



## St. Thomas Law News

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### Trial Team Wins National ABA Law Competition

St. Thomas Law Trial Team won the National ABA Labor Law Trial Competition for the second year in a row. After winning the Regional ABA Labor Law Competition in Miami in October of 2018, our



team of regional champions headed to New Orleans for the National Championship against the other regional champions from around the country.

After two days of intense competition St. Thomas University School of Law's Trial Team defeated Washington University, William & Mary, and University of California, Los Angeles to win the 2019 ABA Labor Law National Championship for the second year in a row.

The team consisted of **Yunis Curbelo** (2L), **Carolina Del Campo** (2L), **Jennifer Francisco** (2L), and **Stephanie Roman** (2L). The team was coached by (members of last year's champion) **Karina Harduvel '18**, Jeff James, and **Katerine Lopez-Espinal '13** and their faculty advisor Adjunct Professor **Houson R. Lafrance '14**.

The all female team, was recognized uniformly for their professionalism and advocacy by all who witnessed them in action. ❖

### St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

**Jose Leal** (3L) accepted a paid Internship with the Abreu Law Firm, PLLC in Coral Gables, specializing in Criminal Defense, specifically extraditions.

**Michael Bogumill**, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Gonzalez and Goetz Attorneys at Law in Boca Raton, specializing in Disability Law.

**Nathalie Roa**, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with the Law Office of Alex Hanna, P.A. in Miami, specializing in Immigration Law.

**Jacqueline Rosado**, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Silverberg Brito, PLLC in Miami, specializing in Property Insurance. ❖

## Campus Events

- January 31: Clinical Program Application Deadline
- January 31: Journals/Honors Student Organizations L & L, Room 219 @ 12:00 p.m.
- February 2: VITA Tax Preparation, Law Library @ 10:00 a.m.
- February 4: 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Anthony Chapel Mass
- February 4-8: Graduation Registration
- February 7: *Pro Bono* & Public Service Fair, Cordero Breezeway @ 11:00 a.m.
- February 7: International Day of Prayer & Awareness Against Human Trafficking, Chapel of St. Anthony @ 6:30 p.m.
- February 8: 1L Legal Skills Course



## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

St. Thomas Law is an official site for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offering free tax preparation assistance by IRS certified, law student volunteers to low and moderate income individuals and families (earning less than \$54,000 a year). The volunteers are trained to address applicable deductions and credits, such as earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and education credits, which may help to minimize the individual tax liability.

The STU VITA site will assist patrons every Saturday; and will run until April 13, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Law Library. ❖

## Donor Scholarship and Law Day Luncheon Save the Date

The annual Donor Scholarship and Law Day Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. in the Evelyn and George Goldbloom Convocation Hall. At the luncheon, we will honor our named scholarship donors and their student recipients, and students evidencing outstanding achievement in academics. CALI-Book awards will be given out during the luncheon. Michelle R. Suskauer, the President of the Florida Bar will be the speaker for the luncheon. ❖

## Know Your Rights as a Consumer

Alumnus **Sam Aurilio** (Class of '87- Charter Class) presented his Consumer Rights Seminar to the undergrad and law students in the St. Thomas Law Moot Court Room on January 23, 2019.

Sam spoke on topics including how to avoid identity theft, stopping debt collectors, and getting items off your credit report. Those in attendance obtained some very useful information on protecting oneself as a consumer. ❖

## Commercial Bar Prep Programs Deadline

The deadline for graduating law students to pick a Commercial Bar Prep Program is not the week of February 4, but March 1, 2019, by 5:00 p.m. You will receive a bar review selection form when you register for graduation but you will have time to decide on which program you would like to select.

## Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Lunch & Learn

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Business Law Society and Center for Career Development co-hosted a Lunch & Learn featuring Jude Cooper, Esq., frequent speaker on and member of the Florida Bar's Business Law Section Task Force on Blockchain and Cryptocurrency. Mr. Cooper discussed with the attendees several topics including blockchain technology as a substitute for traditional currency and the ways Florida plans to legislate digital currency, including its potential future use to pay state taxes and buy land. We would like to thank the Business Law Society for bringing in a local expert in this emerging field. ❖

## Booher Inn of Court

On January 15, 2019, the Booher Inn of Court held its first dinner meeting of 2019, at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. STU Law's **Laura Varela** began the evening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Following, law students from Florida International University and Judge Michael Davis presented on the topic of Human Trafficking. They gave an educational presentation, which included statistics, how to spot victims, and how we can/must be proactive in an effort to abolish human trafficking. ❖

## Alumni(ae) News

**Brandon Arkin**, a 2009 graduate, is moving to a new Associate position with Solkoff Legal, P.A. in West Palm Beach, specializing in Elder Law & Estate Planning.

**Jessica Biedron**, a 2017 graduate, accepted a *highly competitive* Law Clerk position with Judge Dave Lee Brannon, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in West Palm Beach.

**Megann Denefrio**, a 2008 graduate, accepted a new position with the Office of Medicare Hearing & Appeals.

**Joseph Dewey**, a 2016 graduate, was made a Partner with Alonso Law, P.A. in Miami, specializing in Immigration and Criminal Defense.

**Hugo Garcia**, a 2017 graduate, accepted a new Associate Attorney position with Naderpour & Associates, P.A. in Hollywood, specializing in Collection Litigation Representation.

**Celia Ricardo**, a 2015 graduate, accepted a new position as Director of Operations at Expedite Miami, LLC. ❖

## Faculty Announcements

Adjunct Professor **Magda Abdo-Gomez** will be presenting a CLE live webinar on Bankruptcy Procedure on February 7, 2019, through <http://www.mylawCLE.com> and [www.federalbarCLE.org](http://www.federalbarCLE.org)

By invitation of the Constitutional Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools, Professor **John Kang** presented at paper at the AALS January conference. The paper, entitled "Oliver Wendell Holmes and Fixations of Manliness," is derived from his book on Holmes and was part of the panel on "100 Years of Incitement." ❖



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