The St. Thomas Lawyer
St. Thomas University School of Law • Miami Gardens, Florida • March 2014

Dean Douglas E. Ray’s Annual Report • Law Review Celebrates 25 Years
Alumni Leaders in Higher Education • The Hon. Peter R. Palermo Program Begins
A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

St. Thomas Law is a special place. It is special because of the people who make up our community, what they do, and how they do it. As you will see from the Dean's Annual Report included in this issue, we have had a busy and productive year. Our students have made a difference in the community and our faculty and alumni have made a difference in the region, in the country, and in the world. The reason I consider St. Thomas Law to be so special, however, goes far beyond the many accomplishments of our people. There is an underlying attitude of service and good will here that permeates everything we do. You see it in the more than 20,000 hours of volunteer work our students perform each year and in the way they support each other in moot court, mock trial, law reviews, and study groups. You see it in the service of our faculty, in their open door policies, in their dedication, and in the extra study sessions, practice exams, and caring mentorships they provide. You see it in administrators and staff as they open doors of opportunity, provide guidance, offer countless career programs, and are a source of constant support to our students. You see it in the service of our adjunct faculty, members of the bench and bar who join us after long days at work to provide insight and inspiration to our students. Finally, you see it in our alumni who reflect these values in their extensive community service and, as they return to the law school, in the way they mentor students, provide them insights into practice, and, with other friends of the law school, provide the financial support that will help us provide opportunities to the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

I also write to share the news that, after fifteen years as a law school dean, including the past four at St. Thomas, I will be stepping down from the deanship this summer. I am thankful to be part of your community and look forward to a new role on the faculty. I am very pleased to report that Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale, our University President, has appointed Professor Alfredo Garcia, who served as Dean from 2007 to 2010 and Associate Dean before that, to be our next Dean. With more than two decades of experience in higher education, Al Garcia is reflective of this special community. He is an accomplished and respected scholar who has written two books on criminal procedure and several law journal articles. He is also the co-author of a criminal law casebook used at law schools across the country. As many of our alumni know, he is an outstanding teacher as well. Most important, however, is the kind of person he is. He will be a thoughtful and caring leader and it will be my pleasure to welcome him back to the deanship this summer.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your dean.

With warmest regards,

Douglas E. Ray
Dean and Professor of Law
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St. Thomas Law Launches The Honorable Peter R. Palermo Program: A Community Partnership with Miami Carol City Senior High School
Three former governors of Florida—Charlie Crist, Bob Graham and Buddy MacKay—visited St. Thomas Law in February 2013 to discuss environmental issues affecting Florida.

The Honorable Bob Butterworth, former Dean of St. Thomas Law and former Attorney General of Florida, introduced the distinguished panel, “Each of these leaders accomplished so much good in public service and each continues to do so much. All have been true champions of the environment.”

The environmental topics discussed ranged from restoration of the Florida Everglades to global warming and its impact on South Florida. Graham commented on the repeal of land use regulations. “I believe that the recent rollback of much of the legislation is the result of us having a legislature and an executive branch that has very little knowledge of Florida, its history and the accumulated wisdom of what it takes to live in a special, fragile place like our peninsula state.”

MacKay warned younger generations of the policies that are enacted today. “If you think that the old people aren’t aware that they’re dumping these costs on the young people, you have got another thing coming.”

The former governors were optimistic, sharing their insight with law students from St. Thomas Law, Florida International University School of Law, Ave Maria, and Nova Southeastern Law School, in hopes that they would make better environmental choices for the future. “I’m a firm believer that the future can always be brighter and relationships can always be better,” said Crist.

The event was organized by Assistant Professor Keith Rizzardi, and was sponsored by The Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Section and the Florida Earth Foundation.

The respective law schools from Ave Maria University, Nova Southeastern University, and Florida International University also served as co-sponsors of the event.
In March 2013, St. Thomas University School of Law hosted its first speed networking workshop, providing students the opportunity to meet with alumni to improve their networking skills. Held on campus and co-sponsored by the St. Thomas Law Alumni Association and St. Thomas Law’s career services and alumni relations offices, the speed networking session lasted one hour, allowing each student to sit down with 10 to 12 attorneys for five-minute conversations. A reception for the students and alumni took place afterward, providing students and attorneys another opportunity to mingle with one another in a more casual environment.

The 35 students who participated were pleased to meet alumni they might not have otherwise have had a chance to speak with in a much larger setting. “St. Thomas Law has been great in teaching us the law. It is encouraging and nice to know that they are concerned about our future employment as well,” said Rishma Sooknandan, a third-year student who graduated in May 2013.

“Networking skills are important for our students’ professional development, and through this event I was hoping to provide them the chance to meet with multiple successful attorneys from different practice areas and professional backgrounds,” said Peter T. Kelly, Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations at St. Thomas Law. “I think it helped, too, that the attorneys had something in common with the students—they were once in their shoes here at St. Thomas.”

“I think it’s fantastic that the law school is connecting its alumni with its current students,” remarked Armando G. Hernandez, Esq., a 2010 St. Thomas Law graduate and now an associate at Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Miami. “I was happy to speak with the students tonight. The speed networking session brought a diverse group of experiences and practices together in a unique way.” Students who are nervous about entering a challenging job market appreciated the experience. “Networking events can be very impersonal and frequently do not allow true connections to happen when you are a student. If you are not practicing yet, you may feel like you do not have that much to offer. Having the alumni here to help and guide me makes me feel better prepared to face the market when I finally graduate,” said Ms. Sooknandan ’13.
At St. Thomas Law’s second annual public service awards ceremony on April 10, 2013, Dean Douglas E. Ray and Associate Dean Cecile Dykas honored 77 students who each completed more than 100 individual hours of pro bono service. Together, the law school’s students performed over 23,000 hours of pro bono service in the community. “Today we celebrate the difference a lawyer can make in people’s lives, and the particular difference our students make in this community,” said Dean Ray.

