



American College of Bankruptcy Lunch & Learn

ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

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Matthew Carcano, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Mesa & Pepin in Miami (see p. 4).

SPECIAL ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR 2L STUDENTS REMINDER

This is a reminder, on, Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., in A-112, Alumnus **Roy Bahadur '03**, will conduct a Special Academic Success Workshop for second-year students. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided at the all day workshop.

Professor Roy Bahadur has developed a law school Active Learning program that is unique and effective. His program has helped students learn and self-contextualize processes and skills to identify and extract rules of law from cases and class notes; pick up on cues during class time that indicate critical material; develop a schema for each doctrinal area and find where each rule belongs; develop a Pavlovian association of certain types of facts with certain rules; distinguish between facts and inferences; and organize case briefs, lecture, notes, and problem sets to create an attack sheet for legal analysis on final exams.

Professor Bahadur is one of only 26 Professors featured in the new Harvard University Press book, *“What the Best Law Teachers Do”*. He is one of the leading presenters on Active Learning in the Large Law School Classroom at legal education conferences in the U.S.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- January 28:** VITA Tax Preparation, Law Library @ 10:00 a.m.
- January 28:** Special Academic Success for 2L Students, Room A-112 @ 9:00 a.m.
- February 1:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m.
- February 1:** Launching your Public Interest Law Career, Atrium @ 3:00 p.m.
- February 2:** ABA Solo/Small Firm L & L, Room 104 @ 12:30 p.m.
- February 4:** 13 Annual Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic, Amelia Earhart Park

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

St. Thomas University School of Law is an official site for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offering free tax preparation assistance by IRS certified volunteers to low and moderate income individuals and families (earning less than \$54,000 a year). The volunteers are trained and equipped to address special credits, such as earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and education credits.

The STU VITA site will assist patrons every Saturday, beginning January 28, 2017, and running until April 15, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, the STU VITA site will offer free electronic filing (e-filing). The STU VITA site provides free tax preparation assistance to military members and their families, regardless of income. For more information, please visit www.stu.edu/vita.

CONSIDER SPENDING ONE WEEK IN THE NETHERLANDS THIS SUMMER

From May 16 through 23, 2017, law students from St. Thomas University can attend the Water Law & Policy Program in the Netherlands. This one credit class, which includes lodging in the cost of the tuition, is run by Professor **Keith Rizzardi**, with assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE). The Dutch have long battled the effects of sea level rise, and their technologies and strategies are being studied and emulated across the world, including here in south Florida. The program consists of lectures and field trips to enhance discussions of the existing law and legal strategies. The seven day course considers the local, national and international levels of governance, and includes field trips to explore culture in Delft, history in Kinderdijk, litigation in the Hague, and science in Zeeland, while also allowing free time over the weekend. Students who attend the program can travel on for the Summer in Spain Program, or return to Florida for the regular summer session. At least one section of Appellate Advocacy will be scheduled to enable students, who desire to do so, to participate in the Netherlands Program and take Appellate Advocacy in the summer and with the combined classes earn 3 credits and qualify for financial aid. In the alternative, students can attend the Netherlands program and then move on to the Summer in Spain program, for a total of 7 credits. The Netherlands Program is limited to 20 students, so if you are interested you should apply and post a deposit. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable, and student must have at least a 2.3 grade point average to attend the program. A draft of the Netherlands program syllabus is attached, and if you have further questions about the program, please contact Professor Rizzardi at krizzardi@stu.edu

ABA SOLO/SMALL FIRM LUNCH & LEARN

You are invited to join a panel discussion on setting up for success: tips for becoming a solo or small law firm on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 12:30 p.m., at the Law School in Room 104. Most law school graduates are likely to practice in a solo or small firm setting at some point in their career. Get a head start by talking to experienced solo and small firm practitioners. If you would like to participate in the panel discussion please RSVP to Molly Hessa to molly.hesse@americanbar.org. Lunch will be provided.

The distinguished panelist will include David Lefton, Barron, Peck, Bennie & Schlemmer; Alumna **Maria Sallato '90**, Maria Sallato - Attorney at Law; Alumnus **Carlos Santisteban**, CSJR Law;

Lourdes Wydler, Marrero & Wydler Law Office; and moderator: Lisa Field, Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Haitian Lawyers Association is accepting scholarship applications for the year 2017. The selected recipient(s) will be awarded at least \$1,500, and will be invited to attend the Association's annual gala, to be held on March 18, 2017, at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay in Miami.

