



St. Thomas Law News

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St. Thomas Law Hispanic Heritage Distinguished Speaker

County Commissioner and former Mayor of Miami Xavier Suárez spoke to the law school community on September 20, 2018, as part of St. Thomas Law Hispanic Heritage month.



Commissioner Suárez spoke about the challenges he faced and biases he encountered as a Hispanic man in the U.S.A. studying and practicing law.

He encouraged the students to be ethical and professional in all their endeavors. He pointed out one way to overcome prejudices and a bias was always to demonstrate the utmost in ethics and professionalism.

Commissioner Suárez was the first Cuban-born mayor of Miami. He was first elected as Mayor of Miami in 1985; he was re-elected in 1987 and again in 1989 for a four-year term. Commissioner Suárez was highly regarded as Mayor of Miami and cited the construction of 1,500 affordable homes in Miami as one of the “proudest achievements” of his tenure.

Most recently, Commissioner Suárez was elected as Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 7 in May 2011 and was reelected in August 2016; during his tenure as Commissioner, Suárez continued to advocate for affordable housing as well as for workforce development programs and funding for public transit. ❖

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Daniella Gonzalez (2L) completed a Summer Internship with the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in the Jail Diversion Program.

Francisca Luna (3L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Ivonne Cuesta, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Family Division in Miami.

Kevin Gardiner, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant Public Defender position with the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office.

Ramiro Kruss, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant Public Defender position with the Law Office of the Public Defender, Broward County, Fort Lauderdale. ❖

Campus Events

- October 5: George Sheldon Celebration of Life,
Moot Courtroom @ 5:30 p.m.
- October 6: Mock LSAT Exam, Cordero Breezeway
@ 8:00 a.m.
- October 8: Palermo Mentorship Program,
Moot Courtroom @ 8:00 a.m.
- October 9: Time Management L & L, Room CPD-113
@ 12:00 p.m.
- October 9: Maritime Law L & L, Room 104
@ 12:00 p.m.
- October 10 & 11: Prayer Meeting, Room 109-A
@ 12:00 p.m.
- October 12: 1L Legal Skills Course



National Domestic Violence Awareness

Nearly three out of ten women in the U.S. have experienced rape or physical violence, or have been stalked by a partner. If you fall into any of these categories and need to speak with someone, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE (7233). The National Domestic Violence Hotline does not require your name; it does not charge a fee; it will not place judgement upon you. Another avenue students have is to contact St. Thomas University Health Center at (305) 628-6695. ❖

Celebrating the Life of George Sheldon

On August 23, 2018, our dear friend and colleague, George Sheldon, former School of Law Associate Dean of Students and Alumni Services, passed away. Many of you had the pleasure of knowing George Sheldon during his time at St. Thomas from 2003 to 2007.

St. Thomas will be hosting a celebration on campus honoring his life, and we ask that you join us on Friday, October 5, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., in the Moot Courtroom. ❖

Recent Graduates Florida Bar Induction Ceremony



St. Thomas Law hosted a Bar Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, September 25, for recent graduates who passed the July Florida Bar exam. Judge Peter Lopez presided over the ceremony and officially swore in the group of graduates.

After the formal ceremony, Judge Lopez signed each newly admitted lawyer's sworn statement and took pictures with the graduates and their families. A reception was held in the breezeway immediately following the ceremony. ❖

Barfield and Canfield Invited to Speak at the Federal Bar Association Meeting

On September 25, 2018, the Federal Bar Association Student Division held its first general meeting of the year. Alumni(ae) **Brett Barfield** '99, Partner with Holland & Knight, Miami; and **Rachel Canfield** '09, Staff Attorney for Judge Thomas Logue with the Third District Court of Appeal, Miami, spoke about their career paths and the impact the Federal Bar Association played in their legal careers. More than 25 students attended. ❖

Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court

On September 24, 2018, St. Thomas Law's Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court held its *first* meeting of the year in which **Diego Sánchez** (3L) and **María Laport Cornu** (2L) spoke about their experience this past summer at the Karnes Immigrant Detention Center in Texas. Their message was well presented and heartfelt as they spoke about their part in the STU Law Karnes Project and the family separations happening at the border. The students addressed a group of almost 50 judges, attorneys, and students, including St. Thomas University's President **David A. Armstrong** and Acting Dean **Tamara Lawson**. ❖

Booher Inn of Court Meeting

On September 20, 2018, the Booher Inn of Court held its first dinner meeting of the season, at its new venue, the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Law students from STU, Nova, and FIU were paired with mentors including judges and senior attorneys. Pictured from left to right: **Aleksei Voiskovich** (3L), **Ashley-Ann Bryan** (3L), Private Sector Career Counselor **Laura Varela**, **Jason Ross** (2017 alum), incoming Inn President Judge Mindy Brown, **Elizabeth Smith** (2L), **Adrianna Barranco** (2L), **Ethel Velázquez** (2L), **Melany Cornejo** (3L), and Assistant Dean **Lourdes Fernández**. ❖



Alcohol and Cannabis Law Lunch and Learn

On September 20, 2018, STU Law was privileged to have 2004 alumna **Marbet Lewis** speak at a Lunch & Learn on the Interplay of Alcohol and Cannabis Law. Ms. Lewis, an expert in laws regulating the alcohol industry, spoke to the students about the opportunity to create a practice area in which there is uncertainty in the law. This includes the emerging area of cannabis law and growing interest in how it can be regulated with established alcohol laws. That said, Ms. Lewis advised the students that Florida was one of a few states that has put a lot of money into the potential separate regulation of cannabis, giving it the potential for a new niche legal practice area. ❖

Student Achievements

Rosy Avel (3L) completed a Summer Internship with Magistrate Judge Carlos Fernández, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Family Matters in Miami.

Gianina Ernard (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge María Elena Verde, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Family Division in Miami.

Priscilla Pérez (3L) accepted an offer to extend her Summer Internship into the Fall with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

Janice Santiago (3L) completed a Summer Internship with the City of Miami Office of the City Attorney. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Stephanie Ganges, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Sioli Alexander Pino in Miami, specializing in Insurance Defense and Maritime Law.

Carolina Nuche, a 2017 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Baker McKenzie in Miami in its Tax Practice Group.

Antonio Pena, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant State Attorney position with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

Frank Vasconcelos, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Assistant Public Defender position with the Office of the Public Defender, in West Palm Beach. ❖

Faculty Announcements

Professor **Roy Balleste** is presenting, by invitation, his latest paper, *Reconsidering Rules of Engagement in Outer Space*, at the 69th International Astronautical Congress in Bremen, Germany. The presentation addresses the crossroads of cyber law and space law, including anti-satellite weapons, in light of present space activities and the utilization of cyberspace in relation to military activities. His article will be published in the *Proceedings of the International Institute of Space Law* by Eleven Publishing (2019). ❖



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