



# St. Thomas Law News

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

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## INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OPTION

All J.D. students must satisfy the Senior Writing Requirement (SWR) as a condition of graduation. Any student can seek to satisfy the SWR by successfully completing any course designated as a "seminar." (This will necessarily include writing a paper). Students register for the seminar of their choice during the regular registration period. The seminar classes are treated as any other class for registration purposes. There is no pre-approval process if a student uses the seminar method to satisfy the SWR. Also, a seminar is worth two graded credits.

Rather than enrolling in a seminar, a student may also attempt to satisfy the SWR requirement through a one graded credit Independent Study with a full-time faculty member. To be authorized

to enroll in an Independent Study course, the student must submit a proposal to the Curriculum Committee. **For the spring 2018 term, the proposal must be submitted no later than November 15, 2017.**

If approved, the student then will be registered for one credit of Independent Study by the Law School Registrar.

To get authorization for an Independent Study Project, a student needs to complete a form, available at <https://www.stu.edu/Portals/law/docs/students/Independent-Study-Option-Form.pdf>, and provide the other required information, indicated below, to the Law School Registrar prior to the deadline. The Law School Registrar then will provide the form and additional information to the Chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee. You may turn in a hard copy, or scan and e-mail a completed form and the other documentation to [jjackson@stu.edu](mailto:jjackson@stu.edu). Please request that you receive verification that it was timely received if you e-mail the documentation.

Only full time faculty members and certain adjuncts are authorized to supervise an Independent Study. You can check with the Student Affairs Office or the Registrar to ascertain whether a particular

## CAMPUS EVENTS

<b>October 5:</b>	Unreserved Effects of a Broken Immigration System L&L, CPD-
<b>October 6:</b>	Current Concerns with Security, Terrorism, its Control since Hurricane Make-Up Classes
<b>October 7 &amp; 8:</b>	
<b>October 10:</b>	Prayers and Reflection, 109A @ 12:05 p.m.
<b>October 11:</b>	Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.
<b>October 19:</b>	Speed Networking, Convocation Hall

adjunct professor is authorized to supervise an Independent Study. The student must identify the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the project, and that faculty member has to sign off on the form *before* it is submitted to the Registrar. A student may do only one independent study for credit.

The student also must include with the form a one-to two-page topic proposal, identifying the subject area of the law the student intends to research, with a brief bibliography. The proposal should identify an area or aspect of the law the student is interested in investigating, and should narrow the subject area to one of manageable proportions. The student will need to do some preliminary research. A note or paper written in connection with a law review may serve as a starting point and as a basis for a proposal to the curriculum committee, but cannot be used, in and of itself, to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement.

Students should keep in mind that doing an Independent Study requires good time management skills and an ability to stay on task. These papers require weeks of research, outlines, and multiple drafts. This is not something a student can complete in a short amount of time. For many students, it is easier to find a suitable topic and progress toward a viable paper within the parameters of a seminar class, rather than as an Independent Study.

Keep in mind, in approaching a possible faculty sponsor, that he or she is not required to supervise Independent Studies. It will involve a substantial time commitment on his or her part. A student should approach those faculty members with particular expertise in the student's subject area. While different faculty members will have different requirements, the student should expect to meet with his or her faculty sponsor on multiple occasions during the course of the semester. For example, depending on the faculty member, a faculty sponsor may expect the student to submit, at different points during the semester, a topic report and bibliography, a thesis statement, an outline, drafts of the paper, and a final paper. For a student's paper to fulfill the Senior Writing Requirement, it also must conform to the Bluebook citation format. Remember, the deadline for submitting the proposal to write an authorized paper in either the summer or fall term is April 15, 2018.

