



St. Thomas Law News

Volume 10, Issue 1 | August 23, 2019

Welcome to the Class of 2022, and Welcome Back to Classes 2020 & 2021

The faculty, administration, staff would like to welcome the new J.D. class of 2022, the returning J.D. 2020 and 2021, and the LL.M. students in Intercultural Human Rights. The 2022 class consist of students ranging in age from their 20's to their 50's, from 29 countries, and more than sixty different colleges and universities.

We would like to welcome the new LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights students. The LL.M. students bring a passion for human rights and social justice to our campus.

We also would like to welcome four distinguished new faculty members: **Todd J. Clark, Linh Dai, Jacob M. Even, and Donald F. Tibbs** to our campus this fall.

Professor Clark will join us as a tenured Professor of Law. He comes to us from North Carolina Central University School of Law, where he was a tenured professor of law and taught Business Associations, Contracts, Corporate Justice, Employment Discrimination, and Hip Hop, Law & Justice. At NCCU, he also served on the ABA Compliance team and was the Director of the Justice in the Practice of Law Certificate Program and the Director of New Initiatives, among much other administrative service. Professor Clark will be teaching Contracts section 3 in the fall term.

St. Thomas Law: Gateway to Great Legal Careers

Jikky Thankachan, (3L) accepted a paid *highly competitive* Summer Associate position with the United State Government Accountability Office in Washington D.C.

Angela Nieves, (2L) accepted was awarded a *highly competitive* Summer Internship, offered by the ABA Section of Litigation, Judicial Intern Opportunity (JIOP) with Chief Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Peter Abraham, a 2019 graduate, accepted a post-graduate position with Hamilton Miller Birthisel in Miami, specializing in Insurance Defense.

Claudia Alonso, a 2019 graduate, accepted a post-graduate position with BG Law, P.A. in Coral Gables, specializing in Business Law and Real Estate. ❖

Professor Dai was an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice (on tenure-track with an endowed professorship) at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she taught Corrections, Leadership Theory, Ethics in Criminal Justice, and Social Research Methods, among many other courses. Before that, she was an Instructor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University. Professor Dai will be teaching Torts section 3 in the fall term.

Professor Evan earned his J.D. *magna cum laude* from St. Thomas Law '06 and a LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law; he has assisted Professor Butler this past year in directing the Tax Clinic. Before joining St. Thomas Law, Professor Evan was a partner in the Miami law firm of Lydecker Diaz, specializing in civil litigation and business tax issues. Before that, he was a Tax Senior with Deloitte Tax, LLP in Chicago. Professor Evan will co-teaching in the Tax Clinic in the fall.

Professor Tibbs comes to us from Drexel University School of Law, where he was a tenured Professor of Law and taught Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, and Critical Race Theory, among other courses. While at Drexel, he twice earned the Dean Jennifer L. Rosato Excellence in the Classroom Award. His teaching also received rave reviews from St. Thomas Law students when he taught Criminal Procedure here this summer. Professor Tibbs will be teaching Criminal Procedure and the Race and the Law Seminar in the fall term. ❖

Campus Events

- August 26: First Day of Classes for 2L & 3L Students
- August 27: Dean & Student Wellness Activities
- August 30: Professionalism Day
- September 2: Labor Day Holiday (No School)
- September 4: Career Development, Breezeway Chatter, Cordero Breezeway @ 12:00 p.m.



St. Thomas Law Student Interns with Fiji's Largest Law Firm



St. Thomas Law **Tara McClanahan** (2L) completed a very unique summer internship in Fiji. Tara worked as a legal intern at the law firm of Munro Leys in Suva. Munro Leys is Fiji's largest and oldest law firm having been established over 150 years ago. Tara worked primarily with the litigation team, occasionally assisting in the areas of commercial law and trademarks.

Her work involved international legal research – U.K., Australia, New Zealand, and all the Pacific Islands – on cases dealing with property, contract, and legal malpractice issues. This research led her to an increased understanding of Fijian labor laws and how they are best implemented to suit international clients.

Tara stated, "My favorite thing learned is that Fiji's Family Care Leave includes those who live in your dwelling; dwelling being interpreted to include everyone in the village." But she noted other concerns.



"Even though Fiji is very community-oriented, it suffers from great political instability and deep poverty," she continued. "For example, the current Constitution was written in 2013 and the minimum wage is near \$2.32 FJD per hour."

