



Becky Saka at the Florida Supreme Court

## ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

**Darcy Ruiz**, a 2L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Vernis and Bowling (see p. 4).

**Brian Saenz**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with the United States Attorney's Office (see p. 4).

**Evelyn Alonso**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Jan Peter Weiss, P.A. in West Palm Beach (see p. 4).

## SENIOR WRITING REQUIREMENTS

All J.D. students must satisfy the Senior Writing Requirement (SWR) as a condition of graduation. Any student can seek to satisfy the SWR by successfully completing any course designated as a "seminar." (This will necessarily include writing a paper.) Students just register for the seminar of their choice during the regular registration period. The seminar classes are treated as any other class for registration purposes. There is no pre-approval process if a student uses the seminar method to satisfy the SWR. Also, the seminar is worth two graded credits.

Instead of enrolling in a seminar, a student may attempt to satisfy the SWR requirement through one graded credit Independent Study with a full-time faculty member. To be authorized to enroll in an Independent Study course, the student must submit a proposal to the Curriculum Committee. **For the Summer or Fall 2017 terms, the proposal must be submitted no later than noon, Wednesday, April 26, 2017. The form says the deadline is**

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- April 20:** Intersectionality, Room 202 @ noon
- April 21:** PILS Summer Stipend Deadline
- April 26:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ 12:30 p.m.
- April 27:** Last Day of Classes
- April 28 - 30** Reading Days
- May 1 - 11:** Final Exams
- May 12:** Baccalaureate Mass, The Chapel of St. Anthony @ 6:30 p.m.
- May 13:** Commencement Ceremony, Fernandez Family Center @ 9:00 a.m.

**April 15, but we have extended the**

---

## **Deadline until April 26<sup>th</sup>.**

If approved, the student then will be registered for one credit of Independent Study by the Law School Registrar.

To get authorization for an Independent Study Project, a student needs to complete a form available at <https://www.stu.edu/Portals/law/docs/students/Independent-Study-Option-Form.pdf> and provide the other required information, indicated below, to the Law School Registrar prior to the deadline. The Law School Registrar then will provide the form and additional information to the Chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee. You may turn in a hard copy or scan and e-mail a completed form and the other documentation to [jjackson@stu.edu](mailto:jjackson@stu.edu). Please request that you receive verification that it was timely received if you e-mail the documentation.

Only full time faculty members and certain adjuncts are authorized to supervise an Independent Study. You can check with the Student Affairs Office or the Registrar to ascertain whether a particular adjunct professor is authorized to supervise an Independent Study. The student must identify the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the project, and that faculty member has to sign off on the form *before* it is submitted to the Registrar. A student may do only one independent study for credit.

The student also must include with the form a one to two page topic proposal identifying the subject area of the law the student intends to research with a brief bibliography. The proposal should identify an area or aspect of the law the student is interested in investigating and should narrow the subject area to one of manageable proportions. The student will need to do some preliminary research. A note or paper written in connection with a law review may serve as a starting point and as a basis for a proposal to the curriculum committee, but cannot be used in and of itself to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement.

***Students should keep in mind that doing an Independent Study requires good time management skills and an ability to stay on task.*** These papers require weeks of research, outlines, and multiple drafts. This is not something a student can complete in a short amount of time. For many students, it is easier to find a suitable topic and progress toward a viable paper if it is done within the parameters of a seminar class, rather than as an Independent Study.

Keep in mind in approaching a possible faculty sponsor that he or she is not required to supervise Independent Studies. It will involve a substantial time commitment on his or her part. A student should approach those faculty members with particular expertise in the student's subject area. While different faculty members will have different requirements, the student should expect to meet with his or her faculty sponsor on multiple occasions during the course of the semester. For example, depending on the faculty member, a faculty sponsor may expect the student to submit at different points during the semester a topic report and bibliography, a thesis statement, an outline, drafts of the paper, and a final paper. For a student's paper to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement, it also must conform to the Bluebook citation format. **Remember the deadline for submitting the proposal to write an authorized paper in either the summer or fall term is April 26, 2017.**

## **VOLUME 4 EDITORIAL BOARD FOR THE *ST. THOMAS JOURNAL OF COMPLEX LITIGATION***

The *St. Thomas Journal of Complex Litigation* is proud to announce the Volume 4 editorial board for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The new editorial board members are **Garett**

---

**Faulkender**, Editor-in-Chief; **Gabriela Hidalgo**, Managing Editor; **Idamarie Torres**, Executive Editor; and **D'Bria Bradshaw**, Senior Articles Editor. And newest members are: Melissa Chavarri, Siury Rodriguez, Aileen Siles, Ariel Peralta, Christina Ackemjack, Dario Melcon, and Mariela E. Cano.

## FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION EVENT WITH THE PALERMO PROGRAM

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, thirty students from the Carol City Senior High Law Magnet Program attended a presentation by law students and attorney members of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) as part of the Hon. Peter R. Palermo Program. FBA members Stephanie Turk of Gunster and Arun Ravindran of the Federal Public Defender's Office taught a discussion-based class on *Plyler v. Doe* and the Equal Protection Clause with law students Judy Echavez, Daniel Joseph, Denise Pichardo, Cynthia Rosa, and Jessica Weiss (pictured). After the class, high school students, law students, and the FBA members enjoyed a networking and mentoring lunch with Dean García. The next Palermo Program Event is the Annual Mock Trial Competition on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Law students interested in volunteering as judges and jury members for Mock Trial can e-mail Asst. Dean Lourdes Fernández ([lbfernandez@stu.edu](mailto:lbfernandez@stu.edu)) or Professor Gary Kravitz ([gkravitz@stu.edu](mailto:gkravitz@stu.edu)).



## PATH TO PARTNERSHIP LUNCH AND LEARN

The “Path to Partnership-Private Sector Superstars” Lunch & Learn was held on April 5, 2017. The event was sponsored by the Black Law Student Association and moderated by Professor **Kenya Smith**. The distinguished panelists included: JoLinda Herring with Bryant Miller Olive; Salisu (Sal) A. Richardson of Adelson, Testan, Brundo, Novell & Jimenez, P.C.; Markenzy Lapointe with Boies Schiller Flexner LLP; Nikki Lewis Simon of GreenbergTraurig; and Robert Vaughan of Kim Vaughan Lerner LLP. The panelists engaged in a frank discussion about what it takes to make it from new associate to partner, work/life balance and building your business and reputation. The session ended with a Q&A and meet and greet between students and speakers.



---

## BCHBA SPRING LUNCHEON

On April 12, 2017, Private Sector Career Counselor, **Laura Varela**, attended The Broward County Hispanic Bar Association's Spring luncheon at the Tower Club in Fort Lauderdale. Michelle R. Suskauer, Esq., President-Elect Designate of the Florida Bar (pictured with Ms. Varela) was the guest speaker. Ms. Suskauer shared with the attendees the Florida Bar's current initiatives, including opposition to the legislature's proposed judicial term limits and desire to increase their oversight of lawyer regulation, as well as new programs for incoming bar members and ongoing diversity initiatives. STU law students are welcome to join BCHBA and be able to attend events such as this while in school.



## IP & CYBER LAW SOCIETY LUNCH AND LEARN

On April 11, 2017, the IP and Cyber Law Society hosted a panel discussion regarding "Working with Entrepreneurs and Innovators." The panelists were: Evelyn Suero of Suero Law, PLLC and Jessica Shraybman of Salmon Legal Group, P.L. More than 25 students attended the lunch and learn event.

## WHY RUN FOR OFFICE PANEL

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, thirty students attended a panel discussion hosted by the Public Interest Law Society (PILS) to learn more about becoming an elected official from campaigning to legislating to transitioning back to the private sector. The panel included STU Law alum and former member of the Florida House of Representatives Juan Carlos "JC" Planas, STU alum and former Mayor of Miami Gardens Shirley Gibson and current law student and City of Hialeah Council Member Paul Hernandez. Pictured in the group photo is the PILS Board.



