ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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MOCK TRIAL TEAM TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE FLORIDA BAR ASSOCIATION’S CHESTER BDELL Mock Trial Competition

This January, the St. Thomas University School of Law Trial Team took first place in the Florida Bar Association’s annual Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial Competition. The Trial Lawyers’ Section of the Florida Bar hosted the competition at the Omni Championsgate in Orlando, Florida. Ten Florida law schools with two teams each participated in this trial advocacy competition dealing with a wrongful death action.

Members of the first place team included St. Thomas Law Mock Trial President Joey McCall, who was also named “Best Advocate,” William McHugh, Lincoln Atten, Bryan Paschal and Jennifer Pena. McCall and McHugh represented the Plaintiff, while Atten and Paschal represented the Defendant. Jennifer Pena served as the team’s star witness. Also representing St. Thomas Law were Thomas Mirigliano, Christine Louissaint, Vladimir Larios and Ramon Crego.

On the first day of competition, the St. Thomas Law team defeated teams from Florida Coastal School of Law and Florida State University College of Law, earning a place in the semi-finals the following day. In the semi-final round, Atten and Paschal prevailed over a team from Nova Southeastern University Law School, advancing to the final round. In the final round, McCall and McHugh were victorious against a Barry University team.

“Competing in the mock trial made me feel like I was really in court,” says McCall. He credits part of their success to the richness of their backgrounds. “I learned that St. Thomas really has a diverse group of students who all bring something different to the table; our different backgrounds add to the dynamic. I saw in action how that diversity contributes to the team, and I think crafting arguments from a variety of perspectives made us more effective.”

“This victory is a tribute to the students’ skills and to countless hours of practice. Their success is a tribute, too, to the coaches who guided them and helped them hone those skills,” says Dean Douglas Ray. “We are grateful for the leadership and coaching of Judge Gersten and the coaching of Judge Figarola, Kimberly Kanoff, Michael Mayer and Tara Kawass.”

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATION

On February 19, 2011, Professor Carol Zeiner will have the honor of being a main speaker at a joint session of two national ALI-ABA conferences on eminent domain. She will present on “The Fundamental Differences Between Taking a Fee Simple and Creating a Leasehold through Eminent Domain.” Prof. Zeiner is one of the few scholars to study the use of eminent domain to create leaseholds and first to apply the jurisprudential theory Therapeutic Jurisprudence to eminent domain. Professor Zeiner thanks her Research Assistants 3L Katie Winkler and 2L Tina Trunzo for their valuable research assistance on the paper that will be published among the course materials. Prof. Zeiner also thanks Prof. Ronner, a leading scholar of Therapeutic Justice, for enlightening discussions on Therapeutic Jurisprudence.

ALI-ABA is an organization created under an agreement of the American Bar Association (which, among other things, accredits law schools) and the American Law Institute (which, among other things, produces the Restatements) to provide high quality nationwide continuing legal education.
Associate Professor Katharine Van Tassel, the Editor of the Health Law Prof Blog (http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/healthlawprof_blog/), is pleased to announce that the Health Law Blog has become the official blog of the 600 member Law, Medicine and Healthcare Section of the American Association of Law Schools. Professor Van Tassel is growing the Health Law Prof Blog by adding Co-Editors Eleanor Kinney, who is the Hall Render Professor of Law at the University of Indiana, Indianapolis School of Law, and the founding director of the William S. and Christine S. Hall Center for Law and Health, and David Orentlicher who is the Samuel R. Rosen Professor of Law at the University of Indiana, Indianapolis School of Law, and Co-director of the William S. and Christine S. Hall Center for Law and Health. Two additional new Co-Editors are Frank Pasquale, Schering-Plough Professor of Health Law at Seton Hall University School of Law, and our own Mary Munson who is both the Executive Director of St. Thomas Law’s Graduate Program in Environmental Sustainability and the Legal Director of the Centre for Earth Jurisprudence. In addition, Professor Van Tassel has begun a guest blogger series with 12 distinguished health law professors from around the country posting on current health law topics of national importance.

**LIBRARY EXTERIOR PAINT JOB**

Some areas of the exterior of the Law Library will be painted (the windows/glass wall frame) on the second floor on Saturday, January 22, and Sunday, January 23, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You may experience some noise if you sit close to those areas during those times. Painters have been informed to minimize noise as much as possible. The paint job applies only to the exterior of the building.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

**HAROLD W. “BUTCH” GABEL III ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD**

This award is presented to a second- or third-year J.D. student “who courageously promotes the integration of morality within the fabric of the law.” Harold W. “Butch” Gabel III was a second-year law student when he died tragically in a motorcycle accident. He ranked in the top 5% of his class and served as a Dean’s Fellow who exemplified love of the law.

The Award is a competitive merit award whereby students may individually apply for the award, or may be nominated by their peers or by student organizations. The applicant or nominating individual or organization must convey in an essay how the applicant or nominee fulfills the purpose of the award, as described above. In particular, the following student organizations must be specifically notified about nominating a student from their respective organization: St. Thomas More Society, Law Review, Federalist Society, Phi Delta Phi, and the Student Bar Association. These are the student organizations of which Butch Gabel was a member. The applicant or nomination must include text about how he or she demonstrates how the applicant or nominee “courageously promotes the integration of morality within the fabric of the law.”

The application must by received by 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2011. There is no official format for the application; applicants must include the information requested. The application must be in a printed/typed format (not handwritten). Applications can be submitted by hard copy to Carrol Hartley in the Office Student Affairs or e-mailed to chartley@stu.edu by the deadline set out above.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Our annual Donor Scholarship and Law Day Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 12:00 p.m. in the Evelyn and George Goldbloom Convocation Hall. We will be honoring our named scholarship donors and their student recipients, and students evidencing outstanding achievement in academics and community service. Book awards will be given out during the luncheon. The luncheon speaker will be Scott G. Hawkins, the President-Elect for The Florida Bar.