



ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

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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, professors, and the law school and University administration. Here are some tips I hope you will keep in mind.

Classroom behavior, decorum, and how you interact with your colleagues and professors are paramount in whether you are perceived as acting “professionally.” Students should arrive on time and be prepared for class. Students should RSVP for events when asked to do so and should show up when they have indicated they would do so. It is inconsiderate to your colleagues and professors to

WHAT’S GOING ON

- March 25:** VITA Tax Preparation, Hanna Legal Information Center @ 10:00 a.m.
- March 25:** Barrister’s Ball, Hyatt Regency Pier 66 @ 6:00 p.m.
- March 28:** Eat-and Educate Event, Room 104 @ 11:45 p.m.
- March 29:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m.
- March 30:** Federal Loan Repayment Workshop, Room 104 @ noon
- March 30:** Civility & Professionalism in the Law, Moot Courtroom @ 8:30 a.m.

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.

How you act in class directly reflects upon the perception you create to your peers and your professors. If at some point in the future your peers or professors are asked what they think about you (by prospective employers for example) that perception will be based largely upon the evidence of your competency, preparedness, and work ethics as demonstrated in class. You likely have already formed an opinion of whether you would “recommend” or “trust” individual classmates.

We all encounter frustrations day-to-day in dealing with other people and bureaucratic systems. 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 that he or she is required to follow.

As social media has gained in popularity, it has become a convenient forum for “venting.” You should be mindful that an open (and permanent) record of “venting” anger, frustration, or dissatisfaction creates a record of statements and comments that often have little context. Be mindful that denigrating your classmates, professors, or “your” educational institution also reflects poorly on you. If you consider whether comments or statements about others are inappropriate or “unprofessional,” hold off on sending them out to the world. Try to take the high road and avoid retaliatory comments if someone else engages in such conduct. You cannot control the “unprofessional” behavior of others, but you do have control over your own behavior.

Dishonesty in any form is not acceptable. Once a person has been found to be dishonest, it is almost impossible to rehabilitate his or her reputation.

Law school is an opportunity to build your professional reputation. Take the opportunity to do so.

THE FLORIDA BAR YLD LAW STUDENT DIVISION LUNCH AND LEARN

On March 21, 2017, The Florida Bar Young Lawyer Division, Law Student Division addressed more than 30 law students during a Lunch & Learn about the art of balancing life and a legal career. The Panelists included Loreal Arscott, Assistant City Attorney of Miami Gardens; Jeremy L. Thompson, U.S. Department of Justice; and **Erin Loeb**, Assistant Director of Academic Support at St. Thomas Law.



FEDERAL LOAN REPAYMENT WORKSHOP

Graduating law students are invited to a free workshop entitled: The Road to Zero- A Strategic Approach to Student Loan Repayment on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at noon, in Room 104. AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit financial education provider, will conduct the workshop by guiding students on how to create their own road to zero strategy by helping them determine the payment plan that will best align with their current needs, future aspirations, and financial goals. Topics that will be discussed at the workshop on how to create a student loan repayment include a

number of payment plans, consolidation, and even the possibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

EAT-AND-EDUCATE EVENT

The Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar and St. Thomas Law invite you to attend an Eat-and-Educate Event on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 11:45 a.m. in Room 104. David R. Carlisle, Alexandra V. Rieman, and Deborah B. Mastin are local real estate and probate attorneys who will be on the panel to share their experiences and provide invaluable career advice to law students. Anyone interested in attending this event must R.S.V.P. to Michael Yanopoulos at myanopoulos@stu.edu. Refreshments will be served.

ST THOMAS LAW STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

The St. Thomas Law Student Bar Association (SBA) would like to announce the election results for SBA Board for the 2017-2018 academic school year. President: **Ramiro Kruss**; Vice President: **Anthony Ghanem**; Treasurer: **Agnieszka Chiapperini**; and Secretary: **Samantha Joseph**.

