



ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

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PREPARING FOR EXAMINATIONS

Exam taking is a time of high stress and anxiety. Students should get adequate rest before exams. Students should avoid abusing prescription drugs, pulling “all nighters,” or otherwise incapacitating themselves prior to the start of the exam. To insure the integrity of the exam process, all students are required to abide by the rules and policies concerning the administration of an examination. Go now and review your final exam schedule. Make sure you know when each of the examinations is scheduled for each class. Set up a study schedule. Do not rely on early versions of the exam schedule.

If you have an exam on the first Monday morning, and have not already picked up your AGN, you can get it at 8:00 am on Monday from the Registrar’s counter. Please arrive early enough to do so, prior to the actual start time.

Below are some guidelines and rules for you to follow regarding your upcoming exams. Please note that proctors have been instructed to follow the procedures as set forth herein.

1. Students must **report in a timely** fashion for the examinations. Any tardiness will cause the student to lose time for that exam; excessive tardiness may preclude the student from taking the exam at all.

WHAT’S GOING ON

November 21:	Last Day of Classes
November 22:	Creating Calm, Room 219 @ 12:15 p.m.
November 22:	Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ noon
November 28 – December 8:	Final Exam Period
December 17:	Commencement Ceremony, Fernandez Family Center for Leadership & Wellness @ 10:00 a.m.

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2. If any student gets sick prior to an examination, he or she should contact the Registrar's Office (305) 623-2360 or email Assistant Dean Hernandez (jhernandez@stu.edu) immediately. Then, the student should go to his or her physician and get documentation. Do not start an exam if you are ill.
 3. The time allotted for an examination includes the time to "bubble in" answers on the Scantron Answer sheets. Students must make sure to record their answers on the Scantron answer sheet prior to the expiration of the time allotted for the examination. Students will not be given extra time at the end of the exam to bubble in the Scantron answer key.
 4. Students taking exams with ExamSoft should report to the rooms **at least 15 minutes** prior to the start time of the classroom. Students must make sure to download the exam BEFORE the day of the exam. **If you arrive late to an exam, or did not sign up for ExamSoft on time, you must hand-write the examination.**
 5. Students using ExamSoft must activate and open ExamSoft at the **beginning** of the examination. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the clock set on his or her computer has the correct time.
 6. Students will be limited to whatever is essential to complete the examination.
 7. Students will no longer be allowed to bring book bags, backpacks, purses, or any kind of satchel or bag into the exam rooms.
 8. No cell phone, electronic tablet, watch, or other similar device is allowed in the examination room. Student should leave all such devices at home, in their cars, or in the care of some other student who is not taking an examination.
 9. Students are limited to one small, quart-size, see through plastic bag ("Ziploc style") to carry limited personal items (e.g., pens, highlighters, pencils, medications, foam ear plugs, feminine hygiene products) and one bottle of water (only water). Students also can bring in a laptop to use for the exam and cords for laptop. No other electronic devices are allowed in the examination room.
 10. For examinations over 4 hours in duration, students also can bring in one, small food item that can be consumed quietly (e.g., soft granola bar, candy bar). Student cannot bring in chips, gum, hard candies, and cannot bring any item that contains peanuts.
 11. Any sweatshirts, sweaters, etc. must be worn while in the room, hoods must be worn down, and the sweatshirt or sweater must be removed prior to going to the restroom. Students cannot bring large coats into the room.
 12. For open book examinations, student may bring in what is above and the specifically designated books or notes allowed by the professor. Students will need to have those books and notes in a way they can be carried directly into the room, not in book bags.
 13. If the professor has specifically allowed an electronic device (e.g., calculator) then the student may have that device. But, it cannot be a function of another device; e.g., a student cannot use the calculator function on his phone. If there is any doubt as to whether the book, notes, device, etc. are allowed as per the professor's instructions then the student will not be allowed to bring in the questionable item. (So, for example, if the professor has allowed in a specific copy of a rule book, photo copies of that book are not allowed.)
 14. Students may leave a testing room only one at a time for rest room breaks, and must sign out

and in. If two students taking the same examination attempt to use the same rest room at the same time, the proctor may delay one student from entering the restroom until the other student has exited.