Marbely Hernandez ‘13 was specially commended for providing 1,230 hours of pro bono service, and Francoise Blanco ‘13 and Robert (Mitch) Altman ‘13 also received awards for their work with low-income taxpayers.

Howard Blumberg, Esq., who directs both the law school’s appellate clinic and its moot court program, and recently retired after 35 years as an assistant public defender in Miami’s Office of the Public Defender, delivered the keynote remarks. He also received the Outstanding Public Service Supervisor award for his steadfast commitment to the School’s Pro Bono Leadership Program.

St. Thomas Law’s Pro Bono Leadership Program, directed by Jennifer Portwood Gordon, Esq., of the law school’s Career Services Office, encourages students to start a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. If you, as an alumnus/alumna or friend of St. Thomas Law, would like to become involved with future pro bono projects, please contact Jennifer Portwood Gordon directly at (305) 474-2433 or jpgordon@stu.edu.
Commencement 2013

At St. Thomas Law’s commencement exercises on May 11, 2013 in the Fernandez Center for Leadership & Wellness, Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale, President of St. Thomas University, noted that the Fernandez Center was “filled with pride, and we congratulate the source of that pride: the 178 graduates of the School of Law’s Class of 2013.” Dean Douglas E. Ray stated that the day was one “to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates, and to welcome them into a profession that will give them the opportunity to spend their lives serving others.” Highlighting the 23,000 hours of pro bono service that the Class of 2013 had provided in the past three years, Dean Ray pointed out to proud family members and friends that these graduates were already making a difference in the South Florida community.

Dean Ray presented awards to four members of the Class of 2013 for their exemplary leadership and service: Rachel Walker, who received the American Law Institute-American Bar Association award for scholarship and leadership; Marbely Hernandez, who received the Outstanding Public Service award for her 1,230 pro bono hours as a certified legal intern in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and Jackie Bowden and Francoise Blanco, who each received Outstanding Leadership awards for their tireless work and service as president and treasurer, respectively, of the St. Thomas Law Student Bar Association.

The commencement speakers were the Honorable Adalberto J. Jordan, United States Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and Josh Simon, the valedictorian. Mr. Simon encouraged his fellow classmates to take with them the lessons they had learned at St. Thomas Law, and to follow the example of “truly great leaders” who selflessly “touch the lives of others by making a positive impact upon those around them every day.” Judge Jordan congratulated the members of the Class of 2013 on the culmination of three years of hard work, and then reminded them that there was nothing more important in their lives and professional careers than their reputations. “Your name, your reputation, your integrity… is the greatest asset that you will have today, and that you will have going forward.”
During the May commencement ceremony, Jackie Bowden ’13, the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA), and Francoise Blanco ’13, the SBA’s treasurer, on behalf of their fellow classmates, presented to Dean Douglas E. Ray and the law school community a unique class gift—a large, colorful painting depicting daily life in the city of Port-de-Paix, St. Thomas University’s sister diocese in Northwest Haiti.

The gift of the large painting (measuring 6 feet by 8 feet) was made possible through donations from the members of the Class of 2013, and now permanently hangs in the law school’s newest building, the Center for Professional Development, that houses the alumni relations, career services, and pro bono outreach offices.

In presenting the painting, Francoise Blanco noted that he and his classmates selected a gift that “would provide a benefit to the community, enhance the School of Law, and showcase the joy and spirit of the Class of 2013.” After accepting the gift on behalf of the St. Thomas community, Dean Ray shared that it would serve as “a symbol of the University’s special partnership with Haiti, and its long standing commitment to helping the poor and underprivileged in Haiti.”
On October 16, 2013, St. Thomas University representatives attended the Miami-Dade County School Board’s meeting and surprised recent alumna, Dr. Marta Perez ’13, with a special commendation in recognition of her commitment to education and dedication to public service.

Visibly touched by the surprise ceremony, Dr. Perez told community members, the media, and her fellow board members that “St. Thomas Law is a hidden jewel, and I’m honored to be part of their wonderful community.”

She shared stories about how University Trustee Stanley Tate, Associate Dean Dykas, and Assistant Deans Kelly and Hernandez each had a role in contributing to her success as a law student.

The St. Thomas group also recognized another school board member and fellow St. Thomas Law alumna, Raquel Regalado, Esq., ’01, for her service to the community.

Assistant Dean Peter T. Kelly; Chris Wolfe (Dr. Marta Perez’s fiancé); Associate Dean Cece Dykas; Dr. Marta Perez ’13; Assistant Dean John F. Hernandez; Career Services Outreach Coordinator Teresita Chavez Pedrosa, Esq.; and Stanley Tate, Esq., Member of the St. Thomas University Board of Trustees.
At the Third District Court of Appeal’s annual induction ceremony in September 2013, alumna Stephanie M. Michel, Esq., who graduated in May 2013 summa cum laude, was invited by the Court to address her fellow inductees during the ceremony. Ms. Michel, now an associate at Keller Landsberg, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, received this honor for having one of the highest scores in the State of Florida on the Bar exam administered in July 2013.

