St. Thomas Law hosted The 2013 Susan J. Ferrell Intercultural Human Rights Moot Court Competition February 2 and 3, 2013. It attracted a record number of eleven teams from all over the world to St. Thomas Law. The participating law school included two teams from India (Gujarat and Christ University, Bangalore), one from Hong Kong, one from the United Arab Emirates (Sharjah), one from Ethiopia (Addis Ababa University) as well as teams from Duke Law School, the University of North Carolina, Howard University, Valparaiso, FIU, and the University of Miami. The competition problem revolved around the breach of an international investment contract, the right to water, the building of a dam in violation of rights of indigenous peoples, detention, extradition, and other human rights issues. It was written by a student team consisting of Clayton Lingg, Alexandra Salvador, Sarah Strickland, and Denise Yeakey. The participating teams specifically commented they were attracted primarily by the exceptional quality, real-life character, and complexity of the problem – illustrative of the quality of the work product of the St. Thomas students.

The preliminary rounds took place Saturday February 2, 2012. Based on the totals of their scores, FIU and Hong Kong advanced to the Final Round on Sunday. The best oralist was Michelle Huang from Duke, and the best memorial was written by the City University of Hong Kong.

The Final Round took place on Sunday before bench consisting of Professor and Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, The Honorable Fausto Pocar, Professor John Kang, and Danielle Boaz a 2007 LL.M. IHR graduate. The Ferrell Trophy was won by an outstanding team from the City University of Hong Kong; FIU turned in a most commendable performance as the runner-up.

St. Thomas Law faculty members: Professors Howard Blumberg, Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, Marvin Klein, Gary Kravit, Jennifer Martin, Bob Mensel, Anthony Musto, Kenneth Noto, Jay Silver, and Susan Warheit all served as judges in the preliminary rounds. Joining the faculty members in serving as judges in the preliminary rounds were LL.M. and J.S.D. IHR graduates and other friends of the LL.M. Intercultural Human Rights program including: Olugbenga Ademodi, Alexandra Audate, Timothy Dunfey, Peter Falowo, Nadine Gedeon, Talle Gilmore, Gail Hamaty-Bird, Missiva Khacer, Victoria Mesa-Estrada, Frank Minton, Sylvia Ospina, Maritza Pasternack, Jerry Schreiber, Kseniya Smychkouskaya, Edward Tapanes, Gizachew Tesfaye, Gregory Toussaint, Ana Vallejo, Stephanie Villavicencio, and Michelle Yong. At the awards ceremony, Dean Ray warmly welcomed all of the teams, focusing on the common values of human dignity.

The event was a resounding success due largely to the organizational efforts of Alexandra Salvador and Sarah Strickland as well as the participation of a number of other students including: Acacia Barros, Amber Bounelis, Nicholas Ferreiro, Luna Garcon, Tamar Hamilton, Nadia Metroka, Isabella Poschl, Jeff Razi-Jafari, Brad Schlesinger, Josh Simon, Cathleen Ward, Yanina Zilberman, Carlos Bacarreza, Rosana
On January 31, 2013, Adjunct Professor Linda Agnant presented a paper on “Contract Drafting to Reduce or Eliminate Consequential Damages” at the 2013 American Bar Association Construction Forum Mid-Winter Meeting in Naples, Florida.


Professor Holland had the following books published in 2012: 100 Years of Catholic Social Teaching Defending Workers & their Unions: Summaries & Commentaries for Five Landmark Papal Encyclicals (1May 2012); Humanity’s African Roots: Remembering the Ancestors’ Wisdom (15 July 2012); and Pacem in Terris: Summary & Commentary for the 50th Anniversary of the Famous Encyclical Letter of Pope John XXIII on World Peace (17 August 2012).

Professor Keith W. Rizzardi had an article published entitled, The Duty to Advise the Lorax: Environmental Advocacy and the Risk of Reform, 37 Wm. & Mary Envtl. L. & Pol’y Rev. 25 (2012). Professor Rizzardi will be presenting this article at two upcoming conferences, including the University of Florida Public Interest Environmental Conference on February 22, and The Seminar Group’s program in Atlanta on The Endangered Species Act on March 14.

Gonzalez, Zach Darnell, Andrew Roth, Lauren Smith, Desiree Staeffer-Marchbanks, Ana Lucia Vera, Steve Washington, Lazarita Chumpitazi, and Shaun Quinn.

Professor Siegfried Wiessner, Professor Roza Pati, and Ms. Haydee Gonzalez should be congratulated for, yet again, facilitating this successful event and bringing such a positive light to St. Thomas Law.

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION

We are pleased to announce that Jasmine Rand, Esq. was the featured speaker for our Black History presentation which took place in the Law School Moot Courtroom. Ms. Rand is an adjunct professor at Florida A & M University School of Law and is an attorney with the firm of Parks and Crump. She is currently engaged in the representation of Trayvon Martin’s family. Mr. Martin was the teenager who was killed by George Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman’s assertion of the “stand your ground” defense has made international headlines. Ms. Rand credits her students with moving public opinion in a way that has led to Mr. Zimmerman’s prosecution. Ms. Rand’s program is titled “Black History: Black Reality.” She discussed the importance of student organizations in past political issues as well as the importance of student organizations today. Students were invited to join the law school community for what was a lively and interesting presentation. Ms. Rand spoke for about 45 minutes and then responded to questions from the audience.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, February 14th at 12 noon, in the Moot Courtroom, we will host another Distinguished Speaker, Professor William Rodgers from the University of Washington School of Law, whose talk is entitled “Resetting the Clock on Environmental Law & Justice: The Post-State World.” Professor Rodgers specializes in natural resource law and is recognized as a founder of environmental law. He plans to touch on a number of environmental law issues in his talk.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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