15. Students may not talk or consult with anyone during the administration of an examination. Avoid even the appearance of inappropriate consultation.
16. Proctors have been instructed to continually walk through the rooms and look at students taking the examinations. If you are easily distracted, sit where this will have the least effect on you.
17. Students may use only ear plugs or headphones that are incapable of receiving any kind of transmission. If a student intends to use something other than ear plugs, the device must be approved ahead of time by Assistant Dean Hernandez.
18. Students must turn in all materials at the end of the examination, and **place their AGN on all materials**. You are not to put your name or other identifying information on the examination materials. Students should clearly label blue books 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3, etc. (as applicable). Do not, under any circumstances, exit the room with the examination question booklet.
19. The Professor for the class, members of the Registrar's office staff, and members of the Administration may walk in and observe the administration of the examination.
20. Students are not to argue or debate with the proctors. If a student disagrees with a proctor's decision, or has a problem or concern, please ask to see a member of the administration ASAP.
21. Proctors have been instructed to report any activity that appears suspicious to the Administration. The Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Assistant Dean Kelly, Assistant Dean-Fonseca Nader, Associate Dean Dykas, and Assistant Dean Hernandez may investigate any matter that is brought to our attention. Again, avoid the appearance of any impropriety.
22. Students take and use EXAMSOF T at their own risk. If a technical problem develops, the student should notify the proctor ASAP and revert to taking the examination by hand. There is insufficient time to resolve technical problems that may arise during an examination.
23. Students must follow the Proctor's instructions at the conclusion of the examination. Students must stop all writing when instructed to do so and submit examination materials in an orderly manner.
24. Also, please note that students are not allowed to take sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, or anything else with them when they leave the examination room to go to the restroom.
25. Please be advised that students are **not permitted to take smoking breaks** during examinations. Breaks are allowed only for use of the restroom, and the student must sign out and in when leaving and entering the room. Any student taking an examination should go nowhere other than the restroom or the examination room.
26. Students taking exams in the Annex (Rooms A-11 1 and A-112) and CPD-113 in the Center for Professional Development must use the restrooms in the CPD building.
27. If any problem develops after an exam or a student feels like he or she needs to communicate something to the professor about an exam, verify that all of an answer was received or

otherwise has some question or needs assistance with regard to an exam, never contact the professor directly prior to grades being posted. Contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu. If you are a student in Dean Hernandez's class then contact Associate Dean Dykas at cdykas@stu.edu.

Any student with a health or dietary issue that needs to bring in some item to address that concern needs to clear the item with Assistant Dean Hernandez prior to his or her first final. If any student has any question about the policy, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez.

Proctors have been trained and advised that examinations create a lot of anxiety and stress. They have been asked to be sensitive to students concerns. Likewise, students should be aware that proctors have specific, assigned tasks to complete.

If any student has any question about examinations or the exam process, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu.

DECEMBER GRADUATES FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR THE BAR EXAM

Hopefully, you have been planning ahead and saving for bar exam expenses. Working while studying for the bar is proven to be an unsuccessful strategy, so working **is not** an option.

If you have not made financial arrangements for this period, you have two options:

OPTION 1: FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

You may use federal student loan if you have not maxed out on your eligibility.

NOTE: This option has a **November 18, 2016, DEADLINE**.

OPTION 2: PRIVATE LOANS

Bar study loans are credit-based private loans that assist law school graduates with costs related to the bar exam. You may apply for these loans directly with a lender of your choice.

Please schedule a time to meet with Andres Marrero, amarrero@stu.edu, to discuss your options.

LAST ISSUE FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

This will be the last newsletter issue you will receive this semester; we will reconvene in the spring semester. The faculty, administration, and staff wish you good luck with your finals and a happy holiday season.

KOZYAK PRE-MINORITY MENTORING PICNIC RECEPTION

On November 14, 2016, thirteen St. Thomas Law students attended the Pre-Minority Mentoring Picnic Reception at the law offices of Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton in Coral Gables. Black law students networked and were given the opportunity to pair up with local judges and lawyers as mentors.

Pictured: (left to right – front row): **Patsy Rampersaud** (2L), **Laura Varela** Private Sector Career Counselor, **Chanae Wood** (2L), **Evelyn Vernet** (1L), **Jessica Vega** (3L), **Natasha Mathurin** (1L); **Lourdes Fernandez** Assistant Dean for Career Development; (left to right –



back row): **Shatarria Davis (2L)**, **Daniel Joseph (2L)**, **Esther Adam (1L)**, **D'Bria Bradshaw (2L)**, and **Naimah Lafferty (1L)**

PETER R. PALERMO PROGRAM HOSTS U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MARCIA G. COOKE AS DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

On November 7, 2016, United States District Court Judge Marcia G. Cooke of the Southern District of Florida visited St. Thomas University School of Law to speak to high school student participants in the Peter R. Palermo Program. After attending a law class with Professor Nadia Soree and a presentation from the Trial Team, the students listened to Judge Cooke's inspirational speech about her career path in law and achieving your goals through hard work and perseverance.