The applicants must be of Haitian decent, be in good academic standing, submit an official transcript, and submit a personal statement (maximum two pages) that describes the student's involvement in the community, the student's financial need for the scholarship, the reason(s) the student believes he or she is better qualified for the scholarship, and a professional headshot photo to be included in the gala program book in the event that the applicant is chosen as a scholarship recipient.

All documents except for the photo must be submitted as one pdf file. The documents mentioned above must be submitted via e-mail to info@haitianlawyersassociation.org and to Guerda Prosper at guerda.prosper@yahoo.com no later than **5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2017**. Scholarship recipients will be announced by March 7, 2017.

LAUNCHING YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CAREER

The Office of Career Development invites the Law School Community to a roundtable discussion on Launching Your Public Interest Law Career, on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Atrium Conference Room. Members from the Equal Justice Works staff will provide expert advice on postgraduate fellowship opportunities, law student internship opportunities, and Educational Awards for Public Interest Internships, Leadership and Service. Please RSVP to Robert Jack at rjack@stu.edu. Refreshments will be provided.

HOW TO CONDUCT FREE LEGAL RESEARCH ONLINE

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress is sponsoring a free program on how to conduct free legal research online. This event is part of the ABA mid-year meetings and is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott Biscayne Bay, in the Lummus Island Room.

The program will cover a plethora of topics that can be beneficial to law students and attorneys, especially to those who have not been exposed to the free benefits offered by the Law Library of Congress. To attend this program you must register for the ABA Mid-Year meeting. To register, visit

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/departments_offices/meetings_travel_dept/midyear2017.html

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF BANKRUPTCY LUNCH & LEARN

On January 19, 2017, a panel with The American College of Bankruptcy presented at St. Thomas Law on the topic of "Everything you want to know about jobs and opportunities in Bankruptcy." The panelists were Patricia A. Redmond, Partner at Stearns Weaver; Jeffrey W. Warren, Partner at Bush Ross; and Jordi Guso, Partner at Berger Singerman. More than 30 attended, including Attorney **Patrick L. Cordero** (Alumnus 1988), and Adjunct Professor **Magda Abdo-Gomez**,

STU Law Bankruptcy Professor.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Vianca Canet, a 3L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position last summer and continues to intern at the Hernandez Legal Group. Hernandez Legal Group represents the Miami and Hialeah community in all areas of Real Estate, Foreclosure, Mortgage Closings, and Bankruptcy law.

Chanae Wood, a 2L student, accepted a Summer Associate position with Greenspoon Marder. Greenspoon Marder is a national full-service business law firm practicing in more than 60 areas of law. With more than nine locations across Florida and offices in New York, Las Vegas, Denver, and San Diego.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Matthew Carcano, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Mesa & Pepin in Miami, specializing in business litigation and contract dispute.

Victoria Mesa, a 2008 graduate, a *highly acclaimed alumna*, returned to Florida Legal Services as a Staff Attorney. The Florida Legal Services is a statewide leader in advancing economic, social, and racial justice. It advocates for poor, vulnerable, and hard to reach people through impact litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, education, and strategic partnerships.

Alain Roman, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Guttenmacher, Bohatch & Peñaranda, P.A. in South Miami, specializing in tax law.

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez** was a speaker on the panel entitled *Building and Sustaining Academic Communities Through Blogging and Other Tools* at the AALS Annual Meeting.

Associate Dean **Tamara Lawson** was appointed Chair-Elect of the Evidence Section and Treasurer of the Women-in Legal Education Section of the AALS Section Executive Committee.

Professor **Jennifer Martin** was selected as Chair-Elect of the Contract Section for the AALS Section Executive Committee.

Professor **Ira Nathenson** was also featured in the Fall 2016 issue of *AALS News* in a *Spotlight* interview about the Civil Procedure section. The link is provided below that features Professor Nathenson <http://www.aals.org/about/publications/newsletters/aals-news-fall-2016/section-on-civil-procedure/>.

Professor **Keith Rizzardi** was selected as Treasurer of the Natural Resources and Energy Law Section of the AALS Section Executive Committee.

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