



Prosecuting the Crime of Human Trafficking Under State Law L & L

## ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

**Dakeitha Hayes**, a 3L student, accepted a post-graduate position as an Assistant Public Defender (see p. 4).

**Priscilla Perez**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with The Baez Law Firm in Miami (see p. 4).

**Kenny Vixama**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Goldstein Law Group in Fort Lauderdale (see p. 4).

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACADEMY

January has been proclaimed National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the United States. Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry, and it is estimated there are more than 20 million victims worldwide. St. Thomas Law's Human Trafficking Academy and the LL.M./J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights hosted a series of events throughout the month as part of the school's ongoing efforts to increase public awareness, educate, research, and inspire action.

The events kicked off on January 11th, with a special screening of *Not My Life*, a powerful documentary film that depicts the cruel and dehumanizing practices of child trafficking in five different continents. Professor **Roza Pati**, Director of Human Trafficking Academy, in her opening remarks noted that "St. Thomas Law through its Intercultural Human Rights Program is South Florida's pioneer educational institution to bring human trafficking to the forefront of student, faculty and community

engagement. We are delighted to see many other schools and universities joining us in this fight. Since 2004, we have never wavered in our commitment to play a role in ending modern slavery in

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- February 16:** "Market Yourself" L & L, Room 104 @ noon
- February 18:** VITA Tax Preparation, Hanna Legal Information Center @ 10:00 a.m.
- February 21:** Job Search Strategies L & L, Room 104 @ noon
- February 22:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m.
- February 23:** Diversity in the Legal Field L & L, Room 104 @ noon
- February 27 – March 3:** Human Trafficking Academy @ 8:00 a.m.
- March 6 & 7:** Graduation Expo, Convocation Hall

our lifetime.” The documentary was followed by a panel discussion of guest speakers Leyla Copertino, Miami Community Engagement Fellow for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and Gabriela DeBellis, Vice President & Chair of Ignition Fund and J.S.D. Candidate, who had a vivid interaction with the audience.

On January 17th, a Mass and Prayer service was dedicated to human trafficking victims and survivors, followed by a presentation on “A Catholic Faith Perspective in Combatting Human Trafficking in the Context of the African Continent.” Father Paul Karenga, Parochial Vicar at St. Mark Catholic Church and St. Thomas’ J.S.D. Candidate in Intercultural Human Rights, presented his finding on typology and prevalence of human trafficking.



The Academy also hosted a Facebook Live chat with guest speakers Brenda Mezick, Assistant State Attorney and Chief of Program Development & Public Policy for the Human Trafficking Unit with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office; Rev. Msgr. **Franklyn Casale**, President of St. Thomas University; and **Ana I. Vallejo** ’98, Co-Director and Attorney with VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc. They discussed what is being done to prevent and combat human trafficking in the state of Florida.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Human Trafficking Academy in cooperation with the Office for Career Development, culminated the Human Trafficking Awareness Month activities with a *Lunch & Learn* presentation on “Prosecuting the Crime of Human Trafficking Under State Law” with Kristy Nunez, Division Chief for the Human Trafficking Unit with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office. St. Thomas Law is committed to respecting and protecting human dignity of each and every person, and we will continue our devotion to the cause of ending modern-slavery through outreach, education, and research. For more information and to join our efforts, please visit [www.humantraffickingacademy.org](http://www.humantraffickingacademy.org) or contact us at [humantrafficking@stu.edu](mailto:humantrafficking@stu.edu)

## **JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES LUNCH AND LEARN**

The Office for Career Development invites the St. Thomas Law community to its Job Search Strategies Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. in room 104. **Douglas Ray**, former Dean and Professor of Law, will help students design a successful job search plan. Student interested in attending this event must RSVP to Lourdes B. Fernandez at [lbfernandez@stu.edu](mailto:lbfernandez@stu.edu). Lunch will be provided.