The Palermo Program is a community partnership, launched in 2013, that involves numerous visits each semester by St. Thomas Law students to the Law Magnet Program at Miami's Carol City Senior High School, overseen by attorney Asiah Wolfolk-Manning. The law students teach topics ranging from Constitutional Law to U.S. Government and History. The inspiration for the program was Judge Palermo's belief that the leaders of tomorrow, in any profession, must know about the United States Constitution, civics, and the law.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS LUNCH AND LEARN

On November 1, St. Thomas Law students were treated to an exceptional panel of speakers at the FAWL and Career Development co-sponsored Lunch & Learn. Held in the Moot Courtroom and moderated by Laura Varela, more than 80 students heard from The Honorable Patricia Marino-Pedraza, County Court Judge; Shari Tate, Homicide Division Chief at Broward State Attorney's Office; Rebecca Ocariz, Partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon; and Danielle Lennox, Assistant State Attorney Juvenile Division. The topics for discussion included obstacles overcome during their career paths, balancing success with a healthy work-life balance, and maintaining professionalism in one's law practice.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Jessica Biedron, a 3L student, will return (in the spring term) to a paid law clerk position at Buckland & Dang, P.A., in North Miami, specializing in insurance defense, general liability, and family law.

Evelyn Reyes, a 2L student, has accepted a paid internship with The Flanagan Law Group in Miami, specializing in personal injury and cruise ship law.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Patrick Delaney, a 2010 graduate, is now an associate at Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Orlando, Florida. Having previously served as both an Assistant Public Defender and an

Assistant Attorney General, Patrick now focuses his practice in the areas of warranty, lemon law, and products liability defense.

Rachel Lyons Forman, a 2013 graduate, is an associate at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Miami in its global product liability department. Rachel began working at the firm in May 2016, upon the completion of her two-year clerkship with the Honorable Melanie G. May at the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal.

Dane Garland, a 2009 graduate, is now a partner at Swindle Law Group, P.C., a criminal defense firm in Carrollton, Georgia. Mr. Garland lives in Atlanta with his wife and two children.

Patricia Hernandez, a 2011 graduate, managing partner at Rotella & Hernandez, LLC, in Miami, was appointed for a one-year term as Co-Chair of the Asylum Committee for the American Immigration Lawyers Association's South Florida Chapter.

Andre Vazquez, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with MSP Recovery Law Firm in Miami.

Faculty Announcements

Invited by the Florida Council of Catholic Women, Professor **Roza Pati** presented at FCCW's annual meeting about the advances and challenges in combatting human trafficking in the United States, and particularly in Florida. She spoke of current trends in confronting modern slavery and highlighted strengths and misconceptions related to the understanding of the concept of a "human rights approach to trafficking." The event took place in Jacksonville, Florida, on October 28-29, 2016.

Professor **Amy Ronner** presented her paper, "Dostoevskying the Law and Pre-Law Curriculum" at Washington University in St. Louis. She is also presenting her paper, "Dostoevsky as Juvenile Justice Advocate and Progenitor of Therapeutic Jurisprudence," on the North American Dostoevsky Society panel at the annual ASEES Conference in Washington, DC.

Professor **Michael Vastine** recently presented at American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) web seminar, on November 3, 2016, *Motions to Reopen and Reconsider—What You Need to Know*. He was a presenter at the 29th Annual Fall Conference, American Immigration Lawyers Association Central Florida Chapter, held in Orlando, Florida, on October 15, 2016; there he spoke about *Complex Issues in Removal Cases, and Hot Issues in Asylum, Withholding, and CAT Cases*. Professor Vastine attended the Fifth Annual AILA Rocky Mountain Immigration Law Conference, in Denver, Colorado, on October 13, 2016; he was participant on the panel discussion *Crimmigration – Crafting a Safe Plea and Undoing an Unsafe*.

On October 14, Professor **Carol Zeiner** attended the Leaders in Therapeutic Jurisprudence Scholarship Workshop at Osgoode Hall Law School of the University of Toronto, Canada. Professor Zeiner presented her work-in-progress on the use of therapeutic jurisprudence to analyze the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights process for investigating and resolving reports of sexual violence. Also, on Saturday, October 15, Professor Zeiner attended a Site Evaluation Workshop for Law School Representatives and Site Evaluators presented by the ABA. Professor Zeiner will serve on an ABA site evaluation team for law school reaccreditation during Spring, 2017.

