



St. Thomas Law News

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Resources for Academic Success

Looking for practice questions or need some additional study aids to help clear up your understanding of the law? St. Thomas Law has centralized and expanded academic success resources for our students. You will now find the new Academic Success Program Skills Center (ASP Skills Center) on the second floor, in Room 217 (next to Dean Singer's office). This is a space devoted to helping all students, 1L and upper class, in preparation for class, exams, and dealing with the rigors of law school.

There you can find the following: practice multiple choice questions (including released MBE Bar questions and answers); sample essay questions and answers (some provided by current professors); a wide array of outlines, hornbooks, and study aids including flash cards;

and audio visual aids. Materials there can help you with time management, scheduling, note-taking, case briefing, outlining, multiple choice strategies, essay writing, exam preparation, problem solving, and stress relief.

The ASP Skills Center is staffed by successful upper class students ("ASP Fellows") most days between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Professor Wayne Block, a new adjunct professor working with the Academic Success Team, is there to help students on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He has many years of legal experience as well as experience helping students in law school and on the Bar exam.

The ASP Skills Center should be your go-to resource for materials and guidance. In addition to the ASP Skills Center, Professors Castleberry and Gibbs lead a series of workshops throughout the semester. You can find flyers posted throughout the law school building that have the topics to be

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Ana Lucia Martino (2L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Chartwell Law in Miami, specializing in Civil Litigation.

Christina Trueba (2L) accepted a paid Internship with Casal & Moreno, P.A., in Coral Gables, specializing in Estate Planning and Elder Law.

Johanne Larosilliere, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Rogers, Morris & Ziegler in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in Commercial Litigation.

Manuel Peraza, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with the Law Offices of Patrick L. Cordero, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Bankruptcy and Real Estate. ❖

covered, dates, times, and rooms.

If any student or group of students have a need or desire for some other specific resources, guidance, or assistance, please contact Assistant Dean **John F. Hernandez** at jhernandez@stu.edu, and he will see to adding additional resources, sessions, etc. ❖

Campus Events

- October 19: U.S. Congressional Roundtable on Immigration, Moot Courtroom @ 1:00 p.m.
- October 23: Intellectual Property & Cyber Law L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.
- October 24 & 25: Prayer Meeting, Room 109-A @ 12:00 p.m.
- October 25: Criminal Law Society L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.
- November 8: Professionalism Roundtable Discussion, Room CPD-113 @ 6:00 p.m.
- November 9: 1L Legal Skills Course



Notice to Students Taking the MPRE on November 10

Any student taking the MPRE on November 10, 2018, must make sure he or she is adequately prepared. As with “regular” Bar Preparation, preparation for the MPRE requires more than mere familiarity with the tested topics. Although the course in Professional Responsibility introduces you to the concepts covered on the MPRE, **you will not be adequately prepared simply by taking the class in Professional Responsibility and doing some practice questions.** This test is a part of the Bar exam. You need to augment any class work with the use of specific MPRE Preparation programs.

BARBRI, Kaplan, and Themis all make their MPRE Preparation programs available to our students at no cost. You should complete at least 2 (of the 3) commercial programs in preparation for the exam. Using more than one program will almost assure that you have adequately reviewed the law and practiced questions sufficiently to pass the exam. It also enables you to “test drive” the Bar Preparation programs and get a better idea of which program you should chose for the rest of the Bar Examination Preparation.

You want to make the MPRE a “one and done” experience. The score is good for 24 months, so successful completion gets you that much closer to passing the Bar. Do not take the test as some kind of practice exercise. Devote two to three weeks of study (using two or more of the commercial bar preparation programs). You can seek help from one of our Professional Responsibility professors (**Pertnoy, Rizzardi, and Sullivan**) if you need help understanding a topic.

Walk into the exam prepared, and walk out without the need to repeat the process. ❖

Congressional Roundtable on Immigration Law

On Friday, October 19, 2018, Professor **Michael Vastine**, in his capacity as President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), South Florida Chapter, has organized a prestigious Roundtable Discussion on prospective immigration legislation and its impact on our community. The discussion will take place at the St. Thomas Law Moot Courtroom from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, along with senior counsel and staff from Senator Nelson's office, Representative Fredericka Wilson's office, Representative Alcee Hastings' office, and Representative Carlos Cubello's office will be in attendance at the conference. Other participants will be leaders in the immigration law community including Steven Forester (Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti), Randy McGrorty (Catholic Legal Services), and Adonia Simpson (Americans for Immigrant Justice).

