



Academic Support Workshop

ST. THOMAS LAW GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Karina Harduvel, a 2L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Blanco Law, P.A., in Miami (see p. 3).

Cassie Zabalo, a 3L student, accepted a paid law clerk position with Buckner Sports Law Firm, in Sunrise, FL (see p. 3).

Allison Pineiro, a 2016 graduate, accepted a position as an Assistant State Attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (see p. 4).

ST. THOMAS ALUMNI WAS FEATURED SPEAKER AT FLORIDA SUPREME COURT INDUCTION CEREMONY

Jaime Lapidus, a May 2016 graduate who is now an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Palm Beach County, received the honor of speaking at the Florida Supreme Court's induction ceremony for new attorneys last week. Jaime was invited to speak on behalf of his fellow inductees due to his high achievement on the Florida Bar exam this past July; he had one of the highest scores amongst the 3,448 law school graduates who took the exam.



Congratulations to Jaime, who continues a tradition of excellence at our law school; he is one of four alumni in the last five years who has received this honor and spoke at an induction ceremony in Florida. Congrats as well to Jaime's St. Thomas Law professors, whose expertise and leadership in the classroom prepare all of our graduates for future success.

To watch Jaime Lapidus's speech, please click on the link (his remarks begin shortly after the 29:45 mark in the video): <http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10516-florida-supreme-court-induction-new-attorneys/>

WHAT'S GOING ON

- October 18:** Prayers and Reflection, Room 109A @ noon
- October 19:** Speed Networking Reception, Convocation Hall @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 20:** SBA Presents: Rubenstein Law, Room 102 @ noon
- October 28:** Intercultural Human Rights Law Review Presents: Right to Bear Arms, Moot Courtroom @ 1:00 p.m.

MANDATORY EXIT INTERVIEWS FOR DECEMBER 2016 GRADUATES

The Office for Career Development is conducting Exit Interviews for December 2016 graduating students. Please stop by Career Development between Monday, November 7th and Friday, November 18th. You do **not** have to make an appointment, unless you need the interviewers to stay outside of their regular office hours. Career Development's normal office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. The interview itself takes less than ten minutes.

LAW LIBRARY EXTENDED HOURS

To enable students to continue to study on Friday and Saturday nights, the Law Library now has an after-hours room (in the S.E. corner of the Law Library). The after-hours room is open until midnight on Friday and Saturday night for law students to study. Students, please have a valid student ID card for entrance.

To encourage students to take advantage of the additional study time, there will be a raffle for an Einstein's Gift Card on Friday and Saturday night. Students must be present to be eligible for the free raffle.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY KAYAKING SOCIAL

The Environmental Law Society would like to invite the Law School community join them at their first Kayaking Social. The kayaking social will take place at Oleta River State Park, on Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. There is a \$30 cost to attend this event. Anyone interested in joining the Environmental Law Society should RSVP to Dschwabe@stu.edu before October 20, 2016.

HALSA AND LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI SMALL CLAIMS CLINIC

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) Young Lawyers Division adopted a Small Claims Clinic at Legal Services of Greater Miami on September 22, 2016. St. Thomas Law student **Andres Montero** (2L) volunteered, and helped the pro bono attorneys serve 25 clients seeking legal advice. One of the clients Andres assisted had a claim disputing a rental security deposit. Andres noted, "This opportunity to serve was heartwarming and also provided insight to the work we can do to help clients who cannot afford an attorney." Upcoming clinic dates are on the evenings of October 27th and November 10th, and are eligible for legal *pro bono* hours. Contact Robert Jack (rjack@stu.edu) if you are interested in volunteering.



Pictured: **Andres Montero** (2L), center, with clinic clients (right) and LSGMI Staff Attorneys Guerby Noel, and Mandy Mills (left).

CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

The Public Interest Law Society (PILS) presented a panel discussion on the Criminalization of Homelessness on October 4th, as part of the Office for Career Development's Lunch and Learn Series. The speakers included St. Thomas Law Professor **Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez**, Attorney Benjamin S. Waxman, and Journalist/Advocate Jeff Weinberger, moderated by PILS President **Jessica Biedron (2L)**. More than 120 students attended the discussion to learn about the challenges the homeless face since the *Pottinger* settlement in 1998 and the current movement for a Florida Homelessness Bill of Rights.



RESUME AND COVER LETTER WORKSHOP

The Office for Career Development held a Resume and Cover Letter Workshop on September 29, 2016, presented by Robert Jack, Public Sector Career Counselor. More than 15 students attended the workshop to learn about crafting a legal resume and cover letter for internship and job applications. The presentation also included an overview of St. Thomas Law Careers, the law school's job posting site. In addition, Career Development counselors are available to meet one-on-one with students to review resumes and cover letters. These appointments can be scheduled by emailing a counselor, or by visiting the Office for Career Development.



KIDS IN DISTRESS

Please join the **Business Law Society** in supporting the Kids in Distress annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Business Law Society will be collecting the following items in the breezeway and in the law school classrooms from October 17th until November 11th, 2016: stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, assorted canned vegetables, boxed milk, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, macaroni & cheese, boxed dessert items, and gift cards to Publix for turkeys.

Kids in Distress serves needy families in our local community. All of its services are designed specially to give children and their families the tools, skills, services, and education they need to maintain a safe, stable, and healthy environment in which to thrive.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Karina Harduvel, a 2L student, accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Blanco Law, P.A., in Miami. Its areas of practice include Bankruptcy; General Practice; Real Estate; and Wills, Trusts and Estates.

Daniel Joseph, a 2L student, is the recipient of the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation summer fellowship. This is the first time this fellowship has been awarded to a St. Thomas Law student. The summer fellowship is given to first and second-year law students who are academically and professionally driven and demonstrate financial need. To qualify for the

scholarship, students must be enrolled in a Florida law school or verified Florida residents attending out-of-state law schools. The summer fellowship is in the amount of \$5,000.

Cassie Zabalo, a 3L student, accepted a paid law clerk position with Buckner Sports Law Firm in Sunrise, FL. Buckner, a sports and education law firm, provides clients with innovative investigative and risk management strategies. Its areas of practice include: University Accreditation, Administration, Governance and Compliance; Athletic Academics, International Sports Arbitration and Compliance, Media Communications, NCAA Investigation and Enforcement, Litigation; Risk Management, Title IX; and University Academics.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Edward J. Armellino, a 2014 graduate, Assistant Public Defender with the Law Office of the Public Defender in Broward County, was recently promoted to the Felony Division with Judge Raag Singhal.

Walter Benenati, a 2006 graduate, Law Offices of Walter Benenati in Orlando, was selected as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers magazine. Walter specializes in bankruptcy law, and also handles personal injury, foreclosure defense, and civil litigation defense. The Rising Stars list recognizes no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in each state.

Andrew Mercer, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with the Aclé Law Firm in Miami, practicing first-party plaintiffs’ property insurance and assignment of benefits.

Allison Pineiro, a 2016 graduate, accepted a position as an Assistant State Attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office.

William Roe, a 2010 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Cooney Trybus Kwavnic Peets in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in property insurance litigation.

Faculty Announcements

The Florida League of Cities University selected Professor **Keith Rizzardi** to be the lecturer and moderator for its 2016 Summit. During his statewide tour, including Clearwater, Crestview, Jacksonville Beach, Plantation and Sanford, he educated senior officials from dozens of local governmental entities on the challenges of compliance with Florida’s public records laws. Learn more online at

http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/Assets/Files/FLC%20U%20Presentations/FLC_University_Summit_Public_Records_2016.pdf

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