students do not select their classes for the first academic year; they are assigned to a section randomly. After the first year, students may select their own schedule.

When is orientation?

Orientation is mandatory and is scheduled for August 6-9, 2018. Additional information about Orientation will be emailed to you as it becomes available.

How large is the entering class?

The size of the entering class varies from year to year. The Office of Admissions is planning for approximately 180 students.

When should students apply for Financial Aid?

Students may apply for financial aid after they have submitted an application to St. Thomas Law.

Does St. Thomas Law offer scholarships? How do I apply for scholarships?

Admitted students are automatically considered for scholarships and do not need to apply. If a scholarship is offered to you, a notice will be sent with your official acceptance letter. St. Thomas Law also has a competitive upper-level scholarship program, which evaluates student performance at the end of the first year. Students in the top 25% of the class at the end of the first year are automatically considered for scholarships. Through the generosity of donors, St. Thomas Law also offers several scholarships of varying amounts to continuing students. Criteria vary and can include need, leadership and service activities. From time to time, St. Thomas Law receives information from sources outside of the University regarding scholarship opportunities. These opportunities are shared with our students via email and in our weekly newsletter as it becomes available.

Can students work during the first year of law school?

Students should anticipate a seventy-five to eighty hour work week to prepare for classes, attend classes, and review. Flex students may work as desired. However, full-time students are discouraged from working in their first year.

May students defer acceptance? Is the scholarship offer still valid if deferral is granted?

Accepted candidates may request a deferral for the next academic year with a paid seat deposit. St. Thomas Law will, in most instances, honor the scholarship initially offered to the student.

How does the law school assist students academically?

St. Thomas Law is committed to helping our students reach their academic goals in a caring and supportive environment. The Academic Success Program helps students develop the academic skills necessary to succeed in law school. The program includes Introduction to Legal Studies in the summer, Academic Support Workshops and labs in the first year, individual counseling throughout your legal studies, bar exam preparation courses and support, and mentorship programs.

What kind of bar prep support does St. Thomas Law offer?

St. Thomas Law offers each of its students the choice of a commercial bar prep course at no cost to the student, and a formal supplemental bar preparatory program which includes lectures, mentors, and opportunities to practice essay exams. Additionally, St. Thomas Law includes two pre-bar prep courses as part of its curriculum.

Does St. Thomas Law offer on-campus housing?

St. Thomas Law offers on-campus housing. For information about on-campus housing contact Richard McNab at 305-628-6555 or email rmcnab@stu.edu. Students also have housing options off-campus in the Miami Lakes, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Sunny Isles, Aventura, Pembroke Pines, Miramar and Hollywood areas.



LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

- 1) **FINANCIAL AID:** Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. St. Thomas University's federal school code is: **001468**. Instructions on how to apply for financial aid can be found at: <http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid>.
- 2) **HOUSING:** On-Campus housing is available on a first-come basis. To secure on-campus housing, contact Richard McNab at (305) 628-6554 or rmcnab@stu.edu. Students interested in off-campus housing, may consider Miami Lakes, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, North Miami Beach, Hialeah, Aventura, Hollywood, Sunny Isles, Midtown and Miami Shores.
- 3) **FINAL TRANSCRIPTS:** If you were taking courses or were pending proof of your degree at the time you were admitted to St. Thomas Law, it is important that you send your final transcript, reflecting the conferral of your degree. Updated transcripts must be submitted to LSAC by August 15th.
- 4) **IMMUNIZATION REPORT/PHYSICAL:** St. Thomas University requires all students to comply with immunization policy regulations regarding immunity of MMR, Hepatitis B, and Meningitis. Students will not be able to register, and will have an immunization hold on their account if they fail to provide proper documentation. Please be sure to submit your documentation prior to orientation. For information, about the required health forms, visit <http://www.stu.edu/students/Student-Affairs/Student-Health-Center>.
- 5) **STUDENT INSURANCE WAIVER:** The St. Thomas University-sponsored student medical insurance plan is an affordable, comprehensive health care protection designed for domestic students. For information about the plan, visit the Student Health website at: www.stu.edu/studenthealth.
- 6) **ACCESSING MYBOBCAT and EMAIL ACCOUNT:** MyBobcat is the University web portal for all St. Thomas University students. From MyBobcat, you will be able to view your schedule, access your syllabi, pay for tuition, view your financial aid, etc. Once admitted, you will receive an email from St. Thomas University to the electronic address you provided when you applied, asking that you reset your password. Completing these steps will give you access to your STU email and MyBobcat. Please be reminded that you will not have information on your MyBobcat account until July.

IMPORTANT: All official university communications are made to your St. Thomas student email account. It is important that you regularly check your St. Thomas account.

- 7) **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD:** The student ID card is the official St. Thomas on-campus student identification card. ID cards are issued during the Introduction to Legal Studies program and Orientation. Bring a government issued photo ID such as your driver's license, military id, or passport, to the Admissions office for your ID card.
- 8) **PARKING DECAL:** Students must display the University Parking Decal on your vehicle at all times. You may apply for your decal at: www.stu.edu/parkingapp or from MyBobcat. Parking decals will be distributed during ILS and Orientation. You must present a driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance card, and proof of program registration.

Students who intend to practice law should be aware that admission to the Bar in all states involves character, fitness and other qualifications. Students are encouraged to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which they intend to practice by consulting the website of the National Conference of Bar Examiners at <http://www.ncbex.org/>.

You have a continuing obligation to update your application to St. Thomas University School of Law. Students may update their law school application by submitting an email to the Law School Admissions Office, explaining the conduct, the date it occurred, the facts relating to the event, and provide supporting documentation, including any charging/arrest documents and disposition forms.

STAY CONNECTED WITH ST. THOMAS LAW



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