



“One Handshake at a Time” Event

## ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Anabell Bernot, a 3L student, accepted a paid internship as a law clerk with Gersten and Muir in Miami (see p. 4).

Briana Prieto, a 2L student, accepted an internship with Reifkind, Thompson, and Rudzinski (see p. 4).

Evan Phoenix, a 2016 graduate, was accepted into the University of Florida’s Tax LL.M. program (see p. 4).

## STRENGTHENING FOREIGN RELATIONS “ONE HANDSHAKE AT A TIME”

On July 22, 2016, Professor **Roza Pati** presented to a delegation from Thailand, whose visit was coordinated by the U.S. Department of State. Dean **Alfredo Garcia** welcomed the delegation to St. Thomas Law School and engaged in a warm conversation with the Thai team, whose work focuses on combating human trafficking. The delegation consisted of Assistant Secretary to the Deputy Attorney General of Thailand, the Deputy Superintendent of the Police Special Operations Unit for Region 1, the Chief of Prevention and Suppression of the Anti-Trafficking Center, and the Program Coordinator of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Alliance. Professor Pati and the Thai representatives discussed the differences in policy

and legislation related to human trafficking as well as the challenges that the anti-trafficking efforts encounter in a country like Thailand that is not only plagued in trafficking internally but also serves as a destination country for many Burmese and Nepalese migrants who end up being trafficked. The discussion was particularly geared toward issues surrounding investigating and prosecuting trafficking at sea, in the fishing industry.

## WHAT’S GOING ON

- August 30:** Student Organization Fair, Cordero Breezeway
- August 31:** Breezeway Chatter (CS), Cordero Breezeway @ 11:00 a.m.
- September 5:** Labor Day (No School)
- September 6 & 7:** Clinical Information Session, Atrium Conference Room @ noon
- September 8:** Palermo Project Recruitment Luncheon, Room 102 @ noon

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## **PROFESSIONALISM IN LAW SCHOOL**

As has been pointed out to all law students since Orientation, the day you walked into law school was the day on which you began to embark on the road to becoming a professional: a lawyer. Your behavior in law school is subject to close scrutiny by the various state bars in deciding whether you meet the character and fitness requirements for admission to the bar. Certainly, admission to the bar can, and should, motivate “professional” behavior.

But maybe more important in the short term is that you should exercise the discretion and judgment of a “professional” with regard to your colleagues and professors, and the Law School and University administration. Here are some tips I hope you will keep in mind.

The law library is designed for study and research. For many students, the law library, by choice (or necessity), is the one place they should be able to find a peaceful, quiet environment to study. The lobby of the library is available for conversations, and students wishing to study in groups that require conversation should book study rooms or study in empty classrooms. If you want to socialize then take advantage of the breezeway. It is designed to give you an area conducive to socializing. The stairwell of the library and the areas adjacent to the elevator do not in any way buffer sound. In fact, those areas amplify sound. So, please be mindful that “your” conversation is not likely something other students, who are trying to study, care to hear. All students should appreciate and practice courtesy and respect for their colleagues studying in the library.

Classroom behavior and decorum is also a component of being a professional student. Students should arrive on time and prepared for class. It is inconsiderate to your colleagues and professors to arrive late, disrupt class, and then not be prepared when called upon. Studying the law is a dynamic process. It works best when the students and professor are prepared, knowledgeable, and engaged. Do your part to make the class experience meaningful and worthwhile for both you and your colleagues.

Please remember the limitations on smoking and food. Smoking is limited to the designated area, and food is not allowed in the classrooms or the law library.

One last bit of advice. We all encounter frustrations day to day in dealing with bureaucracies. The University and Law School both have a number of bureaucratic systems that (at times) may not function optimally for some particular student. If you encounter a problem, please remember to exercise a bit of discretion when dealing with the person who is addressing your problem. It may be a truism, but often he or she is just doing his or her job, and following procedure and policy he or she is required to follow.

We have tried to provide you with as much in-house assistance at the Law School as feasible. If you are unable to achieve a satisfactory result then bring the matter to John Hernandez, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. One of his primary roles is serving as your liaison in resolving problems.

## **NEW ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM LAUNCHED**

The St. Thomas Law Academic Support Program (ASP) has created a new and innovative approach to help students maximize academic success: the ASP Lab. The ASP Lab is a dedicated student learning-centered collaborative space available to all law students to help address students' academic needs. An ASP team member, including ASP Fellows, will be available to help

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students develop the skills they need to be successful. ASP Fellows are upper-level students who have displayed professionalism and academic success throughout law school. The program launched August 22, 2016, and continues throughout the academic year. The ASP Lab is located in the conference room next to Admissions. The Lab will have morning and afternoon time blocks available and will provide assistance to walk-ins; *no* appointments are necessary. All students, particularly 1L students, should take an opportunity early in the semester to drop by with their questions and concerns in preparation for classes, midterms, and final exams.

In addition to answering questions, the Academic Support Program will hold Legal Skills Training Sessions (LSTS) led by ASP team members to help students develop the skills necessary to become self-reliant, efficient, and successful in law school, the bar exam, and practice. LSTS will be scheduled Monday-Friday during the semester from August 29-November 5. A detailed schedule of each will be sent by email.

If anyone has any questions about program please contact Amar Patel at [apatel@stu.edu](mailto:apatel@stu.edu).

### **ROIG SUMMER LAW CLERKS ATTEND JUDGE PAUL C. HUCK'S FEDERAL OBSERVER PROGRAM**

The Federal Court Observer program invites more than 150 law students for an opportunity to observe how the concepts they are learning in law school are put into action by practicing attorneys.

U.S. District Judge Paul C. Huck of Miami invited the students, half summer associates with Miami area firms and half federal judicial interns, to spend a day sitting in on hearings and interacting with judges and area lawyers. **Marlin Muller** 2L St. Thomas Law student was one of the students who participated in the program.



