



St. Thomas Law News

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Tamara Lawson Appointed Dean of St. Thomas Law – Becomes First Women of Color to Serve in this Role



Tamara F. Lawson has been appointed Dean of St. Thomas University School of Law, University President **David A. Armstrong, J.D.** announced Tuesday. Lawson will assume the role immediately, succeeding Dean

Alfredo García, who is now serving as Interim Provost of St. Thomas University. She previously served as the law school's Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2013 to 2017 and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2017 to 2018. She became the school's Interim Dean in June 2018.

President Armstrong, in making the announcement, described Dean Lawson as exhibiting a personal and professional commitment to advancement in legal education. "When I started at STU, it was clear that all the most important indicators were trending in the right direction," stated President Armstrong. "She possesses an innate understanding of the needs of our diverse law student body that is unmatched by many of her contemporaries. We're beyond fortunate to have her at St. Thomas University, and I trust that she will lead our School of Law with distinction in her new role."

Outgoing Dean Alfredo García also described Dean Lawson as being uniquely equipped to foster the mission and values of St. Thomas University School of Law. "She is an accomplished scholar, teacher, and administrator," said García. "Furthermore, Dean Lawson is a leader in the legal academy and the national bar. Her talents will propel the law school to new heights."

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Karina Hidalgo-Gato (3L) accepted a Law Clerk position with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, Human Trafficking and Hate Crimes Department.

Nathacha Bien-Amie (3L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position at Buckland & Dang, P.A., in North Miami, specializing in Insurance Defense, General Liability, and Family Law.

Johanne Larosiliere, 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. ❖

Lawson, who joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004, will be the first woman of color to serve as Dean. She now leads a law school nationally-ranked for the diversity of its student body and that has, for more than three decades, consistently adhered to its mission of providing opportunities for those groups who have historically been underrepresented in the legal profession.

“My acceptance of the appointment is inspired by our students,” stated Lawson. “As a first-generation college and law school graduate, I am particularly connected to our mission. It is my privilege and honor to lead St. Thomas Law into our next chapter.”

As a member of the law school faculty, Dean Lawson taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a seminar on Race and the Law. She was also twice named the Professor of the Year. She has co-authored two casebooks and has had her articles published in prestigious law journals such as the *American Journal of Criminal Law*, the *Iowa Law Review*, and the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*. She is also a highly sought-after speaker on issues of race, policing, and the law, and was tasked by the American Bar Association to be the Reporter for its National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws.

Under her leadership, and with the unanimous endorsement of the faculty, St. Thomas Law reformed its first-year curriculum as well as launched a comprehensive, three-year Academic Success Program designed to ensure that all students develop the skills necessary to excel in law school, the bar exam, and in the practice of law. Since the implementation of the program, St. Thomas Law has seen its bar passage rate steadily increase, most recently performing among the top five law schools in the state on the July 2018 bar exam.

An innovator in faculty development, her influence goes beyond St. Thomas Law. She created the *Deans of Color Retreat*, an annual event for law school Deans and Program Directors designed to promote diversity and foster the professional development of minority law school administrators. Dean Lawson’s other contributions to the advancement of legal education and the legal profession includes serving extensively in various sections of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). She currently holds the positions of Chair of the Evidence Section, Secretary of the Section on Women in Legal Education, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Section on Law and the Humanities. Dean Lawson is also active with various bar associations and serves as the Chair of the Law Professors Division for the National Bar Association.

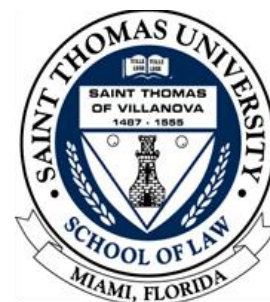
Before entering academia, Dean Lawson served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Clark County District Attorney’s Office in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a criminal prosecutor, she was assigned to the Special Victims Unit for Domestic Violence. She successfully argued multiple cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, including death penalty appeals.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Lawson earned her B.A. at Claremont McKenna College in California, her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law, and her LL.M. (with distinction) at the Georgetown University Law Center.

We are excited to officially welcome Dean Lawson into this new role. ❖

Campus Events

- 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 13: Summer-in-Spain Informational Meeting,
Room 103 @ 12:00 p.m.
- November 14: Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway
@ 12:00 p.m.
- November 14 & 15: Prayer Meeting, Room 109-A @ 12:00 p.m.
- November 15: Broward Alumni(ae) Happy Hour,
The Balcony @ 5:30 p.m.
- November 19: Last Day of Classes

Summer in Netherlands Program

Water is a fundamental policy concern in Florida. But water is a human right and shared concern of governments across the globe. In this international experience, U.S. law students visit the Netherlands to explore water law and policy at the local, national, and international levels of governance, with occasional comparisons to Florida's water resources challenges. Enhancing the traditional lectures and interactive discussions of statutes and cases, this program includes field trips to a water district in Delft, to the International Court of Justice and Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, and to the *Oosterschedle and Deltapark Neeltje Jans* in Zeeland.

