



St. Thomas Law News

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

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NEW REGISTRATION VERSION OF EXAM 4 EXTEGRITY SOFTWARE

St. Thomas Law is using a new company for typing essay-short answers for exams this semester; the new company is Exam 4 Exegrity. Some of you may already be aware, that the Registrar's Office did a test run with Exam4 Exegrity this semester.

Students planning to type their essay-short answers during the final exam period must complete a **new registration** and do the **practice exam** to familiarize themselves with the software and know exactly what to do on exam days.

Everyone must download the new version of the software in order to use it during the exam period. If you used the software for midterm exams, you must complete a new registration because the first one has expired. Please download the software at your earliest convenience.

Please refer to the e-mail **Janell Jackson**, Associate Registrar, sent out on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 12:13 p.m., which provide detailed instructions on how to install the software.

ST. THOMAS LAW TAX CLINIC RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNOR SCOTT

St. Thomas Law Tax Clinic received a letter of recognition from Florida Governor Rick Scott for the outstanding community service and *pro bono* tax services it provides to the community. The governor went on to say in his letter to the Tax Clinic that its involvement of Floridians is essential to the continued success of our state.

The Tax Clinic is having an alumni(æ) reception honoring Professor **Larry Fedro**, Tax Clinic Executive Director, on Friday, April 27, 2018, in the Cordero Breezeway. Anyone interested in celebrating with the Tax Clinic must RSVP to SMV@stu.edu by Monday, April 23, 2018.

STU VITA PROGRAM RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY

The IRS Stakeholder Partnerships, Education, and Communication (SPEC) is hosting the second

CAMPUS EVENTS

April 23:	Patent Law Presentation, Moot Courtroom @ 5:00 p.m.
April 26:	Last Day of Classes
April 27:	Tax Clinic Alumni Reception, Cordero Breezeway @ 5:30 p.m.
April 27-29:	Reading Days
April 30 – May 1:	Final Exam Period
May 11:	Commencement Ceremony, Fernandez Family Center @ 9:00 a.m.
May 12:	

annual filing season partner recognition celebration. This year's theme is *Celebrating Champions of Caring*. SPEC is recognizing Partners for their continuing efforts to educate and service individuals and families within their communities through the VITA/TCE program.

Frank Nolden, Director, Stakeholder Partnerships, Education, and Communication (SPEC), submitted a nomination for St. Thomas University of School of Law for its innovative ways to improve efficiency and grow the number of families that it can help during this filing season. He took the opportunity to highlight Professor **Mark Wolff**'s commitment to the VITA program for the last 34 years, the student volunteers' efforts to assist Limited English Proficient (LEP) taxpayers, and the use of "tracking logs" at the Return Preparation and Quality Review Stages and the positive impact on the efficiency of the tax preparation process. **Ansell Fernández** was acknowledged for sharing "tracking logs" information with Frank Nolden.

Final selections were made for the SPEC partners. St. Thomas University is a final selectee for *Partner Innovation and Best Practices Category*. The St. Thomas VITA program will be among those that will be highlighted during the Virtual Partner Recognition ceremony being held on April 27, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

LAW LIBRARY NOISE POLICY

The Law Library is intended to be a quiet study area for all patrons. All students and visitors are asked to be respectful and to be considerate of others at all times.

Throughout the reading rooms, patrons should not speak above a low speaking volume or cause any other excessive noise such as audible music, mobile phone alerts, or any other noise that could reasonably be construed as disruptive to a quiet study environment. Even if working on legal research projects, keep speaking volume low, including in the group study rooms. Talking outside of the study rooms is discouraged, and a request to stop talking should be honored immediately. Creating excess noise or disturbances may be cause for the Law Library staff to ask a patron to leave.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACADEMY HOSTS REPRESENTATIVE ROSS SPANO TO COMMEMORATE 'NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK'

On April 11th, in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Human Trafficking Academy was honored to host Florida State Representative Ross Spano in a talk attended by law students, faculty, staff, and community members. Professor **Roza Pati**, Director of the Human Trafficking Academy, welcomed Representative Ross Spano to St. Thomas Law and highlighted his tremendous work in the State of Florida to confront the problem of trafficking in human beings, to find solutions, and to eradicate this scourge.