Tara had the incredible opportunity to go on a retreat with other members of the law firm to a village that lost electricity during Cyclone Winston three years ago. While there, she participated in a traditional welcoming ceremony by drinking kava and brought sevusevu (gift of cloth) to the village. Once welcomed to enter, they played music, danced, and ate sweet treats with lemon leaf tea (because real tea is hard to get).

When she asked one Fijian how his day was, he responded, "Great! What have I got to not be happy about!" "That's Fiji," exclaimed Tara.

St. Thomas Law's students often have the opportunity to participate in uniquely transformative internships, especially during the summer. We encourage our students to spend their summers expanding their legal perspectives whether it be through local or international internships, community service, volunteering, or *pro bono* service. ❖

Financial Aid Award Package Review and Accept Reminder

If you have not already done so, please log onto MyBobcat and accept your loans. You will login to the student Self-Service portal to review and accept your Financial Aid Award Package. If you do not need the full amount of your loan award, you may reduce the amount of your award before you accept the loan (you must accept the full amount of the Unsubsidized loan offered before accepting the Grad PLUS Loan). You may also decline the loan(s) if you do not need to borrow it at this time.

Please refer to the email sent by Andres Marrero on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 9:46 p.m. on instructions on accepting/ declining your loan.

Students that are entitled a financial aid refund will receive it via direct deposit into their personal bank account. If you have not already done so please complete the Direct Deposit Form as soon as possible [here](#). (First time users will need to create a new user account, prior to completing the form). ❖

New Member-Candidates to St. Thomas Law Review

Please join the *St. Thomas Law Review* Executive Board in welcoming its newest member-candidate. The new member-candidates are: **Valeria Alvarez Verdier, Tiffany M. Arias, Alexandra N. Bendayan, Daniella L. Capote, Livan Davidson, Jessica Maria Del Sol, Daniel A. Gabuardi, Patricija Gegznaite, Dovid Y. Greenwald, Yamille D. Hernandez, Dean Ibrahim, Carla V. Llana, Carly F. McAllister, Angela M. Nieves, Angie Olivan, Claudia S. Perez, Charity Phillips, Melissa C. Respeto, Lindsay K. Sweeley, Daniela Tenjido Sierra, Stephanie Valdes, Martha P. Valenzuela, Amanda E. Valero, Shannen A. Walters, and Valeria N. Zerbo.** ❖

Waiving Out of the Health Insurance

All full-time law students (anyone taking 11.5 credits or more) are required to have health insurance and are automatically enrolled in the University's Health Insurance program. The cost of the policy will be billed to your student account. If you already have comprehensive health care coverage, then

you can waive out of the University Plan and the cost of the insurance will subsequently be credited to your account.

To waive out of the insurance you will need the following:

- Your student ID number, without the (o), and University Email address to access the waiver form.
- Your waiver must be completed in its entirety. You will be asked detailed information about your current coverage, so have the following available:
- A copy of your insurance ID card
- Insurance company name, Policy Holder Member ID/group number
- The primary subscriber's/policy holder's name

If you have any problems, contact the Director of Campus Health Maria Bedoya Garavito at MGaravito@stu.edu. The Deadline to waive is **Monday September 9, 2019**. There are no extensions or modifications to the deadline. If you do not waive prior to the deadline, then you will be enrolled in the Insurance Program and billed for the program, even if you have other insurance. So, please act accordingly.

Please click on the link provide to access the waiver <https://studentcenter.uhcsr.com/school-page> ❖

Law Library Hours

Regular Hours*

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. – Midnight |
| Friday | 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 11:00 a.m. – Midnight |

South Reading Room

Is only open to current St. Thomas Law students when the library is closed**.

*Hours subject to change. For holiday and intersession hours and library information, refer to the Law Library website www.stu.edu/law/library

**24-hour access is subject to changes. 24-hour access is not available during the St. Thomas Winter/Christmas campus closure or any other time during which the St. Thomas campus is closed. ❖

Courthouse Tours



On May 14th Judge **Tarlika Navarro** '10 led a group of students on a tour, focusing on a grand theft auto jury trial. Afterwards the students had lunch with Judge Navarro, Adjunct Professor Judge **Michele Towbin-Singer**, and Judge **John Bowman** '87.