The program begins on Tuesday, May 14 and continues to Wednesday, May 22, 2019, and classes will be held at the UNESCO-IHE, a global water institute in Delft, Netherlands. Cost of the program, including tuition for 1 credit of academic study, lodging, and the costs of the bus and admissions fees for the field trips, is \$1,750. Students will incur additional expenses for plane and train tickets, food, drink, and entertainment, and a modest registration fee required by the dormitory provider. Non-refundable deposits of \$750 are due by January 15, 2019, and the second payment of \$1,000 will be due in May 2019. Space is limited. Once enrollment is full, additional students may be placed on a wait list.

The program is being managed by Professor Keith Rizzardi. Before becoming a tenured Professor of Law at St. Thomas University School of Law, his career in water and public service included work as a Managing Attorney for the South Florida Water Management District, as a Trial Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Wildlife and Marine Resources Section, and as the Chairman of the U.S. Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. He can be reached at krizzardi@stu.edu. ❖

Alumnus Bryan Sinclair scheduled to speak at Excellence in Intellectual Property Law Event



Please join the School of Law, Intellectual Property (IP) Certificate Program, and the STU IP and Cyberlaw Society in welcoming St. Thomas Law alumnus **Bryan Sinclair '93**, who will join us on **Friday, November 16, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in room A-112** to make a major announcement of interest to STU IP students regarding the future of the Intellectual Property Law program at STU Law. Mr. Sinclair will be announcing a **major initiative** to foster excellence in the study of Intellectual Property law. A reception will follow immediately afterwards outside room A-112. ❖

Ethical Governance Day

On October 24, 2018, Miami-Dade County held its annual Ethical Governance Day where members of the community are invited to speak to high school seniors on what it means to be a good citizen. STU Law is proud of its Career Counselors for their participation! Laura Varela spoke to an engaged group at American Senior High in Hialeah, and Sherea Randle returned to her alma mater, Booker T. Washington High School in Miami, where she was a panel participant with County Court Judge Tanya Brinkley and retired police officer, Lonnie Lawrence. ❖

South Florida Legal Mentoring Picnic

On October 27, 2018, St. Thomas Law students and alumni attended the South Florida Legal Mentoring Picnic hosted by the Broward County Bar Association at CB Smith Park in Pembroke Pines. South Florida judiciary, attorneys, and law students had the opportunity to find a mentor/mentee in a fun and informal setting. St. Thomas Law was a proud Sponsor of this event. ❖

Student Achievements

Heidy González (2L) accepted a Fall Internship with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale.

Jonathan Manoy (2L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with the Downs Law Group in Miami, specializing in Personal Injury, Homeowners Law, and the BP Oil Spill case.

Gianni Piantini (2L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Beltran Brito Casamayor, LLP, in Miami, specializing in Talent Visas for Entertainers, Athletes, Professional Speakers, and Medical Specialists.

Ernesto Rivero (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Thomas J. Rebull, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida and with The Law Office of Allen Jacobi in Miami, specializing in Media and Entertainment Law. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Alejandra Iglesia, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Barakat Law, P.A., in Coral Gables.

Elfrid Pati, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Attorney position with The Law Offices of Larry S. Davis, P.A., in Hollywood, specializing in Criminal Defense.

Raúl Pérez and **Alain Roman**, 2015 graduates, opened their own firm this year (Pérez Roman Law, PLLC) in Doral, specializing in Estate Planning, Business Planning, and Immigration Law.

Lourdes Vélez, a 2015 graduate, accepted an Associate position with ROIG Lawyers in Miami. ❖

Faculty Announcements

On November 3 and 4, Associate Dean **Patricia Moore** was a choral member of the 100-piece Distant Worlds Philharmonic and Chorus in two performances of music from Final Fantasy I-XV, one at Florida Atlantic University and the other at Arsht Center in Miami. The conductor was Grammy Award-winner Arnie Roth, and the performances featured soloist Susan Calloway, who was the original vocalist from Final Fantasy XIV. (For people not familiar with Final Fantasy, it is, according to Wikipedia, "a science fantasy media franchise" that "centers on a series of fantasy and science fantasy role-playing video games.") The music is by Japanese composer Nobuo Uematsu and others.

Professor **Roza Pati** has been invited by the *American University Law Review* to present at its

Symposium on "*Protecting Human Rights in Supply Chains: Moving from Policy to Action*," which will be held at American University Washington College of Law on January 25, 2019. Professor Pati's presentation is planned to focus on *Human Trafficking in the Supply Chain, Corporate Social Responsibility, and the State's Duty to Protect Human Rights*. She contends that while the private sector and the civil society have been fairly successful in having some big businesses commit to tracing their supply and to cutting ties with contractors accused of using forced labor, governments are lagging behind in complying with their obligations under human rights law. To mitigate the problem, Professor Pati puts forth factors that inhibit state intervention and suggests elemental undercurrents that would animate the necessary accountability. ❖



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