



ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

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INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OPTION

All J.D. students must satisfy the Senior Writing Requirement (SWR) as a condition of graduation. Any student can seek to satisfy the SWR by successfully completing any course designated as a “seminar.” (This will necessarily include writing a paper.) Students just register for the seminar of their choice during the regular registration period. The seminar classes are treated as any other class for registration purposes. There is no pre-approval process if a student uses the seminar method to satisfy the SWR. Also, the seminar is worth two graded credits.

Instead of enrolling in a seminar, a student may attempt to satisfy the SWR requirement through one graded credit Independent Study with a full-time faculty member. To be authorized to enroll in an Independent Study course, the student must submit a proposal to the Curriculum Committee. **For the spring 2016 terms, the proposal must be submitted no later than November 15, 2016.**

If approved, the student then will be registered for one credit of Independent Study by the Law School Registrar.

To get authorization for an Independent Study Project, a student needs to complete a form

WHAT'S GOING ON

- November 3:** L & L Child Dependency Law Panel, Room 102 @ noon
- November 8:** Red Mass/Mass for Finals, Chapel of St. Anthony @ 12:15 p.m.
- November 8:** Creating Calm, Room 219 @ 12:15 p.m.
- November 10:** An Evening of Hope, Room CPD-113 @ 6:15 p.m.
- November 21:** Last Day of Classes

available at <https://www.stu.edu/Portals/law/docs/students/Independent-Study-Option-Form.pdf> and provide the other required information, indicated below, to the Law School Registrar prior to the deadline. The Law School Registrar then will provide the form and additional information to the Chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee. You may turn in a hard copy or scan and e-mail a completed form and the other documentation to jjackson@stu.edu. Please request that you receive verification that it was timely received if you e-mail the documentation.

Only full time faculty members and certain adjuncts are authorized to supervise an Independent Study. You can check with the Student Affairs Office or the Registrar to ascertain whether a particular adjunct professor is authorized to supervise an Independent Study. The student must identify the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the project, and that faculty member has to sign off on the form *before* it is submitted to the Registrar. A student may do only one independent study for credit.

The student also must include with the form a one to two page topic proposal identifying the subject area of the law the student intends to research with a brief bibliography. The proposal should identify an area or aspect of the law the student is interested in investigating and should narrow the subject area to one of manageable proportions. The student will need to do some preliminary research. A note or paper written in connection with a law review may serve as a starting point and as a basis for a proposal to the curriculum committee, but cannot be used in and of itself to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement.

Students should keep in mind that doing an Independent Study requires good time management skills and an ability to stay on task. These papers require weeks of research, outlines, and multiple drafts. This is not something a student can complete in a short amount of time. For many students, it is easier to find a suitable topic and progress toward a viable paper if it is done within the parameters of a seminar class, rather than as an Independent Study.

Keep in mind in approaching a possible faculty sponsor that he or she is not required to supervise Independent Studies. It will involve a substantial time commitment on his or her part. A student should approach those faculty members with particular expertise in the student's subject area. While different faculty members will have different requirements, the student should expect to meet with his or her faculty sponsor on multiple occasions during the course of the semester. For example, depending on the faculty member, a faculty sponsor may expect the student to submit at different points during the semester a topic report and bibliography, a thesis statement, an outline, drafts of the paper, and a final paper. For a student's paper to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement, it also must conform to the Bluebook citation format. Remember the deadline for submitting the proposal to write an authorized paper in either the summer or fall term is November 15, 2016.

RED MASS FOR FINALS

Please join the St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Anthony to celebrate the Red Mass. Red Masses are celebrated everywhere to pray for members of the law school community, which includes law students. The color red signifies the Holy Spirit. It is also the historic color of Barristers' robes. Please wear something red on Tuesday, even if you are not able to attend the Mass. Special intentions at this year's Red Mass will be for a successful law school examination period.

DECEMBER GRADUATES-SUBMIT YOUR SELECTION FOR COMMERCIAL BAR PREPARATION PROGRAM

All 3Ls who plan to take the 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, November 11, 2016**. 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 November 11th. **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 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 Hadley Leonard at hadley.leonard@barbri.com; for Kaplan, contact Sabine Baptiste at sabine.baptiste@kaplan.com; or for Themis, contact Nachman Susson at Nachman.Susson@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 for one of the Bar Review Programs provided by St. Thomas University School of Law upon your graduation is **Friday, November 11, 2016**. 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 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.

MULTI-STATE BAR EXAM (MBE) SIMULATION FOR 3LS

The Law School is offering a Multi-State Bar Exam (MBE) Simulation to 3L students to assess and diagnose Bar exam readiness. There are two sessions that 3L students may register for: November 12 or November 19, 2016. The MBE simulation will consist of two parts: morning 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and afternoon 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., each with 100 questions in 3 hours. The area coverage will include Civil Procedure, Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law & Procedure, Evidence, Property, and Torts. Room information to follow.

