



Human Trafficking Academy

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACADEMY

The LL.M./ J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights hosted the *Human Trafficking Academy* this summer at St. Thomas Law.

Founded and directed by Professor **Roza Pati** in 2011, the *Human Trafficking Academy* focuses on education, research, and outreach. It has affected law, policy, and practice in combatting human trafficking nationally and internationally. Through its **education** prong, it has certified about 450 professionals of various disciplines: attorneys, public defenders, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, social service providers, child protection investigators, health care providers, academics, students, faith-based organizations, and human trafficking survivors.

In its **outreach** dimension, it has reached out to, informed, and coached more than 7,000 individuals locally, nationally, and internationally within the private and public sector.

Its **research** component is present in numerous publications, doctoral and master's theses, symposia, seminars and conferences.

There were 95 participants who attended the one-week training, both on-campus and online. They

## ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

**Victor Gabuardi**, a 2L student, is interning with Torres & Vadillo, LLP in Miami (see p. 3).

**Uxsunn Ramirez**, a 2L student, is interning with Lipcon, Margulies, Alsina, and Winkleman, P.A., in Miami (see p. 3).

**Martin Lopez**, a 2016 graduate, was accepted in the University of Florida's LL.M. in taxation program (see p. 4).

## WHAT'S GOING ON

<b>September 14:</b>	Breezeway Chatter (CD), Cordero Breezeway, noon
<b>September 15:</b>	L & L Solo & Small Firm Section of The Florida Bar, Room 102 @ noon
<b>September 15:</b>	Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A, @noon
<b>September 16:</b>	HNBA Anti-Human Trafficking Conference, Moot Courtroom @ 8:30 a.m.
<b>September 20:</b>	L & L Jose Baez, Room A-111 @ noon
<b>September 23:</b>	Professionalism Day, Moot Courtroom @ 9:00 a.m.

---

hailed from various parts of our country: Florida, Texas, Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia, Washington D.C., Nebraska, Wisconsin, Oregon, California, Colorado, Delaware, and New Jersey as well as from other countries Brazil, Germany, Italy, and Romania.

This year, the Academy offered 17 intensive and inter-active courses taught by top-level experts, academics, and practitioners with long-time experience working in the field of anti-trafficking.

*“The training materials and expert speakers are priceless,”* comments a participant, followed by another stating: *“I have to say that in this course, I have been pleasantly surprised how good and engaging all the instructors were. I have never had that experience before! Bravo!”*

During lunch presentations, the participants shared and discussed their own work experience in combatting human trafficking. Academy participants appreciated that opportunity noting: *“the atmosphere allowed great exchange of resources between all the different organizations, lawyers, law enforcement, advocates and good samaritans...I benefited greatly and will be able to use the tools in our organization and local community in Texas.”*

Another one joins: *“I will highly recommend it to my friends and colleagues working or not working in the field,”* and still another concludes that: *“This Academy has been a God-send!”*

We at St. Thomas Law’s LL.M./ J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights *“are humbled and honored by such appreciation,”* states Dr. Roza Pati, the Academy director, as she continues to state that: *“providing our community of professionals with the most up-to-date knowledge, best tools and most effective skills to combat human trafficking is not just our natural profession as educators but, in our Catholic tradition, it is also a noble cause; it is our mission, our calling.”*

## **WELCOME LAURA VARELA TO THE OFFICE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Please join the Office for Career Development in welcoming **Laura J. Varela**, who joined their office as the Private Sector Career Counselor. Laura comes with more than 20 years’ experience in private practice with a focus on commercial litigation. A proud Gator, Laura received both her J.D. and undergraduate degrees from the University of Florida. She is very active on the board of numerous bar associations, including the Broward County Bar Association (BCBA) and the Broward County Women’s Lawyers Association (BCWLA). Laura served for four years on the board of the BCBA and is currently the chairperson of two BCWLA committees, including the Law School Liaison Committee.

Laura will advise students and alumni(ae) on all private sector careers (firms and corporations) and on the application process for judicial clerkships. Specifically, Laura will counsel and encourage students as they explore various career opportunities, and she will work with them individually to help them create successful plans for employment during and after law school. Laura will also assist our graduates in transitioning into lateral or vertical career moves.

Please stop by the Office for Career Development to introduce yourself to Laura. She also can be reached by e-mail at [lvarela@stu.edu](mailto:lvarela@stu.edu) or by phone at (305) 623-2350.