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#### **REMINDER: HURRICANE MAKE-UP CLASSES ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**

This is a reminder that the Law School classes which normally meet on Wednesdays will meet at their regular time and in their regular room on Saturday, October 7, and Law School classes that normally meet on Tuesdays will meet at their regular time in their regular room on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

#### **Food Services**

The University Cafeteria (located adjacent to the bookstore) will be open Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for Brunch Buffet, and 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. for Dinner Buffet. The cost for the meal is \$8.00.

**Einstein's will be open on a trial basis Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for breakfast and lunch.**

Einstein's will only open on subsequent make-up days if there is sufficient business on Saturday.

#### **Law Library**

The Law Library will be open 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. The South Reading Room of the Law Library will be open 24 hours.

**Jewish Students** not able to attend the make-up sessions on Saturday should submit the appropriate

form at the Registrar's office no later than Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

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## FASHION GIVES BACK EVENT

In September 2017, a group of St. Thomas Law students attending the Fashion Gives Back event, hosted by the Miami Children's Young Ambassadors (MCYA). Its creators, alumni **Ricky Patel '09** and **Wesley Farrel '09**, members of MCYA and partners of Farrell and Patel, Attorneys at Law, founded the event with high hopes that combining glamour and charity for one night would encourage young community leaders dedicated to Nicklaus Children's and its mission to come together and raise funds/awareness for the hospital's patients and their families.



## TERRORISM LAW LUNCH & LEARN

On September 28, 2017, St. Thomas Law hosted attorney Joseph Zumpano, a member of St. Thomas Law's Board of Advisors, at one of its Fall Lunch & Learns. Mr. Zumpano addressed an audience of over 80 law students on the topic of "Terrorism Law: Victims' Rights and the Hunt for Assets." In February 2017, Mr. Zumpano recovered assets related to a \$191 million judgment against an array of actors, including Colombia's

FARC and Mexican cartels.



## FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION STUDENT DIVISION'S FIRST GENERAL MEETING

On September 27, 2017, the Federal Bar Association Student Division held its First General Meeting this year. Professors **Kravitz** (past President of the FBA South Florida Chapter) and **Warheit** (former Federal Law Clerk) spoke about their tenure in Federal Court and the benefits of joining the FBA. More than fifteen students were in attendance at this meeting.

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## NEWLY ELECTED 1L SENATORS

Please join the SBA in congratulate the following students, who were recently elected by their peers as 1L senators: **Julio Bravo**, **Jaimie Carlson**, **Marielys Concepcion**, **Aimee Garces**, and **Keith Thomson**.

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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Victor Bao** (3L) accepted a PAID Internship with The Downs Law Group in Miami, specializing in Personal Injury, Homeowner's Law, and the BP Oil Spill case.

**Pedro Diaz** (3L) accepted an Internship with the Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami.

**Martha Ferral** (3L) accepted a post-graduate Associate Attorney position with Shutts & Bowen in Miami.

**Nicholas Passantino** (3L) accepted a PAID Law Clerk position with Charlip Law Group, LC in Miami,

specializing in Personal Injury and Civil Litigation (Mortuary Law).

**Jennifer Weiss** (3L) accepted a *highly prestigious and competitive* internship with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Miami.

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### ALUMNI(AE) NEWS

**Joanna Kallinosis**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Quintairos, Prieto, Wood, & Boyer, P.A. in Miami, specializing in General Liability and Insurance Defense.

**Felix Ojeda**, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Taylor Espino Vega & Touron, P.A. in Coral Gables, specializing in Construction Litigation.

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

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### FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor **Michael Vastine** argued *Choizilme v. U.S. Attorney General* at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, regarding the immigration implications of the Florida drug sale statute that reverses the presumption of innocence regarding *mens rea* of the illicit nature of the controlled substance involved.

Professor **Mark Wolff** was placed on the Editorial Board of the *Florida Bar Journal and News*. In addition he will be presenting at the ABA International Law Section Meeting on October 23-24, 2017, on: "*Ethics and International Tax Planning: The Decline of IRS Circular 230 and Rise of ABA Standards in Governing Tax Law Practice.*"



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