MOOT COURT TEAM WINS BEST BRIEF AND SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE COMPETITION

The STU law team continued with its successful season. The team completed at the 2010 National Criminal Procedure Tournament in San Diego from October 28 to 30. Student competitors were Michael Vera and Elizabeth Rivald, and the student coach was Nick Reed.

Forty-six teams from 30 law schools around the country competed in this tournament. The STU law team made the first cut from 46 teams to 16 teams, made the next cut from 16 teams to 4 teams, and then advanced to the final round of the competition. In the round of 16 and again in the semi-finals, our team bested the team from South Texas School of Law, which is the reigning national moot court champion and was the number one ranked moot court team for the 2009-2010 moot court season.

In the final round, the STU law team argued in the theater of the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice before a distinguished panel, which consisted of a former United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, a Justice of the California Court of Appeal, and a professor who is a recognized scholar of criminal law and criminal procedure. Our team performed very well in the final round, finishing in second place in what the judges described as a very close decision. Loyola-New Orleans won the competition.

The STU team won the award for best brief in the competition. That makes two best brief awards in two national competitions in two weeks. This consistency in the brief writing skills of the STU law team demonstrates that our team’s research and writing skills are second to none.

The STU law Moot Court team has had the benefit of Adjunct Professor Howard Blumberg serving as faculty advisor for the past two years. He also teaches the classroom component and supervises all Moot Court activities including selection of competitions, competitors, and coaches. Professor Blumberg has been an essential factor in the increasing success of our team. Professor Blumberg served as the coach for the 2010 National Criminal Procedure Tournament.

Professors Kravitz, Lawson, and Sullivan assisted in preparing the competitors for the oral argument rounds. Elizabeth Patipa was the team’s research assistant.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM SUCCESS CONTINUES

On the weekend of October 30, 2010, the St. Thomas University School of Law Mock Trial Team made the semi-finals in the American Bar Association Labor Law Trial Advocacy Miami Regional Competition. More than twelve teams from across the region competed.

Anna Fernandez and Juan Perez represented one plaintiff’s team, and Domenick Lazzara and Mike Usher represented the other plaintiff’s team. Tom Mirigliano and JD Moises represented one defense team, while Daniel Lopez and Bill McHugh represented the other defense team. Of note: This was the first trial competition for every team member who competed in this competition.

The St. Thomas Trial Team competed against teams from Florida Coastal, University of Florida, Faulkner, and Emory. The defense team led by Daniel Lopez and Bill McHugh competed against Emory in the semi-final round. Emory went on to win the competition.
As you have begun to register this week, some of you have expressed some concern about an inability to take particular combinations of classes or that certain classes conflict with other classes. We thought it might be helpful for you to understand how the class schedule is generated and the various concerns that have to be weighed.

The initial draft of the class schedule is based upon curricular needs in the upcoming semester. First year classes meet in sections so each class in each section cannot conflict with any other class, and we try to allocate adequate time between classes and to create a schedule so each section has two of the four doctrinal classes on Monday and Wednesday, and the other two doctrinal classes on Tuesday and Thursday. Then, we put in sections of Legal Writing that fit in those schedules.

With the large, required upper-level classes, we try to put at least one section on Monday and Wednesday, and one section on Tuesday and Thursday. Then, we have to add in the specialized classes (often taught by adjuncts who may have limited times available to teach). We try to minimize conflicts for classes students would want to take simultaneously, and we have to factor in courses that may be prerequisites and co-requisites. All of these classes have to be scheduled in the limited class space and time we have available at the law school.

Once this draft is completed, it goes to faculty members for their input and suggestions. Once that draft is completed, we circulate it to students for input. This is the time we need you to advise us of conflicts that you see. We then take into consideration the input from the students and create a final schedule. We make every effort to make no further adjustments to this schedule.

Any change to the "final" schedule to benefit one student or group of student can have a negative impact on other students. Any incidental overlap or conflict is not due to design but due to having to create a class schedule that enables students to meet their academic requirements within the resources available to the law school.

As students, you need to help us make the schedule work for you. You need to provide feedback at the time we circulate the draft. You should think ahead in terms of your school career. Make yourself aware of prerequisites and co-requisites. If you want to take clinics, internships, or externships, familiarize yourself with the application deadline for those courses.

Assistant Dean Singer and Assistant Dean Hernandez are available as academic advisors. You also can seek the guidance of professors with expertise in your area of interest.

We are pleased to announce that Brianne Garrettson (3L) has accepted a position with the firm of Crowe and Horwath, LLP, to start in October of 2011. According to its Website, "Crowe Horwath LLP is one of the largest public accounting and consulting firms in the United States. Under its core purpose of 'Building Value with Values®,' Crowe assists public and private company clients in reaching their goals through audit, tax, advisory, risk, and performance services. With 26 offices and 2,400 personnel, Crowe is recognized by many organizations as one of the country’s best places to work. Crowe serves clients worldwide…" We are pleased our graduates continue to acquire employment with some of the top firms in the country.

L-1 Identity Solutions will be on the STU law campus on November 11, 2010, to capture your fingerprints. The capturing of your fingerprints is part of the bar application process. The fingerprinting company will be here from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., in the Career Services Conference Room (located immediately next to the Career Services Office, on the second floor of the main law school building). You must make your fingerprinting appointment in advance; you can schedule your appointment by going to www.L1enrollment.com. If you have any questions about the fingerprinting appointments, please contact L-1 Identity Solutions at 1 (800) 528-1358.

PRO BONO

December graduates must turn in completed Pro Bono hours by November 29, 2010.

FLORIDA BAR EXAMINATION

Deadline: Postmarked on or before November 15, 2010