## ST. THOMAS LAW VITA AND LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY

On Monday April 3, the St. Thomas Law VITA program went mobile and traveled to Legal Aid Service of Broward County. It is the first time that STU Law partnered with a sister low income taxpayer clinic (LITC) to offer our services outside of St. Thomas. The event was an absolute success! They saw several clients and completed five returns. **Silvia Velazquez**, the Director of Program Development, Tax Clinic, was accompanied by **Jeny Galeas**, **Leighton Regis**, **Matthew Unzicker**, **Andrea Arauz**, and **Sandra Zamora**. **Samuel Rony**, **Leighton Regis**, and Silva returned the next day to prepare returns for the staff.

This special tax preparation day served as a pilot for future tax days at Legal Aid Service (They are hoping they'll have STU back) and other sister LITCs. Silva would like to thank the Executive Director of Legal Aid Service, Anthony Karrat; IT Manager, David Kessler; Paralegal, Kiran

---

Garcia; and the LITC Director, Ram Venkataramani for allowing us to invade your space. Special thanks to the students for their dedication to the VITA program and of course, Professor **Mark Wolff** and Professor **Larry Fedro**.

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS MIXER



On April 3<sup>rd</sup> several members of the STU Law FAWL chapter attended a joint mixer with Nova FAWL student members and the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association. Held at the Bull Market in downtown Fort Lauderdale, an engaging and fun time was had by all. As part of the event, attendees also donated clothing and goods to benefit the Judge Aramone Clothing

Closet at the Broward County Courthouse. Notable is the fact that **Christine Arroyo** (1L) secured a paid summer law clerk position with Williams and Trese, LLP, after meeting partner attorney Teresa Williams at the event.

Pictured: 2L Ismael Tijerino, 2L Judy Echavez, 2L Agnieszka Chiapperini, 2L Shannon McGee, 1L Jamie Wilson and 2L Jackie Rosado.

## 2017 ABA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SPRING CONFERENCE

Marc Rapaport (3L), the current St. Thomas Law FBA Student Division President, was selected as 1 of 12 law students from across the country to attend the 2017 ABA Intellectual Property spring conference in Arlington, Virginia as a Law Student reporter. Guests of honor included federal judges from the Federal Circuit and other federal courts around the country, top executive from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and attorneys from well-known law firms across the globe.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Norka Garcia**, a 3L student in Professor Ronner's, Sexual Identity and the Law Seminar class, has had her paper, "Evolution of Sexuality Law in Cuba, from 1959 to the Present; with an Emphasis on Transgendered Persons," accepted for publication. It will appear in *The Indonesian Journal of International & Comparative Law*. Ms. Garcia was an attorney, a criminal judge, and professor in Cuba.

**Marc Rapaport**, a 3L student, was the recipient of the 2017 *Richmond Journal of Law & Technology* – Klau Writing Competition.

**Darcy Ruiz**, a 2L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Vernis and Bowling.

**Brian Saenz**, a 2L student, accepted an Internship position with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

## ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

**Adrian Acosta**, a 2016 graduate, recently opened his own practice in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area, specializing in Family Law and other civil matters.

**Evelyn Alonso**, 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Jan Peter Weiss, P.A. in West

---

Palm Beach, specializing in General Litigation, including Immigration and Criminal Defense.

**Gregg Rock**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with White & Twombly, P.A. in Miami Shores, specializing in Personal Injury and Personal Injury Protection (PIP).

### *Faculty Announcements*

Professor **Marc-Tizoc González** presented on a panel, Food Inequities and Identities, at the twentieth anniversary conference of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. Stanford University School of Law hosted the conference on March 31 to April 1, and Professor González presented “Deterring Organic Solidarity: The Failure of First Amendment Free Speech Doctrines to Protect People Who Share Food in Public.” Also, Professor González met with one of the attorneys litigating *County of Santa Clara v. Trump*, (N.D. Cal. No. 5:17-cv-00574), which challenges the President’s power to unilaterally require local governments to aid in federal immigration enforcement or else lose all eligibility for federal funding. Professor González earlier joined an amicus brief supporting the plaintiff, who argues that the President’s executive order: (1) usurps the Spending Clause power that the Constitution allocates to Congress and (2) exceeds the constitutional limits on the Spending Clause. The case is scheduled for a hearing on the plaintiff’s motion for preliminary injunction on April 14.

[Submit Information](#) | [Contact Newsletter](#) | [Past Issues](#)

