ST. THOMAS LAW Mock Trial Team Sweeps Regional Competition

The St. Thomas Law Mock Trial team won the ABA Labor and Employment Law Mock Trial Regional Competition coming in first and second place. The Regional Competition was held in Miami at the County Courthouse. St. Thomas competed against schools such as Southern Methodist University, University of Miami, and Florida Coastal School of Law. The case consisted of a fact pattern involving an employee who was terminated based on alleged age discrimination.

At the end of the first day, both of St. Thomas’ teams advanced to the semi-finals ranking first and third out of the four advancing teams. After winning both the semi-final rounds, St. Thomas’ teams entered the finals having to compete against the most difficult and worthy opponent: each other. Alex Vanicek, Jessica Klein, Florence Rubio, and Nicholas Ferreiro represented the Plaintiff. Jeffrey Hagans, Lindsay Scott, Andres Fernandez, and Rachel Walker represented the Defendant. The Plaintiffs were crowned the champions and will now be competing in the National Finals in Dallas, Texas.

The St. Thomas Law Mock Trial team was coached by Faculty Advisor, Adjunct Professor Michael Mayer, Jeff James, and alumni Lincoln Atten and Katya Pisman. Special thanks to Dean Douglas Ray and Professor Stephen Plass for all their help and insight.

ST. THOMAS LAW Moot Court Team Wins National Honors

The St. Thomas Law Moot Court program won national honors. In the prestigious Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition held October 19-20 in Washington, D.C., the St Thomas Law Moot Court team, comprised of law students Stephanie Jimenez, Stephanie Michel, and Joshua Simon, was recognized with the Second Best Brief Award, being outscored only by Harvard Law School in that category. The competition, which presented a problem in first amendment law, concerning blogging and military secrets, included 32 teams from around the country. The team was coached by Professor Howard Blumberg, alumnus Jorge Delgado ’2010, and student coach Sabrina Velarde. In the oral argument rounds, St. Thomas Law Moot Court team finished in the top third having been narrowly eliminated by the eventual winner of the competition. This performance and this award are a tribute to the hard work and dedication of students and coaches alike. The Best Brief recognition is also a confirmation that St. Thomas Law students are receiving outstanding training in legal writing and advocacy.
GUIDELINES TO ASSIST WITH SPRING REGISTRATION

Registration for the Spring 2013 term will begin in early November. Here are some guidelines you should keep in mind when you begin to register for classes. Except for students in one of the joint degree programs or students in their last semester who have obtained prior approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, all students are required to take at least 12 J.D. credits (and can take no more than 18 credits). Joint degree students cannot take more than a combined total of 21 credits from both programs during the course of the semester.

Fall 2012 entrants are required to take Civil Procedure II, Contracts II, Torts II, Property II, and Advanced Legal Research and Writing. Fall 2012 entrants remain in their same section and are automatically registered by the Registrar (unless they have a transcript hold or outstanding balance).

All other students are provided a registration date and time. Students register online by logging on to “My Bobcat.” Students must register during their assigned time or otherwise wait until the open registration session that follows the designated registration times. Fall 2011 entrants are required to take Constitutional Law II.

Any student with an outstanding balance of $1,000 or more is blocked from registration and cannot register until he or she reduces his or her balance below $1,000. Students with outstanding balances should be working now with Andy Marrero and the Business Office to make sure they will be cleared for registration.

Some classes will reach capacity during the regular registration session. No overrides or exceptions are provided during the regular registration session. Students needing to take a particular class should attempt to register for another section of the class (even if the time is less convenient). Any student who wants to register for a class that is full will need to submit an override request form to the Registrar. On this form, you will need to explain why you need (or want) to take the class that is full. You need not seek the approval of the professor regarding the override. Shortly after the week of registration is over, the override request forms will be processed, and students will be advised when their request has been granted. Please note that some classes are limited in size due to the seats available, or the format in which the class is to be taught, or both, so not all requests can be granted. Students should register for any section of any required course they need to take that is available. Remember that a student can modify his or her schedule at any time during the drop-add period. So, students should continue to monitor class availability.

Students planning to take the Florida Bar should consider taking Sales, Remedies, Family Law, Florida Constitutional Law, Florida Practice and Procedure, Commercial Law Survey, and Juvenile Law as elective courses. These topics are tested always (or frequently) on the Florida State Bar Examination. Students needing academic advisement or assistance should contact Assistant Dean John Hernandez or Assistant Dean Barbara Singer and schedule an appointment.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Mark Wolff gave a lecture at St. John the Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, on Tuesday, October 23rd on the affordable health care act; he also will be speaking this Thursday at St. Thomas University regarding elder care.