



ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Cristina Bianchi, a 3L student, accepted a post-graduate position as an Assistant Public Defenders (see p. 3).

Evelin Mac Clay, a 3L student, accepted a highly prestigious and competitive post-graduate position with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (see p. 3).

Brittnay Wittnebel, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Fabrikant & Associates in Hollywood (see p. 3).

NO EXCUSES – EXTENDED STUDY OPTIONS ON CAMPUS

Virtually all successful law students find they must locate a study environment that enables them to avoid distractions. The faculty, administrators, and staff are working to provide you such an environment at St. Thomas Law.

1. The Law Library has extended the hours that the South Reading Room of the Law Library is open to students. The South Reading Room will be open from the time the Law Library closes (midnight) until the Law Library opens the next morning (7:30 a.m.). The Reading Room will be closed on Friday and Saturday nights. So, now law students have access to a dedicated study space 24 hours a day Sunday through Thursday and until midnight Friday and Saturday. This also means that students who arrive very early in the morning (other than Saturday and Sunday morning) can make use of the Reading Room as a study space.
2. In addition, students can reserve classrooms for afterhours study at the Registrar's counter. You can reserve a room for 24 hours prior to

WHAT'S GOING ON

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| February 10: | 1L Academic Support Workshops, Convocation |
| February 19: | 2L Academic Success Workshop, Room A-112 @ 9:45 a.m. |
| February 11: | VITA Tax Preparation, Hanna Legal Information Center @ 10:00 a.m. |
| February 14: | Entertainment & Sports Law Symposium, Moot Courtroom @ 9:00 a.m. |
| February 14: | Florida's Guardian Ad Litem Program L & L, Room 104 @ noon |
| February 15: | Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m. |
| February 15: | CD Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ noon |

the time needed. To reserve classrooms for study on a Saturday or Sunday, you must do that on the previous Friday. This enables students who want to work in study groups to make use of the classrooms after hours. The classrooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. You should also be aware that we have remodeled the Student Annex Building. So, in the lobby outside of the SBA/ Journal offices, all law students now have 24 hour access to a refrigerator, two microwaves, and vending machines, including a vending machine that dispenses coffee. So, students now have access to 24 hour coffee, and the ability to store and heat food.

Students are encouraged to help create the expectation that the Law Library and the Reading Room will be used as dedicated study space. If you see other students talking, speaking on their phones, eating, or otherwise creating a disturbance, please ask them to step into the Breezeway. If you are studying and need to talk to another student, make or answer a phone call, or otherwise intrude on a study-appropriate environment, then be respectful of your classmates, and do so in the Breezeway.

TRIAL LAWYERS SUMMIT

On February 5, 2017, 1L students **Chris Tinton**, **Shari Linton**, and **Peter Abraham** (pictured from left to right) attended the Trial Lawyers Summit in Miami Beach. They *attended* a lecture entitled "The Five Stages of Law Firm Growth;" *learned* how marketing affects the growth of a law firm and the growing pains facing every stage of a firm's growing process; and *listened* to the concerns of lawyers who run law firms with 200 to 1000 cases a month. They also attended a Pre Super Bowl party, and visited the exhibition booths. All this was courtesy of the Trial Lawyers Summit.



CRIMINAL LAW SOCIETY LUNCH & LEARN

On January 31, more than 60 St. Thomas Law students attended the Criminal Law Society's Lunch & Learn: From STU Law to the Supreme Court; presented by noted alumnus **Richard J. Diaz '88**. Mr. Diaz gave a lively and informative presentation beginning with his time as an STU law student, honing his craft as a top criminal defense attorney and later adding a civil trial practice. Mr. Diaz also shared with the students his tips for success and creating mentoring relationships.



BENCH & BAR CONFERENCE

The Dade County Bar Association will host approximately 1,000 judges, attorneys, in-house counsel, and business leaders at the upcoming Bench & Bar Conference, on Friday, February 10, 2017. This is the largest event of its kind in Florida. The bar is offering a limited number of \$9 tickets for students to attend; it is from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Students can join for as much or

little of the afternoon as they choose. This is an ideal opportunity for students interested in learning more about federal and state clerkships, in-house positions, government jobs and networking with South Florida's most distinguished attorneys.

Students may learn more and RSVP at <https://www.dadecountybar.org/2017-bench-bar-student-registration/>

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW SYMPOSIUM

The Entertainment and Sports Law Society invites the Law School community to its' 2017 Entertainment & Sports Law Symposium scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the St. Thomas Law Moot Courtroom.

This symposium features dynamic panels led by national leaders in the fields of sports and entertainment law. There is a \$10 general admission cost, and it is free with student identification. For more information, please contact tenderbrock@stu.edu.

2017 CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION *PRO BONO* GALA

On January 28, 2017, St. Thomas Law students **Peter Abraham** (1L) and **George Chevalier** (1L) attended the 2017 Cuban American Bar Association (CABA) *Pro Bono* GALA fundraiser, which benefits the legal advocacy services that the organization provides to the community.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Cristina Bianchi, a 3L student, accepted a post-graduate position as an Assistant Public Defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

Evelin Mac Clay, a 3L student, accepted a highly prestigious and competitive post-graduate position with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (Attorney General's 2-year Honors Program).

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Amanda Rodriguez, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Garcia Paez, P.A. in Miami Lakes, specializing in Insurance Defense, Family Law, Estate Planning, and Commercial Litigation.

Lourdes Velez, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Silverberg Brito, PLLC in Miami, specializing in Property Insurance.

Brittnay Wittnebel, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Fabrikant & Associates in Hollywood. Fabrikant & Associates is a full service transaction and civil litigation law firm with office in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Orlando, Fort Myers, and Clearwater; its area of practice is landlord-tenant evictions.

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Marc-Tizoc González** worked with St. Thomas Law alumna **Victoria Mesa Estrada** '08 and one of his research assistants, **Jessica Biedron** (3L), to submit a motion for leave to file

an *amicus curiae* brief with the United States Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit in *Fort Lauderdale Food Not Bombs v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, Case No. 16-16808, supporting the plaintiffs-appellants and urging reversal of the district court’s order granting the defendant-appellee’s motion for summary judgment. Florida Legal Services, Inc.; Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc.; and the Society of American Law Teachers, Inc. joined the brief, which argues that: (1) the district court misapplied the tests to determine whether the plaintiffs’ public sharing of food with hungry people in a city-owned park constitutes “inherently expressive conduct” protected by the Free Speech Clause, (2) even if the plaintiffs’ conduct is not inherently expressive, the Eleventh Circuit may still reverse under its standard regarding viewpoint discrimination, and (3) even if the court does not recognize the plaintiffs’ activity as protected under the Free Speech Clause, it may still reverse the district court because the City of Fort Lauderdale ordinance and park rule violate the plaintiffs’ rights under the Peaceable Assembly Clause.

Adjunct Professor **Attilio Costabel** was asked by the Florida Bar Admiralty Committee to co-author two chapters of an outdated version of *Maritime Law and Practice*. The chapters he co-authored are Charters and Sales of Vessels. Final reviews of the book have been completed, and the book is in production. In addition, the Committee has organized a major Advanced CLE Seminar, which was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, under the co-sponsorship of the ABA TIPS Admiralty Committee (of which he is now Vice Chair). Professor Costabel was a speaker on the morning and afternoon panel.

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