



St. Thomas Law News

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St. Thomas Law Trial Team Wins the 2018 ABA Labor Law Mock Trial Competition

St. Thomas Law's Trial Team, as defending champions, won the 2018 ABA Labor Law Mock Trial Regional Competition this past weekend.



Two St. Thomas Law teams dominated the competition both going undefeated into the semifinals, ranked 1st and 2nd. Team 1 - **Anthony Perez** (3L), **Cynthia Ventura** (3L),

Leslie Vega (3L), and **Jamie Mathis** (3L) - went up against Washburn and Florida Coastal. They won and remained undefeated. Team 2 - **Yunis Curbelo** (2L), **Stephanie Roman** (2L), **Carolina Del Campo** (2L), and **Jennifer Francisco** (2L) - went against LSU and Washburn. They also won and remained undefeated. Team 2 advanced into the final round and won the Regional Championship advancing to the National Competition in New Orleans in January 2019. We also salute our trial team coaches Jeff James, Karina Harduvel, and Katherine Lopez, and faculty advisor/Mock Trial Team coach Adjunct Professor **Houson Lafrance** '14. ❖

Campus Events

November 7 & 8: Prayer Meeting, Room 109-A @ 12:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Julio Bravo (2L) accepted an Internship with Acosta and Lichter, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Family, Contractual, and Corporate Law.

Anthony Fernandez (3L) accepted a post-graduate Associate Attorney position with Greenberg Traurig in Miami, specializing in Corporate and Securities Law.

Ian Corp, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position Cole, Scott, & Kissane, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in Worker's Compensation.

Garett Faulkender, a 2018 graduate, accepted a position as an Assistant Public Defender with the Broward Public Defender's Office. ❖

- November 8: The Many Faces of Family Law 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
- November 15: Broward Alumni(ae) Happy Hour,
The Balcony @ 5:30 p.m.
- November 19: Last Day of Classes
- November 20 - 27 Reading Days



St. Thomas Law Moot Court Board Wins *Best Brief* at the Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition



St. Thomas University School of Law Moot Court Board, under the leadership of Adjunct Professor **Howard Blumberg**, recently sent a team to the Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. Twenty eight teams from around the country participated in the competition, and St. Thomas Law Appellate Clinic student-competitors **Manon Ferdani** (3L) and **Melissa Ramos** (3L) won the *Best Brief* award. Beating the University of Miami, U.C. Hastings, Michigan State, NYU Law, and Georgetown. The student coach was Luis Arguelles, alumna coach was Yamila Lorenzo, and research assistants were Darren De Freitas and Arlene Williams. ❖

“Style and Substance” Panel Luncheon

On October 25, 2018, St. Thomas Law was well represented at the “Style and Substance: The Art of Building and Maintaining Your Brand Without Losing Sight of Being a Lawyer” luncheon hosted by MDFAWL and DCBA YLS. The event was held at Greenberg Traurig (Miami), and among the distinguished panelists was STU Law Alumnus **Jude M. Faccidomo**, Founding and Managing Partner at Ratzan & Faccidomo. ❖

Criminal Law Society Lunch and Learn

On Oct 25, 2018, the law school welcomed back 2013 alumna **Kaysia Earley**, Esq., criminal defense attorney, to speak on police encounters and criminal justice. She was joined by current STU law student and police officer, **Jason Recio**. Kudos to the Criminal Law Society for an entertaining and informative event. ❖

Fort Lauderdale Alumni Reunion

On October 25, 2018, the STU Law Department of Alumni Relations hosted its annual Fort Lauderdale Alumni Reunion at “The Wilder” located on Broward Boulevard. Many of our law school’s alumni joined the law school’s Deans and Faculty, University President David Armstrong, and STU Law

students in a wonderful night full of networking, food, drinks, and cheer. Everyone had a great time and the alumni were appreciative of the law school continuing these types of networking functions. ❖

STEP Reception

On October 24, 2018, STEP Miami (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners), along with St. Thomas Law, hosted a reception at the law office of Holland & Knight to promote its mentoring program. There were more than 77 people in attendance, and 75% of those were St. Thomas Law alumni(ae) and students.

The reception was held on the 33rd floor of the Miami Office of Holland & Knight, which overlooks downtown Miami. The reception kicked-off the Mentorship/Experiential Learning Pilot program among and between St. Thomas Law students, alumni(ae), and STEP member firms. Professor **Mark Wolff**, as the director of the Pilot Program, intends to place four to six St. Thomas Law students in the 2019 spring term with alumni(ae) and STEP member firms.

Dean **Tamara Lawson**, Associate Dean **Cece Dykas**, Assistant Dean **Jorge Cos**, and Professor Mark Wolff were also in attendance at the reception. ❖

FBA Mentorship Kick-Off Event

On October 24, 2018, the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted the Kickoff Event for its Sixth Annual Law Student Mentorship Program. The event was not limited to participants in the Program and was open to all local law students, judicial law clerks, practitioners, and judges. ❖

Jewish Law Student Association Hosted Movie Night

On October 24, 2018, the Jewish Law Student Association at St. Thomas Law hosted a movie night where it showed the newly released documentary RBG. RBG presents an intimate portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and how her early legal battles changed the world for women. The Honorable **Marcia G. Cooke**, United State District Judge and Adjunct Professor at St. Thomas Law, was the special guest speaker at this event. ❖

Student Achievements

Peter Abraham (3L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Hamilton, Miller, & Birthisel, LLP, in Miami, working in its Appellate Law Group Department.

Ashanti Palmer (2L) accepted a Fall Internship with The Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Fourth District in Fort Lauderdale.

Patricia Padron (2L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Chartwell Law in Miami, specializing in Litigation.

Derrick Tamayo (3L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Liberty Mutual in Miami (Dadeland). ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Christian Ferrer, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Pacin Levine, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Personal Injury.

Gerald Hill, a 2003 graduate, was appointed by Governor Scott to the Circuit Court in Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties in the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Carlos Ledo, a 2017 graduate, opened his own firm this year (The Ledo Law Firm, PLLC) in Hialeah, specializing in Immigration, Estate Planning, and Tax Debt Resolution.

Susana Rodriguez, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C., in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in defending Insurance carriers in First-Party Property Litigation. ❖

Faculty Announcements

On September 18-20, 2018, Professor **Roza Pati** participated in the conference on *Xenophobia, Racism, and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration*. Gathered at the Vatican, the participants discussed and analyzed in working groups and plenary sessions the rise in xenophobic and racist reactions to refugees and migrants. A final statement was issued to affirm the dignity of the human person and solidarity among peoples, urging that all instances of violations of fundamental human rights, xenophobia, and racism are steadfastly countered by human rights education, the democratic process, law, and dialogue. Professor Pati also had the opportunity to meet with His Holiness Pope Francis. ❖



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