



St. Thomas Law News

Volume 9, Issue 4 | September 7, 2018

New Law School Adjunct Professors

This week in our adjunct professor segment, we are featuring The Honorable **Darrin P. Gayles**. Judge Gayles is a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. President Barack Obama nominated Judge Gayles to the District Court in February 2014. The United States Senate unanimously confirmed Judge Gayles' nomination by a 98-0 vote.

Judge Gayles previously served for more than ten years as a judge of Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit. Judge Gayles was appointed to the County Court of that circuit by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush in 2004. In 2011, former Florida Governor Charlie Crist elevated Judge Gayles to the Circuit Court, where he served until his federal appointment.

A graduate of Howard University and The George Washington University Law School, Judge Gayles began his legal career in 1993 as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Judge Gayles subsequently worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as an Assistant District Counsel for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and later as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida.

Judge Gayles is a former co-chairman of the 11th Judicial Circuit's (Florida) Professionalism Committee. He is also an active volunteer in several of South Florida's civic and charitable organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, 100 Black Men of South Florida, and the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

Judge Gayles is teaching the class component of the Judicial Internship on Tuesday nights at the law school. ❖

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Carolina Del Campo (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Beatrice Butchko, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Civil Division in Miami.

Arlene Williams (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Barbara R. Duffy, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Criminal Division in Fort Lauderdale.

Alejandra Iglesia, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Barakat Law, P.A., in Coral Gables, specializing in Complex Business Litigation.

Tucker O'Neill, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant State Attorney position with the Office of the State Attorney, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, in Fort Lauderdale. ❖

Campus Events

- September 6: Clinical Program Informational Session, Moot Courtroom @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 6: Prayer Meeting, Room 109A @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 12: Study Break/Open House, CPD Building, 10:00 a.m.
- September 12: Yoga with the Dean, Grass Adjacent to the Cordero Breezeway @ 4:45 p.m.
- September 13: Deadline for Spring 2019 Clinical Program Applications



Health Insurance Waiver Deadline

The deadline to complete the online insurance waiver for this academic year is **Monday, September 10, 2018**. If you do not want the health insurance provided by the University then you must complete the online waiver application at <http://aisstudentinsurance.com/stu-student-health-insurance-home/> by the deadline date. With an approved waiver, your student account will be charged only the \$180 Student Health Fee.

In order to waive out of the University's insurance, you must be covered under a comparable health insurance policy. If you do not waive out of the insurance by the deadline date, you will be enrolled and billed for the school's health insurance plan, even if you have coverage. All full-time students are automatically enrolled year. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to waive out of the University's health insurance each year. ❖

Guidelines on Choosing the Proper Form for Filing with the Florida Board of Bar Examiners

All students intending to sit for the Florida Bar will have to complete a Bar Application. The way in which the forms are designated on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners Website is a bit confusing. If you are a first-year student or an **upper level student** who has not previously filed with the Florida Bar and who is **not** planning to sit for the Florida Bar examination in February or July 2019, you will use the form entitled "Register as a First or a Second Year Student." This means 2L students still use this portal. The "Registration" is actually the application, not just a "registration." If you are filing for the first time and you plan to sit for the February or July 2019 exam then you would use the form entitled "File a Bar Application."

If you previously filed a student or CLI registration, and you plan to sit for the February or July 2019 exam, use the form entitled, "Convert a Student Registration or CLI Registration to Pursue Admission to the Florida Bar."

All of the forms listed above are available under the "Checklists, Forms, Study Guides, and Information" tab on the main page of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners Website. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Assistant Dean **Barbara Singer** at bsinger@stu.edu or Assistant Dean **John Hernandez** at jhernandez@stu.edu.

First-year students who would like to maximize on savings, must file their Registrant Bar Application no later than **January 15, 2019**. The Registrant fee for first-year students who apply by or before the deadline is \$100.00. ❖

Prayer Meeting

The St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society will be holding prayer meetings for everyone who wishes to participate on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. until 12:15 p.m. in room 109A. If you have a special prayer intention, please let them know.

Election Results for First-Year Senator

The SBA E-Board and Officers would like to announce and congratulate the following newly elected members. The new 1L Senators are: **Daniel Garcia, Martha Ochoa, Javier Peña, and Natali Tejada**. A run-off election will be held for **Claudia S. Perez** and **Patricia Mendoza** because they received the same number of votes. **Deandre Augustus** is the 2L Senator, **Christian Lee Gonzalez** is Honor Council Member, and **Anshara Dossani** is the ABA Interim Senior Representative. ❖

Donor Scholarships

We have a limited number of donor scholarship available for St. Thomas Law students due to the generosity of our alumni(ae) and other donors. The scholarships are listed in the catalog, and the scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000 for the school year. Notifications regarding the scholarship and the scholarship application will be sent out via e-mail in the next few weeks. All law students who meet the criteria for a scholarship are encouraged to apply. ❖

U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Lunch & Learn

On August 23, 2018, St. Thomas Law hosted a Lunch and Learn with our very own Professor **Keith Rizzardi** with 18 students in attendance. Professor Rizzardi discussed his experiences serving as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, from 2002 to 2007. He discussed the various law student internship opportunities available to law students with the various local, regional, state, and federal environmental entities including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of General Counsel 2019 Honors Legal Fellowship Program, and the Spring & Summer 2019 law clerk positions with the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington, D.C. ❖

Federal Bureau of Investigation Lunch and Learn

On August 21, 2018, St. Thomas Law hosted the Federal Bureau of Investigation at its *first* Lunch and Learn of the semester with more than 63 students in attendance. Special Agent Sean Maguire, Esq., shared his experience as a Special Agent with the Miami Division working on National Security matters primarily in the areas of Intelligence and Counterterrorism, and the different internship and employment opportunities for law students. Specifically, he discussed the various job titles one can obtain as an attorney such as analysts, special agents, attorney advisors, just to name a few. ❖

Student Achievements

Karina Espinoza (2L) accepted a Paid Summer Law Clerk position with Silverberg & Brito, PLLC, in Miami, specializing in Property Insurance.

Chelsea Sezgin, (2L) accepted a Summer Internship with Judge Spencer Multack, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Criminal Division in Miami.

Ashley Yarzabal (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Maria Elena Verde, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Family Division. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Jose A. Baez, a 1997 graduate, will be at Books & Books in Coral Gables, on Friday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m., for a book signing of his new book *Unnecessary Roughness Inside the Trial and Final Days of Aaron Hernandez*.

Danielle **DeMahy**, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate position with EPGD Business Law in Miami, specializing in Business and Corporate Law.

Uxsunn Ramirez, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Perry & Neblett, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Plaintiff's Insurance and Maritime.

Elinette Ruiz-Diaz de la Portilla, a 2005 graduate, an Attorney with Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP, in Miami, specializing in Land Use and Zoning, Environmental, Government Procurement, and Administrative Law, was appointed to the *Gulliver Alumni Advisory Council*. ❖

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Michael Vastine** spoke on *Cutting Edge Strategies* (in removal proceedings) at the July 2018 CLE luncheon of the AILA South Florida Chapter. ❖



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