Score!

St. Thomas Graduate Earns High Score on Bar Exam

At the Third District Court of Appeal’s annual induction ceremony in September 2013, alumna Stephanie M. Michel, Esq., who graduated in May 2013 summa cum laude, was invited by the Court to address her fellow inductees during the ceremony. Ms. Michel, now an associate at Keller Landsberg, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, received this honor for having one of the highest scores in the State of Florida on the Bar exam administered in July 2013.
Professor Pati Meets the Pope


Prof. Pati moderated four panels on: social justice and social politics; the common good and new conditions for its pursuit; the engagement of the Pontifical and Catholic Universities in the relationship between the Church and the world today; as well as these universities’ role in preparing the new generation of leaders engaged in responsible politics.

A special document reflecting the deliberations of the day will be put together and shared later with all Pontifical and Catholic universities worldwide.

On October 3, 2013, Professor Pati had the distinct honor of meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis, who has just recently tasked the Pontifical Academies and the World Federation of Catholic Medical Association to focus on human trafficking and ways to combat it.

Honorable Mentions

- **Matthew Dietz, Esq.** received the Lawyer of the Year award in March 2013 from Lawyers to the Rescue, a Miami nonprofit committed to providing humanitarian and financial assistance to individuals and communities in times of crisis.

- **Hon. Milton Hirsch** received The Honorable Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award at the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers – Miami chapter’s annual banquet in May 2013.

- **Professors Gary Kravitz** (upper level professor of the year), **Todd Sullivan** (first year professor of the year), and teaching fellow **Amar Patel, Esq. ’10** (administrator of the year) each received well-deserved honors at the law students’ annual Barristers’ Ball in April 2013.

- **Michael Mayer, Esq. ’07** and **Enrique Zamora, Esq.** each received an adjunct professor of the year award from Dean Ray at the annual adjunct faculty appreciation dinner in March 2013.

- In July 2013, **Hon. Frank A. Shepherd** became Chief Judge of the Third District Court of Appeal.

- **Prof. Michael Vastine** received the 2013 Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

- **Prof. Siegfried Wiessner** received the Professor of the Year award in March 2013 from Lawyers to the Rescue.
In August 2013, St. Thomas Law welcomed its newest faculty member, Marcia Narine. Professor Narine currently teaches civil procedure to first-year students. Professor Narine received her bachelor’s degree cum laude in political science and psychology from Columbia University. She then attended Harvard Law School, where she also graduated cum laude. In addition to her expertise in civil procedure, Professor Narine has scholarly and practical expertise in corporate governance, compliance and social responsibility, legal ethics, human rights, and employment law.

Prior to joining St. Thomas Law, Professor Narine served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She previously worked as the Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Ryder System, Inc., in Miami, where she also served as the Vice President, Global Compliance and Business Standards, and Chief Privacy Officer. Before joining Ryder, Professor Narine was an attorney with Morgan, Lewis and Bockius’ labor and employment practice in Miami. She has also worked as a commercial litigator with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton in New York, and as a law clerk to former Justice Marie Garibaldi of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

In November 2013, Dean Douglas E. Ray appointed Professor Tamara Lawson as the law school’s first Associate Dean for Faculty Development.

In the new position, Associate Dean Lawson will help raise the profile of the law school by publicizing the faculty’s scholarship and other achievements. She will also assist with faculty development in scholarship, teaching, and engagement with the bench and bar, and will facilitate the faculty’s involvement in national/regional conferences and symposia.

In addition, Dean Lawson will promote faculty engagement in regional, state, national, and international bar organizations, and help expand the faculty’s network of attorneys and judges for the benefit of students and alumni.

Associate Dean Lawson, who teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and a seminar on race and the law, was recently selected as a Reporter for the American Bar Association’s Task Force on “Stand Your Ground” laws, and she has served as chair of a task force on this subject. She has also presented at other law schools and various conferences on “Stand Your Ground” laws. Associate Dean Lawson will continue to teach while serving in her new role.
Supreme Honors

Professor Blumberg Earns Accolades From the Capitol to the Classroom

A St. Thomas Law contingent attended the May 2013 FACDL banquet to see Professor Howard Blumberg and Judge Milton Hirsch receive well-deserved honors. Pictured (L-R): Daniel Garza ’13, Veronica Rivera, Associate Dean Cece Dykas, Professor Gary Kravitz, Professor Alfredo Garcia, Nick Reed ’11, Therese Savona ’11, Professor Blumberg, Shannon Healy ’12, Michael Vera ’11, Lauren Shoemake ’11, Assistant Dean Jessica Fonseca-Nader ’97.

St. Thomas Law congratulates Professor Howard Blumberg on his many recent awards. Professor Blumberg directs both the law school’s appellate clinic and its moot court program, and recently retired after 35 years as an assistant public defender in Miami’s Office of the Public Defender.

The Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL – Miami chapter) presented to Professor Howard K. Blumberg its Daniel Pearson-Harry Prebish Founders’ Award for lifetime achievement at the FACDL annual banquet in May 2013.

A month prior, Professor Blumberg received the “Outstanding Public Service Supervisor” award at St. Thomas Law’s annual public service awards ceremony for his steadfast commitment to the School’s Pro Bono Leadership Program.

In December 2013, he received the Most Effective Appellate Lawyer award from the Daily Business Review (DBR) at its annual luncheon recognizing South Florida’s most effective lawyers.

