



St. Thomas Law News

Volume 9, Issue 9 | October 12, 2018

Certificate Programs

St. Thomas Law offers J.D. students the opportunity to receive a certificate in an area of specialization at the same time they are earning their J.D. degree. St. Thomas Law offers a certificate in Admiralty and Maritime Law supervised by Associate Dean **Cece Dykas**; Business Law supervised by Associate Dean for Faculty Development **Jennifer Martin**; Criminal Litigation supervised by Professor **Jay Silver**; Elder Law supervised by Professor **Gordon Butler**; Environmental Sustainability supervised by Professor **Alfred Light**; Immigration Practice supervised by Professor **Lauren Gilbert**; Intellectual Property Law supervised by Professor **Ira Nathenson**; Intercultural Human Rights supervised by Professor **Siegfried Wiessner**; Real Estate Law supervised by Professor **Carol Zeiner**; and Tax Law supervised by Professor **Mark Wolff**.

Specific information regarding the required classes and other criteria for each certificate program can be found in the law school catalog or online at <https://www.stu.edu/law/academic/certificate-programs.html> ❖

Campus Events

- October 12: 1L Legal Skills Course
Deadline Commercial Bar Prep Programs
- October 17: Death Penalty Panel, Moot Courtroom
@ 12:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Ericka Hernández (3L) accepted an Internship as a Certified Legal Intern with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

Alejandro Vélez (2L) accepted an Internship with Valencia & Torres Law in Doral, specializing in Family and Business Law.

Jean Fernández-Brea, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Rubinton & Associates, P.A., in Hollywood, specializing in Insurance Defense.

Cody Shiling, a 2018 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with Totten, Franquis, Davis, & Burke in Fort Lauderdale, specializing in Litigation, Corporate, Consumer, and Regulatory & Compliance. ❖



- October 17 & 18: Prayer Meeting, Room 109-A @ 12:00 p.m.
- October 19: Real Property and Probate Trust Networking Event @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 25: Criminal Law Society L & L, Room 104 @ 12:00 p.m.

Human Trafficking Academy New Team Members

The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy would like to introduce its two new team members: **Liza Smoker**, who was hired as Managing Director for the Academy, and **Tessa Juste**, as Graduate Fellow.

Prior to joining the Academy, Liza Smoker was an attorney at the law firm of Rogers, Morris & Ziegler, where she became the first woman partner in the firm's 90-year history. She served as president of the Broward County Bar Association YLS, which was recognized as Affiliate of the Year by the Florida Bar YLD largely due to her leadership.

Liza was formally educated on human trafficking as a student in our own Master of Laws Program in Intercultural Human Rights and through participating twice in our Human Trafficking Academy. Most recently, she spearheaded more than twenty events focused on the harmful effects of pornography



and its link to commercial sexual exploitation as one of the prevalent forms of human trafficking. She led a grassroots campaign to pass Florida House Resolution 157 on this issue, and her efforts came to fruition in February 2018 with bipartisan support. Liza is the Women's History Month Honoree, awarded by the Broward Commission on the Status of Women (2018) and the Paul May Professionalism in Practice Award – Broward County Bar Association (2017).

Tessa Juste graduated *summa cum laude* from our Master of Laws in Intercultural Human Rights program and is now a J.S.D. candidate. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on vulnerability as an elemental dimension of human trafficking. She attained her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.



Tessa has long dedicated herself to the advancement of human right: She has analyzed gender-based abuses and migrant workers' rights at the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Ghana; she advocated on behalf of LGBTQ foster youth as an intern at Lawyers for Children in New York, and conducted training on same issues in sub-Saharan Africa; and she has participated in a fact-finding mission investigating access to justice for marginalized communities in Bangladesh. Tessa has served as Co-Editor in Chief of the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review. She has assisted in the Glades Detention

Center Project and focused on providing immigration relief for Somalian detainees. She served as co-instructor at the Summer 2018 Human Trafficking Academy.