Representative Spano, who is also currently a candidate for Florida Attorney General, opened up about why it is that he was called to advocate on behalf of victims of human trafficking and offered insights into the laudable legislative efforts he has championed in the pursuit of this aim.

Representative Spano began the talk by emphasizing the need to stand up to bullies, which he

learned from his own childhood experiences. "There are all sorts of bullies in life," he said, "and one of those bullies takes the form of a human trafficker." He shared the experience of pushing for the passage of numerous bills to protect victims of sex trafficking. These legislative measures covered a range of issues including the ability for victims of sex trafficking to petition for any prostitution convictions in their record to be vacated or expunged, an increase on the criminal penalty for pimps and for those who solicit the services of sex trafficked persons, the ability for prosecutors to pursue RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) charges against traffickers, and protecting the locations of safe-houses for trafficking victims from public disclosure.

Representative Spano's passionate commitment to eliminating human trafficking in Florida was palpable and was mirrored by the audience. The attendees were engaged throughout, asking many thought-provoking questions during the latter half of the session.

Some students who were in attendance shared their thoughts about the talk afterwards. **Kimberly Colón**, an LL.M. student, said that "Representative Ross Spano was very insightful on the different laws regarding human trafficking in the State of Florida." **Diego Sánchez**, a 2L, stated that, "It was great to hear from someone who has been at the legislative forefront of tackling this very important issue in our State." Added **Nadia El Nur**, another student from the LL.M. program, "I really enjoyed the lecture organized by the Human Trafficking Academy. The discussion held afterward was inspiring and very informative."

Representative Spano has pledged to continue to "fight for victims of human trafficking until we completely eradicate this scourge from Florida." There can be no doubt that his work, including the talk he gave on the 11th, has inspired others to take up the fight as well.

NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR THE COUNSELING SESSIONS

The Director of Student Health Center, **Gianni Basoa**, has extended her office hours to provide services to students who have evening classes. Beginning next week, the office hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Students must make an appointment, which can be done by e-mail at gbasoa@stu.edu or by phone by calling (305)628-6695.

BACCALAUREATE GRADUATION MASS

You are invited to attend the Baccalaureate Mass, on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Anthony. This Mass celebrates the long road of studies that are about to come to an end. As you make your plans and arrangements, the STU Community would be honored by your presence, as well as the presence of your family and friends at the Graduation Mass.

Please arrive by 6:30 p.m. to line up in front of the Chapel, so the academic and liturgical processions may begin on time. Students must wear their graduation regalia without the cap if they plan to participate in the ceremony.

FLORIDA BAR YLD LAW STUDENT DIVISION LUNCH AND LEARN

On April 11, 2018, the Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division at St. Thomas Law hosted attorneys Nikki Lewis Simon, Partner-Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, P.A., and Carolyn L. Martin, Assistant City Attorney for the City of North Miami. Ms. Lewis Simon and Ms. Martin spoke about what legal employers look for in a resume and



gave very informative tips on Interviewing Skills. The panel presentation was both informative and encouraging for students.

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

On April 11, 2018, the Federal Bar Association in conjunction with the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Miami-Dade Chapter, hosted the FBA's monthly luncheon. The featured speaker was Kerri Ruttenberg, Esq., of Jones Day, who presented on the topic of Effective Trial & Presentation Visuals. Ms. Ruttenberg delved into the many facets of what makes a graphic presentation for a jury or judge effective and what does not. She focused on a number of issues, including 'one concept per slide,' font and size, eliminating excess on slides, etc. Ms. Ruttenberg was highly informative and entertaining, and spoke to more than 100 attendees.