During the presentation, the editor-in-chief of the DBR cited the Florida v. Jardines case which Professor Blumberg argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in October 2012. In its decision last year, the Court ruled in favor of Blumberg, concluding that a dog sniff of a residence constituted a search under the Fourth Amendment.

On the Move

- Prof. Roy Balleste was named to the Executive Committee of the Noncommercial Users Constituency of the Generic Names Supporting Organization for ICANN, the regulatory body for the overall Internet.
- Prof. Jennifer Martin was named Vice President of CALI (The Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction), and was chosen to write the CALI book on contracts.
- Prof. Anthony Musto was elected chair of the Florida Bar’s Public Interest Law Section.
- Prof. Marcia Narine spoke at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., about corporate governance and proxy trends, and she also spoke at the University of Oslo on the United States’ approach to climate change and business as part of the Sustainable Companies Project.
- Prof. Ira Nathenson was elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law School’s Section on Civil Procedure.
- Prof. Keith Rizzardi was re-elected as chair of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee.
- Prof. Carol Zeiner spoke at the 33rd International Congress on Law and Mental Health on the topic of therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ) and eminent domain.
Books

Roy Balleste (co-author)

Alfredo Garcia (co-author)

Lenora Ledwon (co-author)

John Makdisi (co-author)

Douglas E. Ray (co-author)

Book Chapters

Raul Fernandez-Calienes

Golden Rule, in Dictionary of the Bible and Western Culture (Mary Ann Beavis and Michael J. Gilmore, eds., 2012, Sheffield Phoenix Press [University of Sheffield]).

Lauren Gilbert


Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez


John M. Kang

Jennifer S. Martin


Anthony C. Musto

Roza Pati
The Categorical Imperative to End Modern-Day Slavery: Subsidiarity, Privatization, and the State’s Duty to Protect, in Der Staat im Recht (The State in Its Legal Dimension) (2013, Duncker & Humblot).


Lauren Gilbert


Articles

Roy Balleste


Alfredo Garcia

Lauren Gilbert

Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez

John M. Kang

Jennifer S. Martin

Robert E. Mensel

Patricia W. Hatamyar Moore

Ira S. Nathenson

Roza Pati

Leonard D. Pernoty
Same Violence, Same Sex, Different Standard: An Examination of Same-Sex Domestic Violence and the Use of Expert Testimony on Battered Woman’s Syndrome in Same-Sex Domestic Violence Cases, 24 St. Thomas L. Rev. 544 (2012).

Stephen A. Plass

Keith W. Rizzardi

Amy D. Ronner
Let’s Get the “Trans” and “Sex” Out of It and Free Us All, 16(3) J. Gender Race & Just. 859 (2013).

Nadia Soree
Whose Fourth Amendment and Does It Matter: A Due Process Approach to Fourth Amendment Standing, 46(3) Ind. L. Rev. 753 (2013).

Ira S. Nathenson


Mark J. Wolf

Carol L. Zeiner


Siegfried Wiessner
Honor Roll of Donors

On behalf of our students at St. Thomas University School of Law, we gratefully acknowledge the alumni, parents and friends, faculty and staff, foundations and corporations that have generously supported us through gifts and in-kind contributions during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013). Thank you for your support!

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<th>ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY</th>
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On a perfect spring night for cruising the Intracoastal Waterway, over 200 alumni and friends of the St. Thomas Law Review boarded the Floridian Princess yacht in Hollywood, Florida, and celebrated a special milestone in the history of St. Thomas Law: 25 years of successful law review publications, countless hours of writing and editing, and hundreds of alumni who contributed to the Law Review as student-members and editors.

After Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale welcomed the crowd and congratulated the alumni and students for their many accomplishments over the years, Dean Douglas E. Ray spoke and thanked the current members of the Law Review for all their work in planning the successful event.

Dean Ray also thanked all of the former faculty advisors and former editors-in-chief of the Law Review, and especially praised the efforts of the current editor-in-chief, Ms. Lydia (Butler) Worden ‘13, who worked closely with Assistant Deans Jessica Fonseca Nader (faculty advisor to the Law Review) and Peter Kelly (assistant dean for alumni relations), and the Office for Alumni Relations, in reaching out to alumni and planning the event.

Also participating in the evening’s program were the Honorable R. Fred Lewis, Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the keynote speaker and a great friend and supporter of St. Thomas Law; and Alfredo Garcia, the former Dean and longtime professor at St. Thomas Law, who received from the Law Review a special commendation for his leadership and support over the years. The 2013 editorial board noted, in particular, Professor Garcia’s great support as Dean in 2008, when the Law Review hosted the National Conference of Law Reviews; and his publication, *Is Miranda Dead, Was it Overruled, or Is It Irrelevant*, 10 ST. THOMAS L. REV. 461 (1998), which is the most-cited of all articles in the St. Thomas Law Review.
St. Thomas University School of Law wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the St. Thomas Law Review 25th Anniversary Celebration:

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$500 and above

- Adam B. Portnow, Esq. ’08
- Professor Gordon Butler
- Professor Enrique Zamora
- Assistant Dean Jessica Fonseca Nader, Professor Gary N. Kravitz, and Amar Patel, Esq. ’10
- Professor Amy D. Ronner and Dr. Michael P. Pacin
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- Themis Bar Review and Nachman Susson, Esq.

