



St. Thomas Law News

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Welcome Law Students!

The faculty, administration, staff, and returning law students welcome the new J.D. class of 2021. The fall class consists of a diverse group of students from many different colleges and universities.

The 2021 J.D. class consist of 200 students. Many of the new students attended the pre-law program, "Introduction to Legal Studies," earlier in the summer, and all of them were here for the Orientation program August 14-16, 2018.

We would also like to welcome the new LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights students. The LL.M. students represent a number of different countries, and bring a passion for human rights and social justice to our campus. ❖

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Peter Abraham (3L) accepted a Summer Internship with Farrell, Patel, Jomarron, & Lopez in Miami, specializing in Civil Litigation.

Sean Cordero (2L) accepted a Summer Internship with Senator Marco Rubio, Miami Branch.

Blake Bernstein, a 2018 graduate, accepted a post-graduate Associate position with Jack Bernstein & Associates, P.A., in Tampa, specializing in Personal Injury.

Joanne Beral, a 2018 graduate, accepted a post-graduate position as Senior Corporate Compliance Officer with Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale. ❖

Campus Events

- August 21: L & L Federal Bureau of Investigation, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.
- August 22: Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.
- August 23: DOJ Environmental & Natural Resources L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.
- August 24: Professionalism Day



August 30: L & L Department of Justice, A-112 @
12:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Law Delegation Aids Migrant Families

The humanitarian crisis caused by the separation of migrant children from their asylum-seeking parents has had an effect on everyone who has heard the heartbreaking stories.

The St. Thomas Law family answered the call, sprung into action, and headed to Texas to lend its much-needed expertise to assist detained and separated families. This time, the effort was launched by the Immigration Law Students Association (ILSA) at St. Thomas University, its president, **Andrea Valencia**, and immediate past president, **Diego Sánchez**. The ILSA raised its own funds with the help of generous contributions from our law school faculty members.



The St. Thomas Law Karnes Pro Bono Project partnered with [RAICES](#), a non-profit organization that remains on the front lines on this issue. **Nathalia Lozano**, **Vanessa Baez**, and **Catherine Pérez** were the Project Coordinators.

This is the third such trip that St. Thomas Law has taken to the Karnes Detention Center in Texas, having gone there in 2016 to assist with immigrant issues.

But this trip was different. While all the stories are hard to hear and difficult to fathom, the ones that detail the ripping of children from their parents heighten the urgency of the situation.

Led, once again, by supervising St. Thomas Law Professor **Lauren Gilbert**, who teaches Constitutional Law, Family Law, Immigration Law, and an Immigration Seminar, the team was comprised of law students, professors, and mental health professionals.

The law students chosen for the 2018 team are the following: **Lucas Aisenberg** (3L), **Jacqueline Vázquez-Aldana** (3L), **Vanessa Baez** (3L), **Alida Bustos** (2L), **Sofi Henshaw** (2L), **Maria Cornu Laport** (2L), **Nathalia Lozano** (3L), **Stefanie Morse** (3L), **Donna Nasimov** (3L), **Jasmine Ramos** (3L), **Otto Ruiz Frantzen** (3L), and **Alexsandra Simoes** (3L).

The group also included a team of mental health experts: Professor **Judith Bachay**, Ph.D., from St. Thomas University; Lory Toledo, Executive Director of the Trauma Resolution Center who accompanied the December 2016 Karnes team; along with Carla Barrows, Camila Montesano, and Tizrah Neves. ❖

St. Thomas Law Hosts Annual John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy

This summer, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy hosted its weeklong professional development training from July 23rd to July 27th, 2018. The primary focus was addressing the issue of human trafficking within the United States.

The Academy, directed by St. Thomas Law Professor Dr. **Roza Pati**, welcomed 54 participants from around the country. These participants represented various professional groups including social service providers, child protective investigators, psychologists, government representatives,

attorneys, law enforcement, teachers, academics, human rights advocates, entrepreneurs, students, and faith-based organizations. The Academy was especially pleased to welcome several recipients of the 2018 Survivor Scholarship, generously funded by the Thomas E. Lemons Foundation.



Rev. Msgr. Franklyn Casale, former President of St. Thomas University, paid tribute to Mr. John J. Brunetti for his support to St. Thomas University over the years and his most recent contribution to the Human Trafficking Academy, which now bears his name.

The Academy consisted of 15 training courses taught by top-experts in the field, drawing from their own professional and personal experiences.

This intensive week of training was organized to empower anti-trafficking professionals and advocates with the tools and knowledge to work as effectively and compassionately as possible against the scourge of human trafficking. ❖

St. Thomas Law Review Welcomes New Members

The *St. Thomas Law Review* 2018-2019 Executive Board would like to congratulate the following students on become Member Candidates: **Liaran Aleman, Jessica Álvarez, Marina Barinshtein, Crhistian Batallas, Andrew Bratslavsky, Shameequa Buxton, Lauren Cabrera, Marielys Concepción, Marcus Davide, José De Los Santos, Carolina Del Campo, Jennifer Francisco, Heidy González, Michelle González, Tracey Joseph, Tahimi Magrans, Jonathan Manoy, Leah Maurer, Antoinette Mederos, Jonathan Negrón Kernizan, Layla Nguyen, Gianni Piantini, Ernesto Rivero, Ivana Romero, Jikky Thankachan, Keith Tomson, and Steven Waldman.** ❖