Pictured left to right: **Nabil Abu Nahlah** (3L), and Russell Koonin, President of the FBA Southern District of Florida.

THIRD DCA ORAL ARGUMENTS

On April 9, 2018, **Shannon McGee** and **Jessica Vega** (pictured), Certified Legal Interns under Special Assistant Public Defender Professor **Howard Blumberg**, presented their oral arguments before the Third District Court of Appeals. The three judge panel included Judge Barbara Laco, Judge Thomas Logue, and Judge Edwin Scales, III. The entire appellate litigation clinic team was there in support.



Pictured from left to right **Greeny Valbuena** (3L), **Stephanie Ganges** (3L), **Shannon McGee** (3L), Adjunct Professor **Howard Blumberg**, **Jessica Vega** (3L), **Natalia Pinzon-Martinez** (3L), and **Yamila Lorenzo** (3L).

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Portia Bethea (2L) accepted an exclusive Internship at the Florida Supreme Court.

Elizabeth Irazabal (3L) accepted a Spring Internship with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

Nicholas Passantino (3L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Callahan & Fusco, LLC, in Fort Lauderdale.

Cynthia Rosa (3L) was accepted into the LL.M. in Taxation program at Boston University.

Maria Sánchez (2L) accepted a Spring Internship with the City Attorney's Office in Hollywood.

Keith Thomson (2L) accepted a Summer Internship with Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Joshua Forman, a 2013 graduate, was promoted as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at GlobeNet Telecom in Miami-Fort Lauderdale.

Leydis Gomez, a 2017 graduate, accepted a position as an HIPAA Compliance Officer at Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.

Kelly O'Connell, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Derek T. Smith Law Group,

PLLC, in New York.

Leighton Regis, a 2017 graduate, accepted a Tax Associate position with KPMG in global Mobility Service department at its National Office in Washington, D.C.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Roy Balleste** has been asked to join a new team of internationally-renowned experts on space law who will be developing rules applicable to the military use of outer space. The project, MILAMOS (Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space), was inaugurated at McGill University in 2016, and aims to develop a “widely-accepted manual that clarifies the fundamental rules applicable to military uses of outer space by both States and non-State actors in times of peace, in periods of rising tensions, and in times of armed conflict.”

Professor **Marc-Tizoc González** presented last week at the Seattle University School of Law forum, *Finding Space to Solve Homelessness*. In “Cultivating Charity and Sanctuary in the Twenty-First Century United States: An Eutopian Proposal,” Professor González informed participants about the food-sharing cases, critiqued the “work or starve” ideology that animates the criminalization of religious and political activists who act publicly to mitigate hunger and other conditions of poverty, and advocated to reframe contemporary efforts to shelter people within religious traditions like sanctuary, nunnery, monastery, or commune in order to facilitate the statutory protections of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), Pub.L. 106–274, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000cc, et seq., which strictly scrutinizes local laws that “substantially burden” religious land use.

At the invitation of the Carter Center, Professor **Alfred R. Light** participated in the Executive Briefing and Visit to Plains, Georgia, April 12-15, 2018. The Executive Briefing at the Center in Atlanta included firsthand accounts of the Carter Center’s work from President Carter and program experts. The Visit to Plains, President Carter’s hometown, included discussion from President Carter at the Plains High School and at his boyhood home, square dancing with the former President, and the former President’s Sunday School lesson at the Maranatha Baptist Church. The Carter Center, in partnership with Emory University, is guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. It seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.

Professor **Jay Silver**’s article entitled “Trump’s lawyer Michael Cohen faces the real price of client loyalty,” was published by CNBC, on Wednesday, April 11. Professor Silver offered an intelligent, insightful, and cogent analysis on the topic. Anyone interested in reading the article can go to <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/04/11/trumps-lawyer-michael-cohen-faces-the-real-price-of-client-loyalty.html>

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