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- Professor Patricia Moore
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- Professor Magda Rodriguez
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- The Honorable Michele Towbin Singer
- The Honorable and Mrs. Ronald G. Sonom

Alumni and friends celebrate during the St. Thomas Law Review 25th Anniversary Celebration on April 12, 2013.
A “Higher” Calling
Alumni Leading the Way in Higher Education
By Peter T. Kelly

Many of our alumni/alumnae are succeeding in the more traditional careers one would expect to find them: law firms big and small, solo practices, governmental agencies, elected offices and political appointments. Some, however, have gone a less traditional route but have found themselves in a very traditional setting: the college campus. On the following pages are glimpses of four St. Thomas Law graduates who are leaders at their respective universities in different ways: in the classroom, the general counsel’s office, the athletics department, and the enrollment/admissions office.
Rory Bahadur ’03
Professor of Law
Washburn University School of Law

Rory Bahadur is a Professor of Law at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas, where he has taught torts, civil procedure, federal courts, and admiralty law since 2007. The valedictorian of his law school class, Professor Bahadur got his start in academia a year after he graduated from St. Thomas Law, when then-Dean Bob Butterworth hired him to head up the academic support office.

Rory learned a lot from that experience, recalling that “student engagement was (his) biggest motivator.” Rory became quite successful on this front, whether filling up a classroom of students who voluntarily attended his academic support sessions on a Saturday morning, or teaching torts to first-year students. During each of the years Rory taught at St. Thomas Law, the students honored him by electing him “First-Year Professor of the Year” – a tradition that Professor Bahadur has continued at Washburn Law (Professor of the Year in 2010 and 2012).

Given the honors Rory’s received from his students, it’s no surprise that his peers have taken notice, too. In 2013, Professor Bahadur was recognized by fellow professors in What the Best Law Teachers Do, a book that identifies the methods, strategies, and personal traits of 26 law professors across the country whose students achieve exceptional learning. “It’s an honor to be in the classroom,” Rory says. “Every single day I am so happy to be doing what I’m doing.”

He points to two former teachers, Professors Amy Ronner and Steven Plass, each of whom has helped shape his own work ethic and approach to preparing for class. “They walked into the classroom and clearly spent inordinate amounts of time preparing for the classroom.”

Professor Bahadur has taken his pedagogical talents outside of the country as well, most recently in the Republic of Georgia. Through a USAID grant that Washburn University received to assist with legal education reform in Georgia, Professor Bahadur and his colleagues have recently traveled to Free University School of Law to assist in two main areas: development of commercial law in Georgia, and improvement of teaching methodologies for Georgian law professors.

During his several visits to Georgia, Professor Bahadur has trained law professors on teaching methods, and presented on various topics such as interactive teaching methods, modern legal education trends, and the benefits of active learning pedagogy. Just as Professors Ronner and Plass continue to do at St. Thomas Law, Professor Bahadur is surely making a positive impact upon his students, whether in Miami, Kansas, or the Republic of Georgia.

“It’s an honor to be in the classroom. Every single day I am so happy to be doing what I’m doing.”
Claire Konopa Aigotti ’96
General Counsel
Butler University

Claire Konopa Aigotti, Esq., was appointed as Butler University’s General Counsel in August 2013. At the Indiana school, Ms. Aigotti oversees all legal matters, including human resources and employment issues, student policies and discipline, business negotiations and contracts, real estate, litigation, and risk management. The first general counsel in Butler’s history, Claire is enjoying the opportunity to build the university’s in-house law office essentially from scratch. “I like the autonomy I have, and (having) the ability to develop an office.”

A native of South Bend, Indiana, Claire graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1993 before starting law school that August. She chose St. Thomas Law on the recommendation of her grandfather, the Honorable Mallory H. Horton, one of the first three judges to have served on Florida’s Third District Court of Appeal.

After graduating from St. Thomas Law in 1996, Claire returned to South Bend, where she practiced at Konopa, Reagan and Aigotti, P.C. until 2007. A partner at the firm, she focused her practice on a variety of civil litigation matters, including personal injury, product liability, insurance bad faith, and divorce matters through mediations, trials, and appeals.

In 2007, Claire left private practice for an opportunity to return to Notre Dame, where she became the University’s associate general counsel and led the litigation and student issues team for the Office of General Counsel. At Notre Dame, she represented her alma mater in all aspects of state and federal court litigation, including personal injury, discrimination, breach of contract, student issues, collections, tenure and employment, and worker’s compensation.

Noting that the change from private practice to the world of higher education can have its challenges, Ms. Aigotti says that the transition prepared her well for her current position at Butler. “Going from private practice to higher education is a different dynamic. The learning curve can be a little overwhelming, but I’m glad to have worked six years at Notre Dame – it broadened my overall experience as an attorney.” With the education she has received from Notre Dame and St. Thomas Law, and the experiences she gained both in private practice and at Notre Dame, Claire is happy to be in her new role at Butler, and clearly has the right focus: “It’s not just a matter of what’s legal. It’s doing what’s right for the students, faculty and staff.”

“It’s not just a matter of what’s legal.
It’s doing what’s right for the students, faculty and staff.”
The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at Northwestern University in Chicago, Brian Baptiste is responsible for directing, planning and organizing all phases of the University’s compliance program. Brian began working at Northwestern in January 2013 after serving in the same capacity at the University of Delaware for three years. While it is a daunting challenge to oversee the entire compliance program and ensure that administrators, staff members and student-athletes comply with all N.C.A.A. rules and regulations, Brian very much enjoys what he’s doing. “The most satisfying part of my job is working in a field that I have a great deal of passion for. Athletics has always given me great joy and I am truly fortunate enough to make a living in an area that I love.”

