



St. Thomas Law News

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

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BACK TO SCHOOL – POST HURRICANE

Due to the threat of Hurricane Irma and the aftermath of the storm, classes at St. Thomas Law were cancelled for several days. Cancellation of classes can be quite disruptive and creates inconvenience for everyone. Below in this Newsletter, you will find a class “make-up” schedule to make up some of the class time lost due to the closure for the storm. The ABA requires that classes meet a certain allotted time to provide credit. Also, as a practical matter, additional class time is needed to make sure students get coverage of essential material.

Although having classes on Saturday and Sunday is not ideal, this make-up schedule eliminates the need to extend the semester, delay finals, etc. The two Saturdays, 10/7 and 11/11, were already in the Academic Calendar as make-up days if needed. We added the two following Sundays to enable us to make up the lost time most efficiently. Fortunately, the make-up dates are set a bit in the future to enable students to plan ahead. This means you will need to read ahead and be prepared for the class sessions that occur on the make-up days. Professors will provide you guidance of what material will be covered, and students should plan now to make sure they will be available on the make-up days. On the make-up days, the Saturdays and Sundays will work like a regular class day, with your classes meeting at the same time and in the same room as they normally meet. You should avoid scheduling anything that conflicts with the make-up days, and if you currently have conflicts, see if you can reschedule the “other” event to enable you to attend class. It is not unreasonable for you to ask employers for the time off, especially if you let them know that you need to attend class.

CAMPUS EVENTS

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|-------------------------|---|
| September 25-29: | Graduation Registration,
Registrar Office Counter |
| September 26: | L & L Special Counsel
[E-Discovery], CPD-113 |
| September 26: | Bar Induction Ceremony, Moot
Courtroom @ 3:00 p.m. |
| September 27: | Breezeway Chatter, Cordero
Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m. |
| September 28: | Clinical Application Deadline
@ 4:00 p.m. |

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEMBERS OF FLORIDA BAR

St. Thomas Law class of 2017 performed well on the last administration of the Florida Bar, improving almost 20% points from the previous administration and outperforming about ½ of the Florida law schools. This improvement appears to be tied to the dedication and commitment of our graduates, and the supplemental and supportive Bar passage programs that have been adopted and expanded over the last couple of years. We will be hosting our annual induction ceremony at which our most

recent graduates will be sworn in as new attorneys next Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 3:00 p.m., with a reception in the Breezeway to follow. All members of the St. Thomas Law Community are invited to attend.

HURRICANE MAKE-UP SCHEDULE

Due to the impact of Hurricane Irma, the following make-up sessions are scheduled to accommodate lost class time during the storm. This global schedule is created to avoid creating classroom and student conflicts. Make-up class sessions will be held at their regularly scheduled times and classrooms.

Saturday, September 23rd – 1L Academic Support Workshops (reschedule of September 15th)

Saturday, October 7th – Wednesday Classes Meet

Sunday, October 8th – Tuesday Classes Meet

Sunday, October 22nd – Legal Writing Classes Meet (separate LRW schedule TBD)

Saturday, November 11th – Monday Classes Meet

Sunday, November 12th – Thursday Classes Meet

LEGAL CAREERS IN E-DISCOVERY LUNCH & LEARN

Special Counsel and the Office of Career Development presents: Legal Careers in E-Discovery Lunch & Learn, on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 12:00 p.m., in room CPD-113. Katie Curiel, Esq., and Cherie Brodnax-Eaves of Special Counsel will visit campus to talk about the benefits of E-Discovery as a Legal Career, including the Tech side of the Law, Document Review vs. E-Discovery, the big business of E-Discovery, areas of Legal E-Discovery Roles, certifications, and available resources.

Please RSVP to **Laura Varela** at lvarela@stu.edu if you are interested in attending this event. Lunch will be provided.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

On August 31, 2017, the Office for Career Development hosted a Lunch & Learn with Professor **Keith Rizzardi**, longtime trial attorney with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Environmental and Natural Resources Division before coming to STU Law. Professor Rizzardi discussed with the attendees firsthand experience of what it is like to work at the DOJ, and tips and tools to land internship and employment opportunities there.



U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) LUNCH & LEARN

On August 29, 2017, St. Thomas Law hosted the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Lisa T. Roberts, Chief, Attorney Advisor and Alumnus **Adrian Gonzalez '13**, Attorney Advisor with the SEC Miami Regional Office, addressed the students about internship and employment opportunities at the SEC, including the Spring and Summer 2018 Honors Programs. **Jennifer Weiss** (3L) is currently

interning at the SEC.

OFFICE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT "IN HOUSE" LUNCH & LEARN

On August 24, 2017, the Office for Career Development presented an "in house" Lunch & Learn: Getting the Most Out of the Office for Career Development. STU Law Career Counselor, **Laura Varela**, shared with the attendees tips for navigating the Office's online job posting website, and best practices for a professional resume and cover letter as well as pointers to help STU law students stand out from the crowd in networking and other professional development events.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

D'Bria Bradshaw (3L) worked as a Summer Intern with The Sports & Entertainment Group PLLC in Washington, D.C.

Candice Izaguirre's (3L) article, "Transgressors - - Helpless Outsiders Under Title VII," has been accepted for publication. It will appear in *The Tulane Journal of Law & Sexuality* (Spring 2018). Ms. Izaguirre wrote her superb article for the seminar, Sexual Identity and the Law (Spring 2018), taught by Professor Amy Ronner.

Cody Shilling (3L) worked as an Intern with the Broward County State Attorney's Office.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

Roseangely Conde Denis, a 2016 graduate, accepted a Staff Counsel position with Heritage Property & Casualty Insurance Company in Sunrise.

Karina Miralda, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with The Strems Law Firm, P.A., in Coral Gables, specializing in Plaintiffs Property Insurance Litigation.

Lester Rodriguez, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Wolfson Law Firm, LLP in Miami, specializing in Personal Injury.

Christine G. Soto, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Bromagen & Rathet, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in Insurance Defense.

Reymundo Zapata, a 2017 graduate, was accepted into Villanova University's LL.M. in Taxation Program.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Michael Vastine** has recently made several presentations at conferences, including *Understanding the Burdens of Proof and Production*, at the Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, in New Orleans, Louisiana; *Immigration Court—Nuts And Bolts: Practice Before the Immigration Court* and *Asylum Law: Overview of Asylum Law, Withholding of Removal, and Relief Under the Torture Convention*, both at the Immigration Law Conference of the Federal Bar Association, in Denver, Colorado; *Chevron and Deference to Agency Statutory Interpretations Under Justice Gorsuch*, for the Quarterly Teleseminar of the Federal Litigation Section of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; and *Under Pressure: The Art of Positivity and Reinvention in Turbulent Times*, at the AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, in Denver,

Colorado.



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