Kozyak Mentoring Board Luncheon

On June 13, the Kozyak Mentoring Board hosted a luncheon at the Historic Police Courthouse and Museum. The museum was the original Black (Historic Negro) Police Station. One of the original Black Police Officers spoke about his experiences as a Patrol Man in Miami in the 1950-1960s. He retired in the 1980s. Judge H.T. Smith spoke about the cases Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall argued in Miami-Dade County. It was an excellent opportunity for our law students to meet other law students from the University of Florida, Nova University, Florida International University, and the University of Miami. ❖

Florida's Constitution Revision Panel Discussion

On June 6, 2018, St. Thomas Law held the first panel discussion regarding the November Ballot Amendments proposed by the Constitutional Revision Commission since their submission. Organized and moderated by St. Thomas Law Professor and Partner at Akerman, **Joni Armstrong Coffey**. The distinguished panelists were Constitution Revision Commissioner José Félix "Pepi" Díaz, an executive vice president at governmental affairs firm Ballard Partners, a partner at Panza, Maurer, & Maynard, and a former Florida state representative where he led the Commerce Committee, overseeing gaming, economic development, regulated industries, and tourism; Commissioner Roberto Martinez, a widely recognized litigation attorney and a partner at Colson Hicks Eidson; and William Spicola, General Counsel of the Constitution Revision Commission, who previously served in the Governor's Office as General Counsel and prior to that as the General Counsel at the Florida Department of

Business and Professional Regulation. The welcome was given by the Acting Provost of St. Thomas University, **Alfredo Garcia**. ❖

South Miami Kendall Bar Association

On June 6, 2018, **David Bixby** (3L) was awarded the South Miami Kendall Bar Association (SMKBA) scholarship presented at the SMKBA's Annual Banquet in Coral Gables. The evening consisted of excellent food, entertainment, and a wonderful opportunity to meet lawyers and judges from the South Florida area. The scholarship was presented by its donor, attorney Nancy C. Wear. ❖

Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship Gala

On June 2, 2018, the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association celebrated its 29th Annual Installation & Scholarship Gala at Pier 66 Hotel & Marina in Fort Lauderdale. One of the annual scholarships is awarded to a St. Thomas Law student; this year's recipient was **Jonathan N. Kernizan** (2L). The BCHBA Scholarship amount is matched by St. Thomas Law and the money used toward tuition, books, fees, or living expenses. ❖

Miami-Dade County Public School's Project Citizen's State Finals

On May 21st, St. Thomas Law hosted the Miami-Dade County Public School's Project Citizen's State Finals competition. Nine schools participated with approximately 100 attendees. This event was organized by Mrs. Erin Watson, Program Director for The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc., and Annette Boyd-Pitts of The Bar's Law Related Educated Committee. **Laura Varela**, Career Counselor, and **Andrej Milic**, Assistant Director of Admissions, from St. Thomas Law participated as judges for the competition. ❖

Fifth Annual Miami-Dade Public School Legal Initiative

On Friday, May 18th, St. Thomas Law hosted the 5th Annual Miami-Dade Public Schools Legal Initiative in which local high school and middle school students learned about careers in law and law enforcement from attorneys, judges, and other professionals. This year, Justice Quince and Annette Boyd-Pitts of The Bar's Law Related Educated Committee facilitated the fact pattern exercise, and more than 165 students participated. Silvia Velazquez, Director of Program Development and Outreach - Tax Clinic, assisted with organizing this event. ❖

Hispanic Unity of Florida Training

On May 15, 2018, Hispanic Unity of Florida hosted a training workshop for law students at St. Thomas Law. Students were trained in how to assist eligible legal permanent residents become U.S. Citizens by completing naturalization applications. Ms. Magaly Alvarado, Senior Program Manager, and Ms. Evgeniya Nechyparenka, Paralegal, presented the training. ❖

Student Achievements

Ashley Larkin (2L) accepted a Summer Internship with Judge William Altfield, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Domestic Violence Division in Miami.

Na'imah J. Lafferty, (3L) was selected to receive the 2018 Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation Summer Fellowship Scholarship, and will work with Legal Services of Greater Miami, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

Gisselle Ortiz (2L) accepted a paid Summer Internship with the Macey Law Firm in Coral Gables, specializing in Criminal Defense (specifically Drug Trafficking). ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Rebecca Duffield, a 2014 graduate, is the President and CEO for Springboard Peacebuilding LLC, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ashley Fuxa, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate position with the Law Offices of Patrick L. Cordero, P.A., concentrating on Bankruptcy and Real Estate.

Jerry Hosey, a 2015 graduate, was promoted as the Deputy Chief Attorney, Construction, with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation in Tallahassee.

Jason Silver, a 2011 graduate, was appointed Chair of The Florida Bar Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee. ❖

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Lauren Gilbert**, was interviewed by Alex Aleinikoff, of the "Cesar's Choice" Podcast on Tempest Tossed on Sunday regarding experience working with fathers and sons at Karnes Detention Center. "Conversations on immigration and refugees that go beyond the predictable soundbites. Join Alex Aleinikoff and guests for in-depth discussions on what's happening on the ground and how to understand current policy debates." Following is the link to the series: <http://tempesttossed.libsyn.com/>

Professor Gilbert also was interviewed by Raychel Lean of the *Daily Business Review* along with several of her students for a piece on the STU students' trip to Karnes.

Adjunct Professor **Anthony Musto** received the John J. Copelan, Jr., Public Interest Award, which was presented by The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section to "a member of The Florida Bar who has made significant contributions to the public interest and specifically the field of public interest law." (The late John Copelan, the namesake for the award, taught as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas Law in the 1990's.)

Professor Musto also received the John R. Hamilton *Pro Bono* Award, which was presented by The Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section for significant *pro bono* efforts in appellate matters. ❖



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