Pictured: Edgar Sanchez, Judge Paul C. Huck, Alexandra Giosfelli, and Marlin Muller.

### **INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT NEW MEMBER-CANDIDATES**

Please join the International Moot Court Executive Board in welcoming the newest member-candidates: **Victor Bao, Micheal Bogumill, Lily Cuza, Denise Pichardo, and Julialeida Sainz.**

The International Moot Court Board would like to thank all who participated in the Summer try-outs.

### **WELCOME THE NEW MOOT COURT BOARD MEMBERS**

Please join the Moot Court Executive Board in congratulating the newest Members of the Moot Court Board: **Stephanie Ganges, Kevin Gardiner, Brandon Greene, Yamila Lorenzo, Shannon McGee, Patricia Peña, Natalia Pinzón Martinez, Darcy Ruiz, Greeny Valbuena, and Jessica Vega.**

### **ST. THOMAS LAW REVIEW WELCOMES NEW MEMBER-CANDIDATES**

Please join the *St. Thomas Law Review* Executive Board in welcoming its newest member-candidates. The new member-candidates are **Michael Bogumill, Danielle Capitini, Heather**

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Carnegie, Agnieszka Chiapperini, Mireya Cuza-Abdala, Danielle DeMahy, Ansell Fernandez, Jean Fernandez-Brea, Victor Gabuardi, Luis Garcia, Rosie Gil, Daniel Grammes, Brandon Greene, Elizabeth Irazabal, Candice Izaquirre, Daniel Joseph, Johanne Larosiliere, Yamila Lorenzo, Cody Malosiecki, Idelys Martinez, Adriana Obeso, Ariel Peralta, Natasha Rivera, Jacqueline Rosado, Kemil Saab, Brian Saenz, Julialeida Sainz, Becky Saka, Frank Samitier, Amanda Spencer, Jessica Vega, Jennifer Weiss, Chanae Wood, and Curtis Wurster.

## THE ST. THOMAS JOURNAL OF COMPLEX LITIGATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBER-CANDIDATES

The Editorial Board of the *St. Thomas Journal of Complex Litigation* is proud to announce its Fall 2016 Member-Candidates: **D'Bria Bradshaw, David Batista, Jessica Bracho, Garrett Faulkender, Camilo Guzman, Gabriela Hidalgo, Carolina Perez, Eudinio Perez, Idamarie Torres, and Jesse Young.**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Anabell Bernot**, a 3L student, accepted a paid internship as a law clerk with Gersten and Muir, in Miami. The firms focus on Corporate Formation, General Counsel, Contracts, and Civil Litigation law.

**Carmela Cavo**, a 3L student, during her internship with the Public Defender Office this summer presented the Opening Statement at a televised trial. The link to the recorded trial is listed below. <http://www.local10.com/news/trial-begins-for-man-charged-in-duck-feeding-fight>

**Briana Prieto**, a 2L student, accepted an internship with Reifkind, Thompson, and Rudzinski, P.L. RTRLAW is a Premier Civil Litigation Law Firm committed to providing outstanding representation and personalized legal services to each of its clients.

## ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

**Andrew Mercer**, a 2015 graduate, recently left his previous practice and joined the Acle Law Firm in Miami. The Acle Law Firm focuses exclusively on assisting Florida policyholders in their first and third party property disputes against insurance companies. The cases have ranged in size and complexity from residential fire damage to numerous multimillion dollar losses suffered in the wake of South Florida's most destructive hurricanes.

**William Roe**, a 2010 graduate, recently joined at Cooney, Trybus Kwavnic Peets in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The firm handles automobile negligence, trucking law, products liability, premises liability, professional liability, including medical and legal malpractice, drug and medical device defects and pharmaceutical negligence, class action-mass tort defense, commercial litigation, appellate practice, insurance coverage, and bad faith.

**Ivan Izquierdo**, a 2015 graduate, left his prior practice and accepted an Associate position at Lipcon, Margulies, Alsina & Winkleman, P.A., in Miami, Florida. Lipcon, Margulies, Alsina & Winkleman, P.A., represents passengers and crew injured on ships in Maritime claims worldwide.

**Evan Phoenix**, a 2016 graduate, was accepted into the University of Florida's Tax LL.M. program.

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## *Faculty Announcements*

Professor **Lauren Gilbert**'s critique of the government's expedited alternative to full-blown asylum hearings –“Expedited Removal’ Process as Cold as ICE: Response to Jeh Johnson” – has just been published in *The Hill*, the popular forum for lawmakers and policy wonks. Professor Gilbert's piece, recounts her summer *pro bono* advocacy for a young woman and child targeted for death by a Salvadoran gang and “expeditiously” deported back to El Salvador. To read the article, please click on the link <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/291274-expedited-removal-process-as-cold-as-ice-response-to>

In June, Professor **Marcia Narine Weldon** spoke at Law and Society in New Orleans on Corporate Social Responsibility in Latin America, with a focus on Guatemala. She spoke at the International Legal Ethics Conference at Fordham in New York on The Attorney-Client Privilege in the Age of Whistleblowers in July. In August, Professor Narine Weldon spoke on Cuba and the United States - From Eisenhower to Obama at the SEALS conference in Amelia Island, South Carolina.

Professor **Amy Ronner** presented a paper, "Rodion Raskolnikov versus Ivan Karamazov: Dostoevsky's Contribution to Confession Jurisprudence," at the XVI International Dostoevsky Conference in Granada, Spain, this past June. Additionally, Professor Ronner has been appointed to the Editorial Board of *Crosscurrents: Russia's Literature In Context*, which is a new series in Russian Literature by Lexington Books.

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