## **PROFESSIONALISM DAY FOR 1L STUDENTS**

St. Thomas Law will be hosting “Professionalism Day” for all first-year students on Friday, September 23, 2016. Regular 1L classes will be suspended on that day and, instead, 1L students will attend a half-day program. The program will include a presentation on the responsibilities,

---

obligations, and opportunities of the legal profession. All 2L, 3L, and LL.M. students are also welcome to attend. The program will be held in the Moot Courtroom. .

## **PRO BONO REQUIREMENT**

Students who enrolled at St. Thomas Law in the Fall 2015 or thereafter must complete 50 hours of *pro bono* work during their last two years of law school as a graduation requirement. The program recognizes the moral obligation to assist those in need. It gives second- and third-year students legal experience under the supervision of lawyers in a variety of non-profit legal services organizations, government agencies, law firms, and alumni(ae) practices.

Students graduating in December 2016 who have not completed their *pro bono* hours, need to stop by the Office for Career Development. They can provide assistance with *pro bono* placement.

## **FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENTS BAR ADMISSION PROCESS**

First-year students can begin the bar admission process and pursue clearance for eligibility to participate in the Certified Legal Internship program. To maximize your savings, file your Registrant Bar Application no later than January 15, 2017, and you will pay the \$100 student registrant fee. In your third year of law school, you will pay the converter fee (which is currently \$600) to convert your student registration. The Florida Bar registration process will be covered in detail by a representative of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners at Professionalism Day, which is scheduled for September 23, 2016. The representative will speak from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Moot Courtroom. The Registrant Bar Application is available online at [www.floridabarexam.org](http://www.floridabarexam.org)

Any student who does not plan to pursue admission to the Florida Bar and is interested only in obtaining clearance for eligibility to participate in the Certified Legal Internship program must file a CLI Registration by April 21, 2017.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Jeremy Solorzano**, a 3L student, participated in Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell's Mock Trial Competitions in Orlando this summer.

**Victor Gabuardi**, a 2L student, is interning with Torres & Vadillo, LLP in Miami. Torres & Vadillo is a full service boutique law firm dedicated to the representation of individuals, businesses, and financial institutions. The attorneys of Torres & Vadillo serve as legal counsel to individuals, local banks, and businesses as well as to nationwide financial institutions.

**Uxsunn Ramirez**, a 2L student, is interning at Lipcon, Margulies, Alsina, and Winkleman, P.A., in Miami. Their focus is on maritime and admiralty personal injury claims against cruise lines and other boat owners, representing passengers and crew injured on ships worldwide.

## **ALUMNI(AE) NEWS**

**Jenelle La Chuisa**, a 2000 graduate, opened her own practice in Miami. La Chuisa Law is located at 1001 Brickell Bay Drive. Jenelle's specialties include arbitration, business law, start-up services, commercial litigation, and appeals.

**Monika Entin**, a 2001 graduate, was promoted to Partner at Bercow Radell & Fernandez, one of

---

South Florida's premier boutique law firms specializing in land use, zoning, and environmental matters. Entin's practice covers land use and zoning matters throughout Miami-Dade County, with a primary concentration in Miami Beach.

**Martin Lopez**, a 2016 graduate, was accepted in the University of Florida's LL.M. in taxation program.

**Julie Harris Nelson**, a 1994 graduate, a senior associate at Roig Lawyers in Miami, was appointed as Liaison to the State Board of Directors of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL).

### *Faculty Announcements*

Adjunct Professor **Attilio Costabel**'s article "Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law" will be published in the *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*, 51 *Tort Trial & Ins. Prac. L.J.* 185, Winter, 2016.

Professor **Alfred Light**'s article, "Avoiding the Contribution 'Catch-22': CERCLA Administrative Orders for Cleanup are Civil Actions," will appear at 46 *Environmental Law Reporter* 10791 in September 2016.

Professor **Patricia Moore** has been invited to be a speaker on a panel at the Civil Procedure section meeting at the annual Association of American Law Schools conference, to be held in San Francisco in January 2017. The panel, "The Roberts Court and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," is intended to discuss the following issues: interpretations, recurrent doctrinal themes, amendments to the Rules, membership on the Advisory Committee, historical perspective on the rulemaking process, pending decisions, and future outlooks.

Professor **Leonard Pertnoy**'s article entitled: "Civil Asset Forfeiture: Analyzing Florida Procedure Regarding Law Enforcement's Shadiest Procedure" was published in the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, Fall 2015, Volume 39, Number 2.

Professor **Stephen Plass**' articles "Securing Workers' Economic Rights through Public Protest," was published in the 11<sup>th</sup> *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* 101 (2016); and his article "Reforming the Federal Arbitration Act to Equalize the Adjudication Rights of Powerful and Weak Parties" was published in the 65 *Catholic University Law Review* 79 (2015).



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

