

## ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER



### ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Claudia Capdesuner (3L) has accepted a paid law clerk position with Gaebe Mullen Antonelli & DiMatteo (see p. 4).

Noor Abu-Hantash, a 2016 graduate, accepted a position as an assistant public defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office (see p. 4).

Khristopher Salado, a 2016 graduate, accepted a post-graduate associate position at Goldberg & Rosen, PA., located in Miami (see p. 4).

### WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2019, AND WELCOME BACK CLASSES OF 2017 AND 2018

The faculty, administration, staff, and returning law students welcome the new J.D. class of 2018. The fall class consists of a diverse group of students from different countries and respectively different colleges and universities. We are proud to say that in times when many law schools have lowered their standards for their entering class, St. Thomas Law has continued to seek out and find the most qualified students.

We also would like to welcome the new LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights students. The LL.M. students represent a number of different countries, and bring a passion for human rights and social justice to our campus.

We would like to welcome Associate Professor **Kenya Smith** and Assistant Professor **Esther Glazer-Esh**;

they are joining our law school faculty. Professor Smith is teaching Contracts and Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (ICN) in the fall semester. Professor Glazer-Esh will be part of the Legal Writing Department. In upcoming issues of the newsletter, we will provide more information about these new members of the St. Thomas Law Faculty.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

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| <b>August 23:</b>           | L & L U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, A-111 @ noon |
| <b>August 25:</b>           | L & L Department of Justice, 102 @ noon                   |
| <b>August 26:</b>           | Student Organization Fair, Breezeway                      |
| <b>August 31:</b>           | Breezeway Chatter (CS), Breezeway                         |
| <b>September 5:</b>         | Labor Day (No School)                                     |
| <b>September 6 &amp; 7:</b> | Clinical Information Session, Atrium Conference Room      |

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## ST. THOMAS LAW'S PHI ALPHA DELTA MENTSCHIKOFF CHAPTER WAS RECOGNIZED BY P.A.D. ORGANIZATION

National *Phi Alpha Delta* recognizes its members and chapters with awards of excellence; it honors those who demonstrate outstanding accomplishments, both at the individual and chapter levels. St. Thomas Law's Mentschikoff chapter was select by PAD as chapter of the year in the 2015 – 2016 academic school year; this is the second consecutive year that St. Thomas Law's Mentschikoff chapter received this recognition.

## KARNES FAMILY DETENTION PROJECT

This past summer, a scouting mission of three law students, **Cristina Hernandez** (3L), **Rebecca Tabares** (3L), **Hiriana Tuch** (3L), and Professor **Lauren Gilbert**, volunteered at the Karnes Family Detention Center in Texas, assisting detained Central American women and children with their asylum claims. They partnered with the non-profit agency RAICES, which means “roots” in Spanish, and which is the acronym for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. Karnes holds about 500 women and children, mostly asylum seekers fleeing gangs, or gender violence, or state sponsored violence or all three, in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. These women and children, who are seeking refuge in the United States, are detained at the border and placed into expedited removal proceedings. They are subject to immediate deportation if they cannot pass a credible fear interview.

The way the asylum process works, persons who attempt to enter without proper travel documents but who indicate a fear of returning to their countries gets a credible fear interview (CFI) with an Asylum Officer (AO). They must convince the AO that they face serious harm, targeted at them, and that this harm would be inflicted because of one of five protected grounds: their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group (PSG). If they pass their CFI, they get a full hearing before an Immigration Judge and are eligible for release from detention, usually with an ankle monitor. If they fail the interview, they get a brief hearing before an Immigration Judge, via videoconference. If the IJ overturns the AO’s decision, they are eligible for release and a full hearing. If the IJ affirms, they can be immediately deported, unless the Karnes team can convince Homeland Security that there was some defect in the process entitling them to another chance to be heard.

The St. Thomas team quickly became a part of the Karnes team and helped dozens of Central American women and children at various stages of the process, from initial intakes, to CFI preps, to IJ reviews. The work was non-stop. Among the cases we worked on, Rebecca Tabares and Hiriana Tuch prepped a Honduran woman with a two year old daughter for her CFI. This involved listening to her story, developing a case theory, and preparing her for her interview. Hiriana attended the CFI. Rebecca assisted a woman who had received contraindicated medical treatment at Karnes, drafting a detailed declaration. Cristina Hernandez helped a young Salvadoran woman with a little boy who had failed her CFI. She met with her, drafted her declaration, developed a case theory, and accompanied her to her IJ Review. At the last moment, the Immigration Judge reset the case for the following week, so, undaunted, Cristina prepared a legal brief for her client, which was accepted by the Court. The following week, all three students learned that these women and their children were being released.

This coming December, the Public Interest Law Society (PILS) will send a second team of law students to Karnes. In addition to a week at Karnes, students will have opportunities throughout

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the semester to assist women and children at Karnes long-distance. Students can earn legal *pro bono* hours while honing their legal skills and literally saving people's lives. Students interested in the opportunity should join PILS and may contact Professor Gilbert at [lgilbert@stu.edu](mailto:lgilbert@stu.edu) with any questions or concerns.

## **FINANCIAL AID REFUNDS AND DIRECT DEPOSIT**

We are sure that you are eager to know when you can expect your financial aid refunds. If you submitted all of your documentation prior to July 29, 2016, and have no other obstacles with regard to certifying the funds then you can anticipate receiving your financial aid refund no later than **August 25, 2016**; in most cases the refund will be available earlier. Students should check their direct deposit account.

