ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

STU Law Now a Contributor to the American Bar Association’s Media Alerts on Federal Courts of Appeals Website

The St. Thomas University School of Law has become a contributor to the American Bar Association’s Media Alerts on Federal Courts of Appeals Website. In this role, St. Thomas will be the exclusive provider of case summaries from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (encompassing Florida, Georgia, and Alabama); see http://www2.americanbar.org/SCFJI/Pages/MediaAlertsOnFederalCircuitCourts.aspx

The purpose of the Website is described by the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements as being “…designed to provide reporters, lawyers, educators, and the public with prompt, accurate, unbiased information about newsworthy and legally significant cases pending in and decided by the Federal Courts of Appeals.”

St. Thomas students will be responsible for drafting case summaries, which will appear on the ABA Website, generally within 24 hours of an opinion being issued. Students also will prepare summaries of noteworthy cases pending oral argument or decision. This is an extraordinary opportunity for students to research the latest opinions and then produce concise, professionally written analytical summaries within strict time constraints. The name of the student who prepares the summary also will appear on the Website.

Third year student Michael Skiscim and second year student Kyle Teal have drafted the first case summaries for the Website. Starting in the fall semester, the case summaries will be drafted by students as part of a new Writing and Skills course entitled the Federal Appellate Project. The class enrollment for the Federal Appellate Project will be limited and requires selection and approval by the supervising professor. Students will be required to take the course in both the fall and spring semesters.

As part of the class, students will work individually and in teams to monitor pending cases and report on issued opinions. This is a graded, two credit clinical and skills class with a weekly classroom component. Students will be expected to make presentations during the class of their case summaries and to participate fully. The class also will include meetings with appellate practitioners and attendance at oral argument. For more information on the class, please contact Professor Gary Kravitz in the Legal Writing Department.

Dean Douglas E. Ray and the School of Law Community cordially invite the administration, faculty, staff, and students of St. Thomas University to attend a special lecture on “Leadership in a Global World” by The Honorable Vicente Fox, former President of Mexico.

This event will take place Monday, April 11, 2011, at 12:00 noon in the Moot Courtroom.

We kindly ask you to be seated in the Moot Courtroom by 11:45 a.m. There will be several classrooms with closed-circuit television monitors to accommodate the overflow crowds.

FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO VICENTE FOX
TO LECTURE ON LEADERSHIP IN A GLOBAL WORLD

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MOCK TRIAL TEAM WINS AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

On April 2, in Chicago, the mock trial team won the American Bar Association’s National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, defeating teams from St. John’s, John Marshall, South Dakota, Chapman, and Creighton on their way to the championship. Representing our trial team in the competition were Joey McCall, William McHugh, Lincoln Atten, and Bryan Paschal (who also was named Best Advocate). The championship is a tribute to their excellence and the hundreds of hours they and other team members put into preparation. It is also a tribute to the extraordinary efforts of their coaches, Judge David Gersten and Judge Rosa Figarola, and attorneys Michael Mayer, Tara Kawass, Kimberly Kanoff, and Aryeh Kaplan, and to the full time and part time faculty who taught them Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Trial Practice.

TRIAL TEAM WINS “BEST CLOSING TEAM” AT NOVA

St. Thomas University School of Law Trial Team won the award for "Best Closing Team" at the annual Nova Closing Argument Competition held on March 26 & 27. Almost 60 competitors from schools around Florida competed, each arguing a closing for a murder case. Jennifer Pena, Joseph Hunt, Kaitlin Petronelli, Michael Goldfarb, Jorge Garcia, Juan Perez, and Anna Fernandez advanced to the second round of the competition beating out 43 other competitors for a spot in the "top 16." Jennifer Pena, Kaitlin Petronelli, Anna Fernandez, and Jorge Garcia moved into the “octofinals” where St. Thomas occupied 4 of the 8 spots. Kaitlin Petonelli and Jorge Garcia went on to the semi-finals both receiving trophies for their performance.

The St. Thomas Trial Team beat competitors from Nova and the University of Miami. This achievement resulted in St. Thomas receiving the "Best Closing Team Award" for the third year in a row.

“5 AT 5” ALUMNI PANEL

The Business Law Society and the Office for Alumni Relations invites you to the “5 at 5” Alumni Panel. This event will take place Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 5:35 p.m. in the Library Competition Room. Come hear what five St. Thomas Law alumni who graduated five years ago have been doing since they were in your shoes. The following alumni will be on the panel.

Terrence W. “TW” Anderson, Esq., Class of 2006 – TW Anderson, an attorney at Gray Robinson in Miami, focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation including real property, construction, landlord-tenant, and homeowner and condominium association litigation as well as complex judgment enforcement. As a law student, TW interned for Justice Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court.

Dara Green, Esq., Class of 2006 – Dara Green works in Baker & McKenzie’s Tax Practice Group in Miami. Her practice covers general tax planning, wealth management, corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, Ms. Green spent fifteen years as a commercial airline pilot at a major U.S. airline and was a clerk in the Family Law Division at the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. A magna cum laude graduate of St. Thomas Law, Ms. Green received her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida.

Javier Ley-Soto, Esq., Class of 2005 – Javier Ley-Soto, who served as President of the Student Bar Association in his third year at St. Thomas Law, is Assistant District Legal Counsel in the Miami office of the Florida Department of Children and Families, and in 2010 was named the Assistant General Counsel of the Year for all state agencies by the Florida Government Bar Association.

Carlos B. Salup, Esq., Class of 2006 – Carlos Salup is an attorney in Coral Gables at Gaebe, Mullen, Antonelli & DiMatteo, a firm that established its litigation practice primarily in the traditional areas of Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, and Automobile Negligence and has since expanded its practice areas to Intellectual Property, Drug and Medical Device Defects, Consumer & Civil Rights, Personal Rights, Americans with Disabilities Laws, and Toxic and Environmental Torts.

Collett Small, Esq., Class of 2005 – Collett Small has her own practice, which concentrates on Elder Law, Probate, Guardianship, Wills, Trust, Family Law, and Immigration. The Law Offices of Collett P. Small is located in Pembroke Pines.