Students must RSVP with Amar Patel at apatel@stu.edu by November 9, 2016, at 11.59 p.m. The Law School will offer another session in the spring term.

CREATING CALM

Most law students experience stress and anxiety over the work load of law school and the examination process. Learning to recognize the signs of stress and developing techniques to help management stress and anxiety have been empirically proven to improve academic performance. The Law School in conjunction with Student Health Center presents “Creating Calm.” This event is scheduled for November 8, 2016, November 15, 2016, and November 22, 2016, Dr. Josie Oramas from Student Health Center will hold open and informal sessions from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm in Room 219. Please stop by and gain some insight into proven techniques to manage stress.

THREE BRANCHES OF DISCRETION

On October 27, 2016, the Black Law Students Association and the Office for Career Development hosted a panel discussion on the “Three Branches of Discretion.” The panel discussed how the use and abuse of discretion on one level of government can have a direct effect on another, leading to many of the issues we see in today’s society. This balanced discussion was moderated by Associate Dean **Tamara Lawson**. The panelists included Oliver Gilbert, Mayor of Miami Gardens; Mr. Kanya Howard, Miami-Dade Police Department; Jessica Sinkfield, Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office; and Judy Cullinan, Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office. More than 60 students attended the event.



BROWARD LEGAL AID 15TH ANNUAL *FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD*

On October 27, 2016, St. Thomas Law students and Dean **Alfredo Garcia** attended the 15th Annual *For the Public Good* to honor Warriors of Justice. Members of the community were recognized for their efforts to secure justice and change lives for the underprivileged and underserved, raising \$119,000 to support legal aid services in Broward County. Executive Director of Legal Aid Service of Broward County and St. Thomas Law Board of Advisors member, **Tony Karrat**, was recognized for 40 years of leadership before the crowd of more than 300 guests at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66.



Pictured: (from L to R) **Laura Varela**, **Robert Jack**, **Dean Alfredo Garcia**, **Joseph Galinskie** (1L), and **Denise Pichardo** (2L).

LAW LIBRARY THANKSGIVING HOURS

Library Hours

November 23:	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
November 24:	Closed
November 25:	10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November 26: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

South Reading Room

November 23: 4:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

November 24: Closed

November 25 – December 8: 24 Hour Access

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Cesar Baldelomar, a 2L student, will be presenting to various grassroots groups (one of which includes Massachusetts legislators) on why Question 2 on the Massachusetts Ballot is crucial for the future educational success of Boston's poorest students. The ballot regards the expansion of charter schools, which, after extensive research, would harm Black and Latino students in Boston. The paper that serves as the backdrop for his presentations was developed in Associate Dean **Lawson's** Race and Law Seminar over the summer. His paper entitled "Excluding at Will for Small Stuff: Disparate Application of Exclusionary Disciplinary Policies in Massachusetts Charter Schools," will be published.

Jason Ross, a 3L student, accepted a paid internship with The Bauer Law Office, P.A., in Miami, specializing in probate, estate planning, tax services, and real estate.

Alfredo Rubio, a 3L student, has accepted a paid law clerk position with PereGonza Law Group in Miami, specializing in business and family law, tax, and general civil matters.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Cristina Colon, a 2015 graduate, has accepted an Associate position with Kagan Legal Group in Puerto Rico, a Miami-based firm specializing in Personal Injury.

Carol Castleberry, a 2015 graduate, has accepted the Assistant Director of Academic Support position with St. Thomas Law.

Dayami Sans, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Elder Law Associates, P.A., in Boca Raton.

Florina Reznik, a 2014 graduate, is as an Associate at Alan J. Marcus in Aventura, specializing in commercial real estate acquisitions.

Michele Vargas, a 2003 graduate, an associate in the Coral Gables office of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, has been appointed as the Hispanic National Bar Association's (HNBA) Deputy Regional President for Region VIII. The HNBA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national membership organization that represents the interests of Hispanic legal professionals in the United States and its territories and advocates for Hispanics in the U.S.

Faculty Announcements

In December, Professor **Alfred Light**, will be a paid participant the LEC Public Policy Conference for Law Professors on Solving the Public Pension Crisis. The conference is sponsored by the Law and Economics Center at the George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School in Arlington, Virginia.

Professor **Marcia Narine Weldon** was interviewed by Navex Global, a leading compliance consulting firm about the Department of Justice Yates Memo in fall 2015. She spoke on NPR

Marketplace about the Yates Memo last year. To read the transcripts from the interview please visit <http://www.navexglobal.com/blog/4-questions-about-yates-memo-s-first-year>

In September, Professor Narine Weldon presented at the Business and Human Rights Scholarship Conference at the University of Washington on the foreign direct investment and human rights in Cuba.

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