It was during Brian’s law school years – as vice president of St. Thomas Law’s sports and entertainment law society – that he first considered a career in athletics. “Having an interest in athletics administration and seeing the potential for a lawyer in that field, that experience opened my eyes to a world of possibilities.” Also at St. Thomas Law, Brian served as the southern regional chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), which provided him the opportunity to represent St. Thomas Law and develop contacts around the country. In addition, Brian served as a certified legal intern with the Office of the State Attorney in Broward County, and was a judicial intern for the Honorable Donald L. Graham, a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

A Maryland native and member of the Maryland Bar, Mr. Baptiste first entered the world of N.C.A.A. athletics at Georgetown University, which hired him in 2009 to be its assistant director of compliance in the athletics department. At Georgetown, Mr. Baptiste was responsible for monitoring compliance-related issues such as amateurism, eligibility, recruiting, financial aid, and the National Letter of Intent program.

Thanks to his experiences at St. Thomas Law, as well as his positions at Georgetown and the University of Delaware, Brian has prepared himself well for his current post at Northwestern, and he is determined to continue his employer’s notable track record: Northwestern is the only school in the Big Ten (and one of just a handful of universities in the country) never to have committed a major N.C.A.A. infraction.
Jessica Fonseca-Nader ’97
Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Scholarships
St. Thomas University School of Law

Jessica Fonseca-Nader has taught legal research and writing at St. Thomas Law since 2003, and was appointed as the law school’s first assistant dean for enrollment and scholarships in January 2013. In this capacity, Jessica leads and directs the school’s admissions and recruiting efforts throughout the year, and also oversees the merit scholarship program for all students. She brings to this new position a unique blend of experiences as a former student, current professor, and practicing attorney.

Assistant Dean Fonseca-Nader returned to St. Thomas Law as an adjunct professor in 2003 before joining the legal research and writing faculty on a full-time basis a few years later. In addition to research and writing courses, she also teaches appellate advocacy, advanced legal studies, and a seminar class on moral dilemmas.

In 2006, after serving for nine years as a career law clerk for the Honorable David L. Levy at Florida’s Third District Court of Appeal in Miami, she joined Black, Srebnick Kornspan & Stumpf as Special Counsel. She focuses her practice on litigation support and appellate work in both state and federal courts.

As head of enrollment and scholarships, Assistant Dean Fonseca-Nader says that the new role has given her great satisfaction both as a professor and a mentor. “Giving these future lawyers an opportunity to pursue their own dreams, and perhaps their family’s dreams, too – that’s not only a great responsibility, but a great privilege. To then see the students succeed here at St. Thomas Law – that has been very rewarding.”

During her law school years, Jessica served as editor-in-chief of the St. Thomas Law Review, and also had her first “teaching moment” in the school’s “Street Law” program. It was then that she knew that she’d eventually like to teach. Looking back on that experience (at MAST Academy, a magnet school in Key Biscayne), she recalls: “It opened my eyes to the difference a teacher can make in a student’s life.” St. Thomas Law is fortunate that Assistant Dean Fonseca-Nader, through her various roles and experiences, is now making a difference in the lives of many students.

“Giving these future lawyers an opportunity to pursue their own dreams, and perhaps their family’s dreams, too – that’s not only a great responsibility, but a great privilege. To then see the students succeed here at St. Thomas Law – that has been very rewarding.”
On September 19, 2013, the St. Thomas Law community gathered for a luncheon to officially launch the Honorable Peter R. Palermo Program, which has been established to educate high school students about the United States Constitution, civics and the law. Thanks to the generous support of Judge Palermo, a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida since 1971, this new program puts into action Judge Palermo’s strong belief that today’s youth – tomorrow’s leaders – have to become engaged citizens, and that their engagement requires knowledge of civics and the law.

Since the summer of 2013, the law school has worked with Carol City High in Miami Gardens in developing this partnership that will allow for Carol City High students to study these important topics from second and third-year law students, or “Palermo Fellows.” Currently there are 11 Palermo Fellows taking part in the program, and they have been mentoring 32 Carol City High students, conducting sessions on St. Thomas’s campus as well as at Carol City High.

During the luncheon, Judge Palermo spoke to the Carol City High students, each of whom received a copy of the U.S. Constitution, and told them, as well as the law students, that “You are the future!” Also attending the luncheon were Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale, the President of St. Thomas University, Dean Douglas E. Ray, St. Thomas Law faculty and staff, as well as Carol City High teachers and Miami Gardens community leaders.

On behalf of the St. Thomas community, Msgr. Casale thanked Judge Palermo for his friendship and support of the university over the years. “Not only is Judge Palermo a great friend of St. Thomas and a leader in the South Florida community, he’s also just a great guy.” After thanking Judge Palermo for his constant support of the law school, Dean Ray presented to him a plaque recognizing “your service to our country, your commitment to justice, and your unwavering support of our students.”
Dean Ray also thanked Jennifer Portwood Gordon, Esq., ’09, the law school’s Director of Pro Bono and Public Interest Career Counselor, and Ms. Asiah Wolfolk-Manning, Esq., a teacher at Carol City High and the school’s legal affairs director, for their efforts in starting the program, advising the students, and coordinating all logistics. “I am excited about this new collaboration, and am inspired by the students’ enthusiasm and energy,” said Ms. Portwood Gordon. “And we’re just beginning. I look forward to creating additional opportunities for even more law students next year by involving more high schools in the community.”