2017-2018 MOOT COURT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Please join the 2016-2017 Moot Court Executive Board in congratulating the 2017-2018 Moot Court Executive Board. **Jessica Vega**, President; **Brandon Greene**, Executive Vice President; **Natatia Pinzon Martinez & Shannon McGee**, Vice Presidents of Memberships; **Yamila Lorenzo**, Vice President of Internal Affairs; **Stephanie Ganges**, Vice President Financial Affairs; and **Ian Corp**, Vice President of Alumni Relations. These outstanding students will continue to represent St. Thomas Law well and uphold the prestigious reputation of the Moot Court Board.

2017 PALM BEACH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

On March 10, 2017, a group of 1Ls attended the 2017 Palm Beach County Bar Association's Bench Bar Conference. They experienced a day full of conferences in which moderators, panelists, and judges got together and coordinated interactive panel discussions designed to assist practitioners. St. Thomas Law students assisted attendees with locating each session. It was a phenomenal networking opportunity for our students.

Photo (left to right): Gabriel Isasi, Jared Davis, Peter Abraham, and George Chevalier.



CANNABIS LAW 101 LUNCH AND LEARN

On March 15, 2017, a group of more than 70 students attended the Cannabis Law 101 Lunch & Learn. **Rolando Vazquez '15** of GreenAcre Consulting Team moderated a panel of experts in the field. The panel consisted of Daniel Sparks, J.D., Director of Governmental Affairs at Bio Track THC; David Kotler, Esq., Attorney at MM Business Lawyers; Joe Brezny, Spokesperson for Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol; and Eric Stevens, Deputy Executive Director at Florida for



Care.

5K WALK AND PRIVATE SCREEN OF MOONLIGHT

The U. S. Coast Guards Air Station Miami (USCG) invites the St. Thomas Law community to a private screening of the academy award winning movie *Moonlight* at AMC Aventura 24 Theatre on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. At the screening, Dr. Marin Dunn will discuss the historical significance of the film's setting in Liberty City, Florida, and the community challenges in the city. To purchase tickets for the screening go to <https://moonlightmia.eventbrite.com>

The USCG Air Station Miami is also sponsoring a 5k Run/Walk on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 7:00 a.m. Students interested in participating in the 5k Run/Walk can register at MIAMIWR.com before March 26, 2017.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Marc Exposito, a 2L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Albertelli Law in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in foreclosure and bankruptcy.

Emily Foster, a 3L student, accepted a post-graduate position with the Army JAG Corps.

Shannon McGee, a 2L student, is the recipient of MD FAWL's Jeannie Perwin Memorial Scholarship. She will be presented her scholarship check at the Women Making History and Scholarship Awards Event on March 22, at 6:00 p.m. at the History Miami Museum.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Valeska Casanova-Chacon, 1999 graduate, has accepted an Associate position with The Law Offices of Patrick L. Cordero, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Family Law.

Laura Pereira, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Christy L. Hertz, P.A., in Coral Gables, specializing in family law, probate, guardianship, and mediation.

Gina Sabatino, a 2013 graduate, accepted an Associate position at Wallen Hernandez Lee Martinez LLP in Coral Gables, specializing in business, commercial, and tort law.

Faculty Announcements

The American Association of Justice (AAJ), the largest group of trial attorneys in the world, sought out a prominent legal scholar to sort through the recent amendments to *The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*. We are proud to say that St. Thomas Law Professor **Patricia Moore** was chosen as the scholar that sorted through the changes and analyzed their soundness and significance in what turned into a 150-page treatise. The AAJ published Professor Moore's, work entitled: "The First Year of the 2015 Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Refinement, Not Revolution." It is available on the AAJ's website to help guide American trial lawyers through the thicket of updated rules.

The ABA conducts reaccreditation reviews of law schools every seven years. A major part of the processes is a formal site inspection performed by representatives of the ABA and their preparation of a site inspection report. Professor **Carol Zeiner** had the privilege of serving on an ABA Site Inspection Team from March 12 through March 15, 2017, for the reaccreditation of

LSU's law school.

On Saturday, March 25, Professor Carol Zeiner will attend a conference for the enhancement of law teaching and learning at Emory University law school.

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