PROFESSOR WOLFF AND THE ST. THOMAS LAW VITA PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY THE SOUTHERN COMMAND COMMUNITY

On October 1, 2012, the United States Army Garrison at the U.S. Southern Command recognized Professor Mark J. Wolff and the St. Thomas Law VITA Program (STL/VITA Program) for the tax preparation services they provided during the 2011 tax season. The ceremony was presided by four-star General Douglas Fraser of the United States Air Force. The ceremony was held to recognize community partners that supported the U. S. Southern Command Community. Aside from St. Thomas Law, some of the awardees included the Doral Police Department, the cities of Coral Gables and Doral, the United States Customs and Border Protection, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce among other community partners of the U.S. Southern Command. Professor Wolff, on behalf of the STL/VITA Program and St. Thomas Law, accepted a marble plaque for its partnership with the U.S. Southern Command.

The STL/VITA Program directed by Professor Wolff at U. S. Southern Command created a very well received and much appreciated tax preparation service free of charge. The program was led by Military Site Coordinator Lt. Mitch Altman (U.S. Marines) and assisted by Mr. Francoise Blanco (3L), Mr. Joseph Hunt (J.D. 2012), and David Bauer (J.D. 2012). The STL/VITA Program completed more than 200 military tax returns, for both active and reservist military members as well as several surviving spouse returns prepared for the families of military service members who were killed during combat operations in the Middle East and other locations abroad. STL/VITA participants were trained not only to prepare standard returns but also in the intricacies of military returns and the particular issues relevant to military personnel. The plaque presented to Professor Wolff is on display inside one of the glass cases in the Atrium Conference room.

C.A.B.A. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SELECTED

Two St. Thomas Law students have been selected by the Cuban American Bar Association to receive scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. The two recipients are Laura Muñiz (3L) and Magali Sanders (2L). Ms. Muñiz was selected to receive the St. Thomas Scholarship from C.A.B.A. in the amount of $2,000, and Ms. Sanders was selected to receive the Endowed Scholarship C.A.B.A. established at St. Thomas University in the amount of $2,500.
FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Marc-Tizoc González was interviewed briefly by Univision 34 Atlanta after his panel presentation last month for the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association’s screening of the documentary film, A Class Apart (2010), at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School, discussing the implications today of the historic Supreme Court case that extended constitutional equal protection to persons of Hispanic heritage, Hernandez v. Texas, 347 U.S. 475 (1954).

In early October, he modeled a mock interview for the Tenth Annual Junior Faculty Development Workshop, organized by LatCrit, Inc. (the organization of Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory) and the Society of American Law Teachers (“SALT”), at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in Baltimore. He also presented twice at the SALT conference, “Teaching Social Justice, Expanding Access to Justice,” first on a forthcoming book, Social Justice in Plural America: From Critical Theory to Legal Action, for which he is a co-editor, and then on a panel that he co-organized, “The Pedagogy of Poverty Law,” discussing strategies for teaching poverty law as either a stand-alone seminar or part of a clinical course.

On Friday, October 26, 2012, he will moderate a panel on Fisher v. Texas, the recently argued Supreme Court case on affirmative action in higher education, at the SALT B.A. to J.D. Pipeline Project, hosted by the FIU College of Law, Center for Professionalism and Ethics.