The Palermo Program, which continued throughout the Fall 2013 semester, is already reaping great rewards. In December 2013, the Carol City High students won first place for their congressional district in Florida’s “We the People” Competition, advancing to the State finals in January 2014. “The students could not have done this without the assistance of St. Thomas Law and Jen Portwood Gordon,” said Ms. Wolfolk-Manning. “Thank you for believing in them and giving your time to help them accomplish this amazing feat!”

“This new program puts into action Judge Palermo’s strong belief that today’s youth – tomorrow’s leaders – have to become engaged citizens, and that their engagement requires knowledge of civics and the law.”

At the annual Red Mass in Miami in May 2013, Msgr. Casale, President of St. Thomas University (left), and Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski, the Archbishop of Miami, thanked Judge Palermo for his continued support of St. Thomas Law.
alumni giving

Alumni Spotlight: Alex A. Hanna ’00

Alex A. Hanna, Esq. began his own law practice shortly after graduating from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2000. Since that time he has been successfully defending clients in Florida against a wide variety of traffic offenses. Despite the dynamic growth of his business and its demands on his time, Mr. Hanna serves as a model husband and father to his wife Lizet, his children Alexander and Sophia, and the rest of his friends and family.

Always a good citizen, Mr. Hanna takes part in civic events, donates to humanitarian causes, and defends the Constitution of the United States of America.

As an enduring symbol of Mr. Hanna’s intensity to combat injustice, passion for world peace, and respect for human dignity, and in recognition of his significant gift to the law school, the law library was renamed the Alex Hanna Law Library in 2008 (now the Alex A. Hanna Legal Information Center, pictured below). Mr. Hanna’s most valuable experience at St. Thomas University was “life preparation.” Among other honors and awards, he is the proud recipient of:

- Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Community (presented to Hispanic Leaders by the U.S. Congress in 2011)
- Traffic Ticket Attorney of the Decade (Minority Chamber of Commerce, 2010)
- The Key of Miami-Dade County (2006)

Make a Gift!

Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund have a direct and immediate impact on the education we provide our students.

Annual Fund gifts support:
- Scholarships to students in need;
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- Moot court, trial advocacy, and law journal activities;
- Conferences, distinguished speakers, and symposia; and
- Career and Professional Development programs that help our students build their futures.

Please make an online gift at www.stu.edu/GivingtoSTULaw or use the business reply envelope in this magazine to make a gift by check or credit card.
Alumni Receptions

Miami

Orlando
alumni receptions

Florida Bar Convention  Toys For Tots
alumni receptions

Fort Lauderdale

Tampa
1989

KELLY CAMBRON has become a shareholder of Goldstein, Schmitt and Wade, PL, in Stuart, Florida. Kelly’s primary practice area is social security disability and workers’ compensation.

DAVID PREBLE, D.D.S., is the new vice president of the American Dental Association’s newly created ADA Practice Institute, which will provide input on programs, products and services to help ADA-members better operate their dental practices. Dr. Preble, who had previously served as the director of the ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs since 2007, lives in Chicago with his wife, Hong Sun.

1994

MICHELLE OTERO VALDES was recently named chair of the board of directors of the ReThink and ReUse Center, an environmental and educational non-for-profit in Miami. An attorney at the international law firm of Chalos & Co, P.C., Ms. Otero Valdés is board certified by The Florida Bar in admiralty and maritime law, and serves as the chair of The Florida Bar’s admiralty and maritime law certification committee.

GUY QUATTLEBAUM, a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in its West Palm Beach office, was elected president of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission in February 2013 for a year-long term. Quattlebaum works in Akerman’s litigation practice group, and concentrates in the areas of complex commercial cases, with experience in banking, labor and employment, probate, condominium associations, and real estate litigation.

1996

CLAIRE AIGOTTI became Butler University’s first general counsel in August 2013. She was previously the associate general counsel at the University of Notre Dame.

1997

ROBERT J. ROBES, a shareholder at the Boca Raton office of Greenberg Traurig P.A., has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Foundation, Inc. Bob is a proud FAU alumnus.


1998

SAMUEL S. FRANKEL, JR., LL.M. ’05, a partner at Barnett, Lerner & Karsen, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, is handling Florida workers’ compensation claims and claims arising under the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act, Defense Base Act, Jones Act, as well as cruise line passenger claims.

2000

KEVIN F. SANDERSON, LL.M. ’06, of Merritt & Sanderson, P.A. in Osprey, Florida, is a member of the 2014 class of “Leadership Sarasota,” a program of the chamber of commerce in greater Sarasota. Kevin was recently admitted to the Bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

2001

BART ARMSTRONG is the Children’s Legal Services Southern Regional Director within Florida’s Department of Children and Families. Bart recently met with child welfare representatives and members of Congress in Washington, D.C., as part of a conference focusing on juvenile sex trafficking.

JOSHUA J. HERTZ, a member of the law school’s board of advisors, was selected in 2013 as an inaugural member of The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy. Josh recently moved his law practice to Miami Lakes.