Professor Vastine will act as moderator. Given the stalled efforts to reform Immigration Law, this should prove to be an interesting and thought provoking discussion. There will be an opportunity for students to ask questions. Some professors are providing credit for attendance. ❖

Black Law Student Mentoring Reception

On Thursday, October 11, 2018, four St. Thomas Law students – **Jonathan Negron Kernizan** (2L), **Na'imah Lafferty** (3L), **Jaime Noicely** (1L), and **Donté Grant** (3L) – attended the Black Law Student Mentoring Reception hosted by Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation. The reception was a networking event for law students to meet local attorneys, judges, and legal professionals in order to find a mentor. The students had a wonderful time networking with several legal professionals – Assistant State Attorneys George South and Jamel Marshall with the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit were willing to mentor all four students. 2018 Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation Recipient Na'imah Lafferty had the opportunity to meet Attorney John Kozyak, founder of Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation, who is willing to mentor Na'imah. ❖

Federal Bar Association South Florida Chapter's Award Dinner

On October 11, 2018, St. Thomas Law students, Faculty, and Staff attended the Federal Bar Association, South Florida Chapter's Awards Dinner & Installation of Officers, where the Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench & Bar was awarded to The Honorable Alan S. Gold, United States District Judge, in honor of his public service. St. Thomas Law was a proud Silver Sponsor at this event. ❖

Miami Alumni(ae) Happy Hour

The Department of Alumni(ae) Relations and Development hosted its first Alumni(ae) Happy Hour at the Sugar Bar, located in the East Hotel on Brickell, and it was a huge success. More than 40 alumni(ae) attended the event (even with the threat of rain). The alumni(ae) received a St. Thomas Law alumni(ae) pin, and two St. Thomas Law umbrellas were raffled off as well.

The Broward Alumni(ae) happy hour is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, at The Balcony on Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Assistant Dean **Jorge Cos** is working on scheduling more alumni(ae) events. ❖

The Honorable Peter R. Palermo Mentorship Program

Attorney Renee Gordon, Judicial Candidate for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, visited St. Thomas University School of Law to speak to the Miami Carol City Senior High School (MCCSH) participants in the Honorable Peter R. Palermo Mentorship Program, which is a community partnership launched in 2013 between MCCSH and St. Thomas Law. On a weekly basis, the law students visit MCCSH Law Magnet Program overseen by Attorney Asiah Wolfolk-Manning. The law students teach topics ranging from constitutional law to U.S. government and history. The inspiration for the program was Judge Palermo's belief that the leaders of tomorrow in any profession must know about the United States Constitution, civics, and the law. On October 8, 2018, MCCSH student participants visited STU Law, where they had an opportunity, with the guidance of the law student mentors, to craft and present legal and policy arguments for and against the zero tolerance immigration and stand your ground issues facing our society today. In addition, the students had an opportunity to listen to Attorney Renee Gordon's inspirational message on her journey within the legal profession, the importance of following your dreams, and serving the community through law. ❖



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Student Achievements

Nikola Lajic (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Sandra Perlman, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Civil Division in Fort Lauderdale.

Robert Martin (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Migna Sánchez-Llorens, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Family Division in Miami.

Maxwell Murray (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Spencer Eig, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Civil Division in Miami.

Jose Negreira (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Barbara Areces, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Civil Division in Miami. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Jennifer Bajger, a 2014 graduate, accepted a Staff Attorney position with the Fourth District Court of Appeal, in West Palm Beach.

Austin Bodnar, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Greenberg Traurig in Miami.

Alexander Rey Brooks, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with The Tarich Law Firm, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Corporate and Real Estate Law.

Suzette Reyes, a 2014 graduate, accepted an Attorney position with Villa Title & Closing Services, LLC, in Miami, specializing in Real Estate Residential and Commercial Closings. ❖

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Raúl Fernández-Calienes** has accepted an invitation to membership of *Sigma Beta Delta* ($\Sigma B \Delta$) International Honor Society for Business, Management, and Administration. He serves as Vice President and Faculty Advisor of the local chapter.

Adjunct Professor **Magda Abdo-Gomez**, was recently added to the Southern District of Florida U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts *Pro Bono* Honor Roll. ❖



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