If you were on **financial aid warning** or **probation** during the 2016 Summer term or if you registered for less than 12 credits in the fall term and did not receive authorization from Assistant Dean Hernandez or Assistant Dean Fonseca-Nader prior to August 5, 2016, to do so, then your financial aid may be delayed. If these issues are still not resolved, you should see Andy Marrero, and he can assist you in clearing the obstacle. But, be advised that these obstacles will cause a delay. The length of the delay will depend on when you completed the documentation and when all obstacles are removed.

If you submitted your documentation after July 29, 2016, and there are no other obstacles, then your refund will be delayed by about 30 days once all documentation has been submitted. Any obstacles may extend that time line.

Please note that the posting of any refund is contingent on the approved amount of your financial aid award exceeding your tuition costs and your **Direct Deposit** being set up well before the date of distribution. It takes about two weeks from the date you enter the Direct Deposit information for a refund to actually post to the Direct Deposit account. So, any delay you had in setting up Direct Deposit could cause additional delay. If your personal banking information has changed since the last time you received a refund from St. Thomas University, or if this is your first time receiving a refund, be sure to provide or update your Direct Deposit information with the University's Student Accounts Office by submitting a Direct Deposit Form or Direct Deposit Change Form online at [www.stu.edu/law/finacial-aid/forms](http://www.stu.edu/law/finacial-aid/forms).

Be aware of deadlines, and stay on top of any other obstacles that may present themselves. We pride ourselves on getting the refunds out expeditiously, but that requires that you work with our Financial Officer, Andy Marrero, and provide the required information online in a timely manner.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER DEADLINE**

The University's new health insurance plan (which runs from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017) is issued and administered by the Student Educational Benefit Trust (SEBT) and is underwritten by Aetna which means that it maintains most of the providers and benefits offered by Aetna.

The deadline to complete the online insurance waiver for this academic year is **Tuesday, September 6, 2016**. If you do not want the health insurance policy provided by the University then you must complete the online waiver application at <http://aisstudentinsurance.com/stu> by the deadline date. Please note that, in order to waive out of the University's insurance, you must be covered under a comparable health insurance policy. If you do not waive out of the insurance by

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the deadline date, you will be enrolled and billed for the school's health insurance plan, even if you have coverage. Each full-time student is automatically enrolled each year. So, he or she must waive out of the University health insurance plan each year.

Please note that any law student that registered for less than 12 credits is **not** automatically enrolled in the insurance program. If a student taking less than 12 credits wants to join the University insurance program, he or she can do so by going online to the campus health website and enrolling in the health insurance program.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**D'Bria Bradshaw** (2L) was selected as the recipient of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association Scholarship.

**Claudia Capdesuner** (3L) has accepted a paid law clerk position with Gaebe Mullen Antonelli & DiMatteo for the 2016 Fall semester.

**Patricia J. Peña** (2L) was selected as the scholarship recipient of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship.

## ALUMNI (AE) NEWS

**Noor Abu-Hantash**, a 2016 graduate, accepted a position as an assistant public defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

**Kristina Georgiou**, a 2014 graduate, is working as an associate with Napoli Shkolnik in New York.

**Thomas Kinder**, a 2016 graduate, was accepted into Northwestern University's LL.M. in Taxation program.

**Robert Lee**, a 2016 graduate, was accepted into Georgetown University's LL.M. in Taxation program.

**Khristopher Salado**, a 2016 graduate, accepted a post-graduate associate position at Goldberg & Rosen, PA., located in Miami. The attorneys at Goldberg & Rosen have fought for more than 40 years with courage and compassion against insurance companies and large corporations to bring justice to the clients they serve.

## *Faculty Announcements*

Adjunct Professor **Attilio Costabel** was appointed as Vice-Chair for the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the Torts and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) of the American Bar Association for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This leadership appointment is recognition of his commitment to TIPS and his reputation among TIPS' 24,000 members.

Professor **Raúl Fernández-Caliénés** has published a review in *Issues in Applied Linguistics*, a refereed journal edited and published at the University of California at Los Angeles. The journal published work in the broad areas of discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, research methodology, and language acquisition, analysis, assessment, use, and education.

**Robert Jack**, Public Sector Career Counselor, co-authored an article entitled *Counseling Law Students on Potential Changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness*, with Isaac Boers of Equal

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Justice Works. Robert was also instrumental in setting up the new Career Development Website ST. THOMAS LAW CAREERS. The site, which replaces the old Symplicity CSM site, is easier to use on both desktop and mobile browsers. The navigation menu has moved to the left, and job postings are displayed with relevant information and a simplified look.

Professor **Patricia W. Moore** spoke at the 2016 Pound Civil Justice Institute 24th Annual Forum for State Court Judges in Los Angeles on July 23, 2016. The topic was “Who Will Write Your Rules: Your State Court or the Federal Judiciary?” Approximately 150 judges from around the country attended. Professor Moore was invited to comment on a paper by Professors Steve Burbank (U. Pa.) and Sean Farhang (Berkeley). Other presenters at the conference were Professors Steve Subrin (Northeastern) and Thom Main (UNLV). The lunch speaker was Professor Arthur Miller from NYU.

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