ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

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FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX SPEAKS AT ST. THOMAS LAW

On April 11, the Honorable Vicente Fox, who served as President of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, spoke to an audience of over 300 at St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami Gardens, Florida, on the topic of “Leadership in a Global World.” President Fox spoke of the importance of recognizing the leadership potential of people from all walks of life and of the importance of education in helping all people and all countries reach their potential. Drawing on his family’s history and his grandfather’s immigration to Mexico, he expressed his admiration for those who are brave enough and have the confidence to set out for new lives as immigrants in another country and urged the U.S. to continue on the path of immigration reform that was slowed after the tragic events of 9/11. He pointed out that if the U.S. is to continue to expand its economy to keep pace with the world, it will need the labor of immigrants to help it do so. President Fox also spoke of the devastating impact the drug trade has on Mexico, even though Mexico is neither a major drug producer nor a major drug consuming country. Speaking to the future, President Fox spoke of the important role democracy plays in the future of Latin America, and the need to protect and nurture democracy across the world. He was especially positive about the future of Centro Fox, the study center and Presidential library being established in Mexico to teach about leadership and democracy and to serve as a think tank for finding solutions to world problems such as rural poverty. In honor of President Fox’s achievements, Dean Douglas Ray presented him with a plaque recognizing him for his leadership and commitment to justice.

Following his talk, President Fox was honored at a lunch attended by His Excellency Archbishop Thomas Wenski, University President the Reverend Monsignor Franklyn Casale, Dean Douglas Ray, and members of the University Board of Trustees, the Law Dean’s Advisory Council, and the President’s Advisory Council.

MOST DIVERSE LAW SCHOOLS

St. Thomas University School of Law was recognized in the Spring 2011 issue of the PreLaw Journal as one of two schools in South Florida for being the most diverse in the nation. St. Thomas law has a large student population with a Cuban, Haitian, Central and South American, and Caribbean background.

Dean Ray was quoted in the article as saying, “St. Thomas also reaches out into the community with programs operated by students. These efforts create the kind of good will that helps draw future applications.” The Prelaw Journal is a National Jurist publication.

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING AN OVERRIDE

We have implemented a new system for any student seeking an override. No requests for overrides will be considered until the regular registration cycle is complete. Students should register for classes available during their time slots. Beginning on Monday, April 18, students can submit a request for an override to the Registrar’s office. The request will be via a form that will be available at the Registrar’s counter. On that form, the student will need to specify the class to which he or she seeks to be admitted (even though the class is full) and why he or she needs or wants to take that particular class. The forms will need to be submitted back to the Registrar by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 20.
All of those requests will be considered at the same time. Dean Dykas will evaluate the requests, and we will advise you if your request for an override will be granted by Friday, April 22. If you are a graduating senior and you need a required class to graduate, we will make some section of that class available to you. All other requests will be prioritized. It is not possible to accommodate students who want to take classes only two days a week. Other requests for modifications will be considered as submitted, but it is unlikely that new seats can be authorized after April 22. Remember you still can adjust your schedule (if spaces otherwise open up) from now until the end of Drop/Add.

**August Graduates**

Student planning on graduating in the summer will not be eligible to sit for the Florida Bar in July; the way the schedule is designed does not allow time for all the grades to be processed and for your degree to be certified before the first day of the bar examination. From this summer forward, students will not be able to sit for the July bar if they are graduating in the summer term.

**Bar Review Classes for May Graduates**

During the months of June and July, Dean Singer will conduct a series of bar review classes for the July 2011 Florida Bar Examination. These classes are designed to supplement, not to replace, the commercial courses. If you are taking the July 2011 bar exam, you are invited to attend these classes. Attendance is limited to St. Thomas graduates.

Scheduled dates:
- Sunday, June 5th: Introduction on Essay Writing / Multiple Choice Test Taking Techniques
- Saturday, June 11th: Contracts and Torts
- Saturday, June 18th: Property, Wills and Trusts
- Wednesday, June 29th: Florida Constitutional Law
- Friday, July 1st: Family Law, Florida Con Law, and Florida Evidence
- Monday, July 11th: Business Entities
- Tuesday, July 19th: Review

During the next few months, if you have questions concerning either substance or study technique, please feel free to contact Dean Singer at (305) 474-2472 or by e-mail at bsinger@stu.edu. Good luck on your bar studies!

**Stearns Weaver Miller Summer Fellows Program**

Stearns Weaver Miller is the generous founding sponsor of three summer fellows at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. The mission of the Summer Fellows Program is to foster a life-long commitment to public interest work, to encourage substantive knowledge in the assigned practice areas, and to provide the Fellows an opportunity to interface with the low income communities of Miami-Dade County.

The Summer Fellows Program will afford three rising third year law students the opportunity to become immersed in public interest law. The criteria used by LSGMI to select the Fellows will include a demonstrated commitment to public interest work and a strong academic background.

During the 12-week program, each Fellow will work on assignments including research, writing, client interviews, community education, and outreach. Fellows will receive guidance and mentoring from experienced LSGMI staff attorneys.

Applications for the Summer Fellows program are accepted only from April 11, 2011 to May 6, 2011.

**Alumni News**

**Frank Queseda ‘06**, was elected to the Coral Gables Commission Group 4. He interned with Commissioner Bill Kerdyk, Jr., during and after law school. The swearing in ceremony is schedule for Friday, April 15, 2011, at the City Hall in the Commission Chambers.