ST. T HOMAS LAW NEWS

SUMMER IN SPAIN PROGRAM

St. Thomas University School of Law and Barry University School of Law are pleased to announce the 16th annual Summer In Spain Program which is scheduled for May 28 through June 28, 2011. The venue is in El Escorial, a beautiful university village seated in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains, about 45 minutes northwest of Madrid. With an elevation of 3,432 feet it enjoys a pleasant year-round temperature.

Four 3-credit courses will be offered, two of which may be enrolled in by each of the students in the program. Enrollment is limited and filling quickly.

Required casebooks and text materials must be purchased by the students at their expense prior to departure for Spain. All courses comply with the standards of the American Bar Association, and the program has been approved by the Accreditation Committee of the ABA Section on Legal Education.

Grades earned in the Summer in Spain courses are factored into the grade point average of St. Thomas law students. The cost of the program, including six credits, and room and board is $5,800. Students are eligible to receive financial aid for the program.

Applications are available on the St. Thomas law website or on the shelves across from the Registrar’s counter.

COMMERCIAL BAR PREPARATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO 3LS

One of the benefits associated with being a St. Thomas Law graduate is that beginning with those students graduating in May 2011 and going forward, we provide to each graduate a prepaid commercial bar preparation program. We have preapproved fully covering the costs of the BARBRI, Kaplan or Themis Programs. Other programs will be considered as requested by the graduates. Some programs may not be approved for inclusion and/or we may limit the amount that St. Thomas Law is willing to provide in the form of a payment for some programs. But, all graduates will now have access to a commercial bar preparation program upon graduation. All 3L students should be evaluating the approved programs and any others they think appropriate, as you will be called upon in the near future to decide which program you wish St. Thomas Law to provide.

The administration of the commercial bar review selection program will be coordinated by the Associate Director of Career Services, Dalel Raide. Ms. Raide will in the near future be providing you a more detailed explanation of the process. We will also provide a more detailed explanation of the procedure and process in an upcoming newsletter. In the meantime, we encourage all 3L students to discuss the programs with the campus representatives, visit their websites and gather as much information as possible to help you select a program that you think best serves your interests.

BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY PRESENTS:
JASON COMER & T.W. ANDERSON

Please join the Business Law Society in welcoming Jason Comer, a Senior Associate in the Corporate Department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, and T.W. Anderson, an Associate with Gray/Robinson who specializes in complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on real estate litigation, to campus on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 1. Lunch will be provided.

LAW DAY AND DONOR SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The Law Day and Donor Scholarship Luncheon is scheduled for April 5, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. in the Convocation Hall (University Library). At this event we honor our named scholarship donors and their student recipients, students evidencing outstanding achievement in academics and community service, and we distribute book awards to students. The speaker for this event will be Scott G. Hawkins, the President-Elect for The Florida Bar.
RAISING THE BAR: FLORIDA’S LEGAL COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

The FIU College of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law, Nova Southeastern University School of Law and the University of Miami School of Law Chapters of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law Student Division are hosting their annual community service project as part of Raising the Bar: Florida's Legal Community Service Day.

All judges, attorneys and law school students are invited to the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, a renowned historical park in South Florida, to clean up a river in an effort to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the park.

When: Saturday, February 19, 2011
Where: Vizcaya Museum & Gardens - 3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33129
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers should park in the visitor lot (please try to carpool), and proceed directly to the ticket booth area upon arrival. Vizcaya staff will meet volunteers at the ticket booth area to begin the project promptly at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers should wear comfortable outdoor clothing and note that long pants and close toed shoes are required. Water, coffee, bagels and other snacks will be provided during the project.

Please R.S.V.P. prior to the event to St. Thomas Law Student Division Governor Jennifer Fuentes at jfuen009@gmail.com. The first 120 volunteers to sign-up for this event will receive a commemorative water bottle the day of Raising the Bar.

STUDENTS TAKING THE MPRE ON MARCH 5

The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is being given on March 5. The deadline for applying for the March exam has already passed, but presumably a number of St. Thomas law students will be taking the exam. The MPRE is an integral part of admission to the bar in almost every state. The score is valid in Florida for up to 2 years. Any student who takes the MPRE must make sure he or she is adequately prepared for the examination. The scores are reported and become part of the passing rate associated with the school. At a minimum to be adequately prepared a student should have successfully completed the course in Professional Responsibility, undertaken an independent study and review of the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility and the Restatement 3rd of the Law Governing Lawyers and taken several practice examinations.

Please note that several commercial bar preparation programs are offering free MPRE preparation courses. Since the programs are not mutually exclusive it is in your best interests to take advantage of as much input as possible from these programs (and any other that you may want to explore). The MPRE website also contains released prior versions of the exam. The free commercial bar preparation programs available are described below:

BARBRI MPRE Review
BARBRI is offering a free MPRE course. The course includes a four hour review on campus, which is scheduled for February 19th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in room 1. It is also available online once a student enrolls for the class. At the lecture students will receive a handout which will allow them to follow along with the lecture. Students that sign up for the course will also receive a book, which includes an outline, mini outline, and four practice exams.

KAPLAN PMBR MPRE Review
With Kaplan PMBR’s MPRE review course, you receive an on-demand video lecture, online Qbank quizzes and practice questions, and a course book. To register, go to www.kaplanpmbr.com and click on the MPRE tab then click on the green “Enroll in a Course” button and follow the registration instructions. After you register for the course, you can stop by the Kaplan PMBR table in the Breezeway to pick up your course book on either a Tuesday or Wednesday from 12 to 2. If you have any questions just email your Regional Director, Ana Rosa Ramirez, at ana.ramirez@kaplanpmbr.com.

THEMIS MPRE Review
Themis includes a full, simulated MPRE, substantive outline covering the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC), Code of Judicial Conduct and other applicable authorities and 3-hour substantive lecture by Professor Mark Yochum, covering all aspects of the exam. Enroll online at wwwThemisBar.com. Additional course information and accessibility dates are available on their website.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
Merit scholarships are available to qualified JD students based on scholastic achievement. There is no formal application process for these scholarship awards; second-year students in the top 25% of the class, and third-year students in the top 20% of their class, automatically receive a scholarship (amounts vary based on class rank). All awards are made on a yearly basis (after the Spring semester). Transfer students are considered after they complete a full year at St. Thomas Law. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please email Peter Kelly, Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations, at pkelly@stu.edu.