



St. Thomas Law News

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 2 | August 25, 2017

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The School of Law offers J.D. students the opportunity to receive a certificate in an area of specialization at the same time they are earning their J.D. degree. Certificate programs are offered in Elder Law supervised by Professor **Butler**; Environmental Sustainability supervised by Professor **Light**; Intercultural Human Rights supervised by Professor **Wiessner**; and Tax Law supervised by Professor **Wolff**. Recently, the faculty of St. Thomas Law approved five additional certificate programs. The new certificate programs are Admiralty and Maritime Law supervised by Professor **Silver**; Business Law supervised by Professor **Martin**; Criminal Litigation supervised by Professor **Soree**; Immigration Practice supervised by Professor **Gilbert**; and Intellectual Property Law supervised by Professor **Nathenson**.

Any law student who desires specific information regarding the required classes and other criteria for each certificate program must go to the following link: <https://www.stu.edu/law/academics/certificate-programs>

CAMPUS EVENTS

August 25:	Professionalism Day
August 28:	Student Organization Fair
August 29:	SEC Student Honors Program, CPD-113 @ 12:00 p.m.
August 30:	Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.
September 4:	Labor Day (No School)
September 6 & 7:	Clinic Information Session, Moot Courtroom @ 12:00 p.m.
September 7:	L & L Palermo Recruitment, Room 102 @ 12:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS LAW: GATEWAY TO GREAT LEGAL CAREERS

Vanessa Baez (2L) worked as a Judicial Intern with Judge Patrick A. White, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami.

Ashley Emeric (3L) was chosen for a *highly prestigious and competitive* PAID Externship with JAG.

Carmela Cavo, a 2017 graduate, accepted a position as an Assistant Public Defender with the Broward Public Defender's Office.

Dakeitha Haynes, a 2017 graduate, is now an Assistant Public Defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

PROFESSIONALISM DAY FOR ALL 1L STUDENTS

A mandatory session for all 1L students will take place on Friday, August 25, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This is the "Professionalism Day" presentation. Professor **Robert Gregg** will present on

Court Structure and Civil Litigation from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Then from 10:30 to noon, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners will present regarding the Bar Admission process. This is very important information regarding how to start the process for Bar admission, and there is an opportunity to ask questions of the Bar representatives. All 1L students are required to attend. A light breakfast will be provided from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Legal Writing classes may meet later that day to avoid a conflict. Your Legal Writing Instructor will notify you.

VOLUME 12 OF THE *INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW* PUBLISHED

Volume 12 of the acclaimed *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* has just been published and is available in the office of the Intercultural Human Rights Program. It covers groundbreaking articles on the iconic Grandmothers of the *Plaza de Mayo* in Argentina; the adaptation of human rights standards to local norms in the African Ebola crisis; a quantitative assessment of the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review process; an analysis and call for action on classified websites and sex trafficking; and in-depth articles on the Law Review's symposium on Florida's Stand Your Ground laws.

This volume also features two recent graduates, **Maria Lourdes Asención '17** ("Classified Websites, Sex Trafficking, and the Law: Problem and Proposal") and **Evelyn Reyes '17** ("Florida's Stand Your Ground Law: How to Get Away with Murder"), whose articles apply New Haven's policy-oriented approach to jurisprudence in model fashion. Congratulations on the excellent contributions by Evelyn and Maria.

BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD INSTALLATION SCHOLARSHIP GALA

On June 3, 2017, Career Counselor **Laura Varela** attended the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association's Board Installation and Scholarship Gala. **Uxsunn Ramirez** (3L) received a \$1,000 scholarship from the BCHBA, which was generously matched by St. Thomas Law.

Pictured: Laura Varela and Uxsunn Ramirez.



EQUAL JUSTICE WORK NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Diego Sanchez (2L) was selected as a member of the Equal Justice Works National Advisory Committee (NAC). As a member of the NAC, Diego is required to attend one in-person meeting per year in Washington, D.C. (all expenses paid by EJW), as well as monthly conference calls. Diego will be providing feedback on EJW existing programs and new initiatives, and assisting with outreach to member schools and students throughout the country. His term as a member of the NAC began July 1, 2017, and will end June 30, 2018. Diego was one of many exceptional applicants; however, Diego stood out because of his impressive achievements and commitment to public interest work.



AIR FORCE JAG CORPS CSO CONFERENCE

St. Thomas Law was formally invited to the Career Services Officer Conference hosted by The Air Force JAG Corps at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, from May 23-26, 2017. The Conference's main purposes were to acquaint us with the work of Judge Advocates, brief us on the "nuts and bolts" of recruiting, and answer any questions we had concerning its office and program. We heard from young JAGs and top ranked officers alike, toured a typical base and base legal office, and learned about how The Air Force JAGs are participating in overseas contingency operations. **Lourdes B. Fernandez**, Assistant Dean for Career Development, represented St. Thomas Law and found the Conference to be extremely enlightening. The highlight of her visit was meeting one of our outstanding alumni(ae) Major **Velma Gay** '01. Additionally, she learned that we have two other alumni(ae) in the Air Force JAG: Captain Claudine DeCorato '11 and Captain Julie Adams '08.



Pictured: Lourdes B. Fernandez and Major Gay.

LAW STUDENTS KICK OFF SUMMER OF SERVICE WITH RURAL SUMMER LEGAL CORP!

The Rural Summer Legal Corps kicked off its program with a joint training in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Equal Justice Works and the Legal Service Corporation. **Melissa Ramos** (2L) served at Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. Melissa joined 29 other public interest law students in addressing pressing legal issues facing rural communities in the areas of housing, domestic violence, public benefits, migrant farmworkers, Native American, and family law. Melissa advocated for and guided these individuals who are hindered within their communities because of past criminal convictions.



The students traveled to Martinsburg, West Virginia, to gain firsthand experience and training on the unique challenges and benefits of working with legal clients in a rural setting.

ALUMNI NEWS

Samuel Rony, a 2017 graduate, was accepted into the very competitive LL.M. in Taxation program at Georgetown University.

Lydia Worden, a 2013 graduate, is lead Associate attorney at Beaulieu-Fawcett Law, in its Appellate Division. Lydia recently secured a favorable result with the Fourth District Court of Appeal this year that not only was a win for the client but also made an important and positive statutory clarification in

our area of practice. In *Beckford v. Drogan*, 216 So. 3d 1 (Fla. 4th DCA 2017), the Fourth District, sitting *en banc* and receding from a prior decision of the Court, held that Florida's paternity attorney's fee statute allows for an award of attorney's fees in appellate proceedings incident to a paternity action in granting our Motion for Appellate Attorney's Fees.

Richard T. Champagne, a 2007 graduate, was recognized on June 17, 2017, at the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida Gala as one of the "Young Professionals Top 20 Under 40." Mr. Champagne is the President of the Haitian Lawyers Association. He specializes in family law, criminal defense, and immigration law, and he is licensed to practice in Florida and Massachusetts. Prior to starting his own firm (Champagne Law Group, P.A.), Mr. Champagne was an Assistant Public Defender at the Public Defender's Office for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in Broward County.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Roy Balleste** is the author of the lead article in the latest issue of *the Canadian Journal of Law and Technology*, with a piece entitled *War in the Expanse: The Metaphysics of Cyberspace*, 15 *C.J.L.T.* 1-192 (June 2017). (This journal is ranked the top journal in law and technology in Canada).

Associate Dean **Tamara Lawson** was re-elected as the Chair of the Law Professors' Division of the National Bar Association, and presented on a panel.



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

