



St. Thomas Law News

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New Law School Adjunct Professors

This week, in our adjunct professor segment, we feature Adjunct Professor **Houson Lafrance**, who is teaching Trial Advocacy Practice on Thursday and acting as the faculty advisor for St. Thomas Law Trial Team. Houson is a partner at the law firm of Cox, Golondrino & Lafrance PA. His main practice focuses on criminal defense and business litigation throughout the entire State of Florida. In addition to those practice areas, he also handles trials or major substantive legal hearings within the firm. At the same time, he joined his firm he became the Assistant Coach for the St. Thomas University School of Law Trial Team.

Prior to joining his firm in 2016, he was an Assistant Public Defender in Broward County, Florida for approximately two years. As an assistant Public Defender, he handled all kinds of cases from misdemeanors, DUIs, up to serious felonies.

Houson graduated from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2014 with honors. He also was an active member of three honors organizations. As a member of the *St. Thomas Law Review*, Houson was honored to be published in the *Thurgood Marshall School of Law Gender, Race, and Justice Law Journal*. As a member of the Moot Court, he was Executive Vice President and won the best brief award in competition. As a member of Trial Team, Houson was named Best Advocate for 2013-2014.

In law school, Houson worked with the Honorable Judge Patrick A. White, and in his last year, he did the Appellate Litigation Clinic under the direction and supervision of Adjunct Professor **Howard Blumberg**. Prior to law school, Houson attended Florida International University, from which he graduated with a degree in English. ❖

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Jennifer Francisco (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Lourdes Simon, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida Circuit Criminal Division in Miami.

Ashanti Palmer (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Andrew L. Siegel, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Criminal Division in Fort Lauderdale.

Karina Harduvel, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant State Attorney position with Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

Natalia Pinzon Martínez, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant State Attorney position with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. ❖

Campus Events

- September 18: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 19: Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 19: Salsa with the Dean, Cordero Breezeway @ 5:10 p.m.
- September 19 & 20: Prayer Meeting, Room 109A @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 20: 2018 Supreme Court Roundtable, Room CPD-113 @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 20: Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation, Moot Courtroom @ 12:00 p.m.
- September 20: Interplay of Established Alcohol Law & Emerging Cannabis Law L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.



The Hispanic Outlook Recognizes St. Thomas Law for being the Best

The Hispanic Outlook on Education, in the August 2018 issue, under Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics, recognized St. Thomas Law as number 1 in the Nation in granting law degrees to Hispanics in 2017. The article can be found at <https://www.hispanicoutlook.com/magazine-top-100> ❖

Florida Bar Induction Ceremony

The law school community is invited to attend the Florida Bar Induction Ceremony, on Tuesday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m., in the Moot Courtroom. The ceremony is held to swear in our recent graduates who passed the 2018 July Florida Bar exam. Judge Peter Lopez will administer the oath, President David Armstrong will speak, and Acting Dean Tamara Lawson, Assistant Dean Jorge Cos, and Assistant Dean Barbara Singer will present the candidates to be sworn in. A reception will be held in the breezeway immediately following the ceremony. ❖

December Graduation Registration

Graduation registration for students graduating in December is scheduled for Monday, September 24, through Friday, September 28, 2018, at the Law School Registrar's Office counter. There is no ceremony in December; the formal commencement-hooding ceremony will be held at the end of the spring semester. Joint degree students must register with both the law school and the main campus. The deadline to register with the main campus is September 30, 2018. ❖

Business Law Section 2018 Labor Day Retreat

St. Thomas Law students **Aleksei Voiskovich** (3L), **Ashley-Ann Bryan** (3L), **Heidi Gonzalez** (2L), **Liliette Acebo** (2L), **Maria Sanchez** (3L), and **Silvia Garcia** (2L) attended this year's Business Law

Section of the Florida Bar's 2018 Scholars Program Labor Day Retreat in Bonita Springs. Their attendance was made possible by the generous financial contributions of The Business Law Section of the Florida Bar's Scholars Program and St. Thomas Law. The students participated in workshops, meetings, receptions, and dinners regarding "business" related topics. They networked and made a substantial number of connections. ❖

U.S. Department of Justice Lunch and Learn

On August 28, 2018, St. Thomas Law Office for Career Development hosted the U.S. Department of Justice for a Lunch and Learn with 33 students in attendance. Sarah J. Schall, Esq., Special Counsel to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, shared her experience working with the U.S. Department of Justice, and employment and internship opportunities in order for our students to join the elite attorneys of the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition, **Breezye Telfair**, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) with the Southern District of Florida, who is also a St. Thomas Law graduate from the class of 2005, shared her experiences as an Assistant United States Attorney. AUSA Telfair inspired and motivated our students from a St. Thomas Alum perspective on believing and knowing that they too, as St. Thomas Alums, can become one of the elite attorneys with the U.S. Department of Justice. ❖

Broward County Women Lawyer's Association Annual Installation Dinner

On August 23, 2018, St. Thomas Law sponsored a table of students and alumni(ae) at the Broward County Women Lawyer's Association Annual Installation dinner. Private Sector Career Counselor **Laura Varela** was sworn in for her second term as a member of the Board of Directors. Keynote speaker Juliet Murphy-Roulhac, Esq., of FPL spoke on the importance of attorneys giving back to the community. ❖

Student Achievements

Stephanie Cabrera (3L) completed a Summer Internship with The City of Miami Office of the City Attorney.

John Jordan (3L) completed a Summer Internship with the Law Office of the Public Defender, Broward County, Fort Lauderdale.

Tracey A. Joseph (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge John W. Thornton, Jr., Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Civil Division in Miami.

Diego Sánchez (3L) completed a Summer Internship with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Ocilla, Georgia. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Dario Melcon, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Dieppa Law Firm, P.A., in Miami, specializing in Personal Injury.

Chris Brown, a 2010 graduate, accepted a Trial Attorney position with Lydecker Diaz in Miami.

Joshua Roth, a 2012 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Quinteiros, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. in Orlando, specializing in Insurance and Medical Malpractice Defense.

Schuyler Smith, a 2009 graduate, Partner at Hamilton Miller & Birthisel, was elected as a Board of Director with the 2018-2019 Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. ❖

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Lauren Gilbert** spoke on the opening panel of the ACLU of Florida's 2018 Lawyers Conference. The panel, *Evolving Immigration Policy and its Impact on Asylum Seekers*, explored the ways in which the Trump Administration has dismantled protections for asylum seekers and the various challenges to these policies currently underway. It was moderated by ACLU staff attorney Amien Kacou and included former U.S. Attorney Kendall Coffey and immigration scholar Shalini Bahrgava Ray. ❖



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