On May 15th another group of students toured the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building, observing several criminal matters including DNA expert testimony in a capital murder case. The students lunched with St. Thomas alum Judges **Victoria del Pino** '00, **Kristy Nunez** '06, and **Eleane Sosa-**

Bruzon '05. Big thanks to Judge Towbin-Singer and Career Counselor **Laura Varela** for organizing the events. ❖

Alumna Schuyler A. Smith recognized by The Daily Business Review

On May 6, 2019, The Daily Business Review recognized 24 attorneys with "On the Rise" awards for outstanding work early in their careers (South Florida attorneys under age 40 as of January 1st). St. Thomas Law alumna **Schuyler A. Smith '09'**, Partner at Hamilton Miller & Birthisel, was one of the recipients. ❖

Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL) in Love with Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

On May 2, 2019, **Alexsandra Simoes** (3L) attended the "FAWL in Love with GAL: Forging Their Future" training at the Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach. The training was free but only open to FAWL members who volunteer to serve as a mentor for the FAWL in Love with GAL project. Alexsandra was a wonderful STU Law representative. ❖

Student Achievements

Jaimie Carlson's (3L) article on "Child Separation from Incarcerated Mothers" has been accepted for publication in the Summer 2020 issue of the *UC Davis Social Justice Law Review*. This article was written in the Fall 2018 seminar on the Rule of Law under the guidance of Professor **Wiessner**, and will now be featured in a journal at one of the top public interest law schools in the country. ❖

Alumni(ae) News

Hector Beason, a 2018 graduate, recently accepted an Associate Attorney position with Holland & Hart, Tax Practice Group, in Denver, Colorado.

Ian Duncan, a 2006 graduate, recently accepted a Partner position with Steinger, Iscoe & Greene P.A. in West Palm Beach, specializing in Personal Injury Law.

Christian Ferrer, a 2017 graduate, recently accepted an Associate Attorney position with Aronfeld Trial Lawyers in Coral Gables.

Herboo Marceau, a 2017 graduate, recently started his own firm, The Law Offices of Herboo R. Marceau, PLLC in Miami.

John Sherman, a 2016 graduate, recently accepted an Associate Attorney position with Groelle & Salmon, P.A. in Miami, specializing in Commercial Litigation Defense.

Stacey (Haas) Tisdale, a 2017 graduate, recently accepted an Independent Contractor position with BC Law in South Carolina.

Gavin Vargas, a 2016 graduate, was recently accepted an Associate Attorney position with Steinger, Iscoe & Greene P.A. in West Palm Beach, specializing in Personal Injury Law. ❖

Faculty Announcements

On August 21, Adjunct Professor **Maggie Abdo-Gomez**, spoke to the South Florida Chapter of the Florida Institute of CPAs about the "Effects of Bankruptcy on Debts Owed to the IRS".

Adjunct Professor **Edith Georgi** recently presented 2 papers; she presented "The Sotah Ritual: Punishment or Protection?" at the SECSOR (South Eastern Conference for the Study of Religion) and the "The Battle of Karbala: War Images in Art" at the Arts in Society Conference, in Lisbon.

Emeritus Professor **John Makdisi** published the following three articles over the summer: "The Transformation of Marriage as a State Institution," *14 Intercultural Hum. Rts. L. Rev.* 371-413 (2019) (co-author with **June Mary Makdisi**); "A Thomistic Perspective on Natural Law Reasoning in the Supreme Courts," *45 Ohio N.U.L. Rev.* 301-87 (2019); and "Aquinas's Prohibition of Killing Reconsidered," *57 J. Cath. Leg. Stud.* 67-128 (2018).

Adjunct Professor Anthony Musto was named Vice-Chair of The Florida Bar Legal Needs of Children Committee.

Professor Dr. iur. **Siegfried Wiessner** and Assistant Professor **Carol Castleberry** were invited to speak at the XXXVI International Congress on Law and Mental Health at the Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma in Rome, Italy, July 21-26, 2019. Professor Wiessner gave a presentation on *New Haven and the Design of Laws Under Therapeutic Jurisprudence* as part of the panel on Legislative Scholarship, Design, Advocacy and Outcomes. Professor Castleberry's presentation was *The Relevance of Bullying/Mobbing/Abuse Behaviors in Litigation* and was part of the panel on Bullying, Mobbing, and Harassment: Psychological Trauma and Civil Litigation. The meeting of over 1,000 participants joined friends of the global therapeutic community with scholars and practitioners of many pertinent disciplines in fruitful dialogue. ❖



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