## **PRESIDENTS’ DAY AND CLASS SCHEDULED ADJUSTMENT**

Please note on Monday, February 20, 2017, there are no classes, and the School of Law and University Administrative Office will be closed. The Law Library south reading room will open on Monday from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. On Tuesday, February 21, we will follow a Monday class schedule. So, classes that normally meet on Monday will meet at the same time and place on Tuesday, February 21 (Tuesday classes do not meet). On Wednesday, February 22, the normal class schedule resumes. That means classes that normally meet on a Monday/Wednesday cycle will meet on Tuesday/Wednesday next week.

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## ALUMNUS BRETT BARFIELD WAS SPEAKER AT FBA GENERAL MEETING

On February 8, 2017, the Federal Bar Association Student Division had its first general meeting. Its guest speaker was Alumnus **Brett Barfield** '99, Partner at Holland & Knight. Mr. Barfield is a national officer for the Federal Bar Association and is a past president and current board member of the South Florida Chapter of that association. He has been recognized numerous years by *Florida Super Lawyers* and *Florida Trend* magazines as a leading business litigation attorney in Florida. More than 20 students attended this event.



## 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](mailto:info@haitianlawyersassociation.org) and to Guerda Prosper at [guerda.prosper@yahoo.com](mailto:guerda.prosper@yahoo.com) no later than **5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2017**. Scholarship recipients will be announced by March 7, 2017.

## ABA SOLO & SMALL

**Carlos Santisteban** '09 and **Maria Sallato** '90, took part as panelists in last week's ABA-sponsored Lunch & Learn panel discussion about setting up a successful solo-small practice. The presentation was entitled, "Setting up for Success: Tips for Becoming a Solo or Small Firm Attorney." More than 33 persons attended the presentation, the majority St. Thomas Law students; also in the crowd were a handful of ABA members (professors, deans from other schools, and solo practitioners). Some interesting facts about the alumni(ae) panelists are below.

For almost 25 years, Maria Sallato, Esq., has helped clients in Florida, throughout the United States, and all over the world. She dedicates 100% of her practice to matrimonial law and complex international custody cases and is recognized as a specialist in the area of matrimonial law. A graduate of the University of Miami and St. Thomas Law, Maria is originally from Colombia.

Carlos Santisteban, Esq., established CSJR Law Firm five years ago in Coral Gables as a fully integrated law firm, offering legal services in criminal defense, personal injury, real estate and commercial litigation. A graduate of nearby Msgr. Pace High and proud double-graduate of St. Thomas University (undergrad and law school), Carlos previously worked as Staff Counsel for the Dade County Police Benevolent Association, where he first worked as a legal intern while in law

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school.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Dakeitha Hayes**, a 3L student, accepted a post-graduate position as an Assistant Public Defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender Office.

**Priscilla Perez**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with The Baez Law Firm in Miami. The Baez Law Firm offers clients legal representation in criminal defense, civil rights, and civil litigation in south and central Florida, from Miami to Orlando to Tampa and all points in between.

## ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

**Gregory Light**, a 2015 graduate, is now the Manager-Member at Light & Gonzalez, PLLC, in Weston; specializing in consumer financial services, personal injury, and products liability litigation.

**Kenny Vixama**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Goldstein Law Group in Ft. Lauderdale, specializing in Insurance Defense Litigation. Goldstein Law Group is one of the nation's premier, AV-rated firms focusing on the investigation, detection and litigation of fraudulent insurance claims. It utilizes proprietary techniques to uncover and fight fraud.

### *Faculty Announcements*

Professor **Marc-Tizoc González** argued before the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division against the proposed reform of Standard 316, which would make it more difficult for law schools with diverse student bodies to retain ABA accreditation by changing the requirement for their graduates to pass the bar exam within two years of graduation.

In recent weeks, Professor **Keith Rizzardi** joined a panel discussing Environmental Justice and the Trump Administration at the ABA Midyear Conference in Miami, led a full-day training session on public records laws for 75 local government leaders at the Treasure Coast League of Cities in Port St. Lucie, and presented on Environmental and Energy Law at Barry Law School in Orlando. He is also serving as Subcommittee Chair for the Florida Bar Professional Ethics Committee, and organizing the Masters Seminar on Ethics in for the upcoming annual meeting in June.

Professor **Amy Ronner** served as Discussant on the Dostoevsky and the Law Panel at the Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

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