POPE BENEDICT XVI NAMES PROFESSOR PATI TO PONTIFICAL COUNCIL

Pope Benedict XVI named St. Thomas Law Professor Roza Pati to a Vatican body for her dedicated efforts in the promotion of social justice. On September 29, 2012, the Vatican announced that Professor Roza Pati had been named a member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Professor Pati holds a law degree from the University of Tirana, Albania, and a Dr. iur. from the University of Potsdam, Germany. Professor Pati, who was born in Albania, was a member of parliament there and served in the cabinet as secretary of state for youth and women. In addition to teaching at St. Thomas University, she also serves as Executive Director of the graduate program in Intercultural Human Rights. The council’s main goal is to advocate peace and justice around the world in accordance with the Gospel and social teaching of the church. Professor Pati was one of only two Americans among 22 people named as members or consultants to the council. The other American was Msgr. Martin Schlag, a professor at Rome's Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, who was named a consultant to the council. This is a significant appointment, a recognition of the global impact Professor Pati has had through her writings and her speeches around the world on human rights issues such as human trafficking, and a recognition of her status as a leader in global human rights.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student seeking in-class or examination accommodations, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, must make a formal request for such as soon as practicable. The law school will need adequate time to evaluate documentation and work out the specific accommodation. Requests for exam accommodations for the final examinations for Fall 2012 must be made no later than Friday, October 12, 2012. In some circumstances, accommodations may be granted on a provisional basis, and the student will be required to timely submit additional documentation. If a student does not submit the additional documentation within the time frame established, he or she will lose the provisional accommodation and will have to reapply for an accommodation when he or she has additional documentation.

Students who seek accommodations or alterations in standard academic procedures because of a physical, learning, or mental disability must contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible after enrollment at St. Thomas University School of Law. It is the responsibility of the student requesting such accommodation to do so in a timely fashion in accordance with the requirements as set forth in the Disability Accommodations Guidelines.

Students need not make their disabilities known, unless they want to request an accommodation. If seeking an accommodation, the student has the affirmative duty to inform the School of the disability and request the accommodation. Information about a student’s disability is treated as confidential under applicable federal
and state laws, and law school policies. This information is provided only to individuals who are privileged to receive such information on a need-to-know basis. Faculty members who are informed of a student’s disability are advised this information is confidential.

Once a student’s request has been granted, it is the responsibility of the student to request a modification of the accommodation should such modification be needed. For additional information and to read the complete Disability Accommodations Guidelines Handbook, please visit http://www.stu.edu/IMG/pdf/DisabilityGuidelineweb.pdf.

FLORIDA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION BRINGS “HOT COFFEE” TO ST. THOMAS LAW

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012, St. Thomas Law will co-host a program with the Florida Justice Association. The program will run from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Moot Court Room and will include the airing of the documentary “Hot Coffee.” “Hot Coffee” is a documentary, feature film that explores the high profile torts case involving Stella Liebeck and McDonalds. Ms. Liebeck is a woman from Albuquerque, New Mexico, who sued and won a multi-million dollar judgment against McDonald’s corporation after she suffered third-degree burns as a result of McDonald’s policy of serving coffee at dangerously high temperatures. The documentary explores how and why the case garnered so much media attention, who funded the effort, and to what end. The program is part of the Florida Justice Association’s Law School outreach with a mission to “raise awareness among the next generation of lawyers and law school faculty about who we are, what we stand for and how we work to protect against threats to the American civil justice system.”

The Florida Justice Association is making an effort to visit every Florida law school. The Florida Justice Association will provide the counter argument to what some call “tort reform,” the movement by physicians and some business interests to eliminate or limit contingent fees or otherwise place restrictions on a plaintiff’s ability to seek redress from the court system. According to its Website, “The Florida Justice Association (FJA), formerly the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (AFTL), is dedicated to strengthening and upholding Florida’s civil justice system and protecting the rights of Florida’s citizens and consumers. …FJA works in the legislative, political and public arenas to ensure that Floridians know and understand the importance of their rights to justice and to make certain that these rights, which are at the very core of what it means to be American, are safeguarded and protected.”

This should prove to be a provocative, thought provoking afternoon. Following the airing of the film will be a networking reception for students, visiting lawyers, and faculty. Some classes may make attendance at the program a required, or extra credit, class.

NEXT DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER:
YALE LAW PROFESSOR MICHAEL REISMAN

On Thursday, October 11, 2012, W. Michael Reisman, Myres S. McDougal Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, will address the St. Thomas Law community at noon in the Moot Court Room. He will speak on the need for international law to provide legal relief to parties injured as the result of action taken by governments or persons hostile to those governments. Professor Reisman will discuss how these injuries, sometimes called “collateral damage,” remain largely uncompensated, what models of relief can be fashioned, and what damages should be assessed.