Their office is located right behind the Registrar and Admissions Offices. Please remember to extend Liza and Tessa a warm welcome to the St. Thomas Law family when you see them. ❖

Zero Tolerance Child Separation Panel

On October 4, 2018, the Immigration Law Students Association in collaboration with the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* held a Lunch and Learn on the Zero Tolerance Child Separation issue with about 30 students in attendance. The Learn and Learn consisted of a panel of speakers including Attorney Jennifer Anzardo Valdes and students **Lucas Aisenberg** (3L), **Stefanie Morse** (3L), and **Florencia Cornu Laport** (2L & 2016 STU Law LL.M. graduate). Attorney Valdes discussed the challenges she face regularly as a result of the Zero Tolerance Policy. Attorney Valdes serves as the Program Director for the Children's Legal Program at AI Justice. She represents unaccompanied immigrant children living in the community, the state foster care system, and immigration shelters. Furthermore, the three student panelists discussed their experiences working with the Karnes *Pro Bono* Project in San Antonio, Texas. The students discussed the negative impact the zero tolerance policy causing parent-child separation has had on the parents, children, and the student volunteers. ❖

Fashion Gives Back Fundraiser

On September 27, 2018, Fashion Gives Back hosted its annual Fundraiser at the Moore Building in Miami's Design District. Fashion Gives Back was created in 2012 by Nicklaus Children's Young Ambassadors (NCYA) members alumni **Ricky Patel** '09 and **Wesley Farrell** '09, partners of Farrell, Patel, Jomarron & Lopez. Farrell and Patel, along with NCYA members, have successfully organized this event throughout the years, raising funds and awareness for the patients of Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Each year, a special patient is honored and invited to walk the runway with the models to remind everyone of our mission. ❖

ACC South Florida's 9th Annual Conference

On September 27, 2018, **Laura Varela** Private Sector Career Counselor and Assistant Dean **Lourdes Fernández** attended the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) South Florida 9th Annual Conference at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale. The conference was a great networking opportunity with more than 300 attendees (mainly from top law firms). This year's conference theme was "SUPERCOUNSELORS: Protectors of the Company." ❖

Student Achievements

Mirtha Garcia Álvarez (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Bernard I. Bober, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Criminal Division in Fort Lauderdale.

Marielys Concepción (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Vance E. Salter, Florida Third District Court of Appeal.

Layla Nguyen (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Barry S. Seltzer, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale.

Dominic Scheer (2L) completed a Summer Internship with Judge Alberto Milian, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Criminal Division in Miami. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Rachel A. Canfield, a 2009 graduate, accepted a Staff Attorney position with the Third District Court of Appeal, Miami.

Patrick Mourin, a 2016 graduate, was promoted to Second Lieutenant with the United States Army.

Santino Ruiz, a 2016 graduate, opened his own firm this year (Law Group of South Florida, LLC) in Miami, specializing in First Party Claims, Real Estate Transactions, Personal Injury, and Estate Planning.

Christine Soto, a 2016 graduate, accepted an Associate position with Kelley Kronenberg in Miami. ❖

Faculty Announcements

On October 5, 2018, Professor **Marc-Tizoc González** participated in the inaugural conference of the [Academy of Food Law & Policy](#) at Harvard Law School. Scholars, predominantly from the United States but also from Canada and the United Kingdom, convened to workshop their articles, discuss different approaches to teaching Food Law & Policy, and deliberate on how to grow the Academy, which was formed in 2016. Professor González discussed his forthcoming article, *Cultivating Organic Solidarity: What the Food-Sharing Cases Portend for Free Speech, Peaceable Assembly, and Food Justice in Twenty-First Century United States Cities*. The article argues that people who publicly share food with hungry people cultivate what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. termed “organic social life” and Émile Durkheim termed “organic solidarity” and explains how these concepts can help judges and other lawyers, legislators, and activists understand how the food-sharing cases recapitulate past sociolegal struggles through which the Supreme Court evolved its First Amendment Free Speech and Peaceable Assembly jurisprudence. Students interested Professor González’s ongoing analysis of the food-sharing cases—*e.g.*, California’s Assembly Bill 2178 and *Fort Lauderdale Food Not Bombs v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, No. 16-16808, 2018 WL 4000057 (11th Cir. Aug. 22, 2018)—can learn more at Professor González’s new website, FoodSharingLaw.Net <https://foodsharinglaw.net> ❖



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