OLIVER A. RUIZ was named partner at Malloy & Malloy, P.L. in Miami. He concentrates his practice in intellectual property litigation, trademark prosecution, and copyright law.
2002

WILLIAM T. COTTERALL was recently elected to the board of directors of the Florida Justice Association (FJA). He was also appointed as chair of the FJA’s consumer protection section for legislative matters. Mr. Cotterall is the founding partner of The Cotterall Law Firm, a Tallahassee-based law firm focusing on injury and wrongful death cases throughout Florida.

2003

RORY BAHADUR was granted full tenure as a professor of law at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas. Professor Bahadur, who has been chosen by Washburn students as professor of the year on multiple occasions, was recently featured in a new book, What the Best Law Teachers Do. The book is based on a national, qualitative study of 26 law professors nominated as “the best” by their peers and students.

LETICIA (HERNANDEZ) VEGA, who became partner at Fowler White Burnett in Miami in 2012, was voted a rising star in Super Lawyers magazine and just recently became AV rated by Martindale Hubbell. She was also recently honored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Florida chapter as one of its “40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County.”

2004

CHRISS AMBROSIO is a partner at Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, where he represents a majority of the municipalities in South Florida and the Florida Keys.

JUDE M. FACCIDOMO was honored in November 2013 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Florida chapter as one of its “40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County.”

MARBET MIER LEWIS is a partner at Akerman Senterfitt, focusing her practice on the alcohol beverage industry. She was just recently appointed to serve on the board of Mindful Kids Miami, Inc., a charitable organization focused on teaching mindfulness to local teachers and communities.

HERMAN RUSSOMANNO, JR. was selected in 2013 as an inaugural member of The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy.

2006

JUDITH ANGULO and KURT SCHLUETER ’09 were married in June 2013 in Orta San Giulio, Italy.

2008

BRIAN A. BAPTISTE relocated in early 2013 to Chicago, where he is now the associate director of athletics for NCAA compliance at Northwestern University. Brian, who previously held the same position at the University of Delaware, married Jessica McMiller ’08 on November 10, 2013 in Washington, D.C.

JESSICA McMILLER was recently appointed as Assistant Chief of Staff, Office of Legislative Affairs for the Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois. She is focusing on the governor’s public safety agenda through legislative policies that serve and protect the people of Illinois. Jessica married Brian Baptiste ’08 in November 2013 in Washington, D.C., and the couple resides in Chicago.


2009

BRANDON ARKIN was selected in 2013 as an inaugural member of The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy.
SLAVA BORSCHUKOV recently accepted a position with the Duboff Law Firm in North Miami, where he will practice first party litigation. Slava joins civil practice after four years at the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office, where he handled homicides and other serious felonies.

RACHEL A. CANFIELD, an attorney in Greenberg Traurig’s Miami office, was recently selected to serve as a mentor in the mentorship program of the South Florida chapter of the Federal Bar Association. In this role, Rachel will be matched with current law students from local law schools to serve as a mentor and help guide the next wave of legal professionals.

YARA LORENZO was honored in November 2013 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Florida chapter as one of its “40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County.” An associate at Hogan Lovells in its litigation and employment practice group in Miami, Yara was also recently appointed to fill an unexpired term on The Florida Bar Foundation.

RICKY PATEL, senior partner of Farrell & Patel, Attorneys at Law in Miami, was recognized by the South Florida Business Journal as one of its “40 Under 40” honorees.

JUDITH ANGULO ‘06 and KURT SCHLUETER were married in June 2013 in Orta San Giulio, Italy.

SCHUYLER A. SMITH is an associate at Hamilton, Miller & Birthsel, LLP, in Miami. She was selected in 2013 as an inaugural member of The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy. Schuyler just concluded her tenure as president of the Caribbean Bar Association.

KENNETH M. KAUP is a new associate attorney at Chasan Leyner & Lamparello, P.C., in Secaucus, NJ. Ken is specializing in insurance defense with a focus on workers’ compensation matters.

MARIA MICHAELS has joined the trust and wealth management department of Coconut Grove Bank. She was previously at the 17th Judicial Circuit where she worked as a staff attorney in the probate division.

2011

BRIANNE GARRETSON DESELLIER has provided legal commentary on the following media outlets: Good Morning America, The Nancy Grace Show, ABC World News, National Public Radio, and Yahoo! She also has her own tax-oriented legal blog: www.floridataxattorney-blog.com.

BRASILIO MACHADO has expanded The Machado Law Firm in Miami and opened its second office in Orlando. The Machado Law Firm is a boutique law firm offering a full service experience to domestic and international clients.

JON MCCONNELL, a criminal defense attorney at Monnat & Spurrier in Wichita, Kansas, was named by the Wichita Business Journal as one of its 40 Under 40 honorees for 2013, in recognition of Jon’s professional achievements and community involvement.

BRANDON E. STEIN recently launched STEINLAW, P.A., in Aventura, Florida, where he specializes in personal injury and civil litigation.

2010

CHRISTOPHER G. BROWN is a new associate at Adams, Adams, Baca & McMillen in Miami. His areas of practice include medical malpractice, personal injury and civil litigation.

JON MCCONNELL, a criminal defense attorney at Monnat & Spurrier in Wichita, Kansas, was named by the Wichita
BRYAN PASCHAL was selected by Legacy Magazine as one of South Florida’s 40 Under 40 Leaders of Today & Tomorrow for 2013. Bryan was also elected as vice president of the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association for 2013-2014, and to The Florida Bar’s YLD Board of Governors for 2013-2015.

JUAN C. PEREZ, JR. was promoted in January 2013 to Assistant Chief of County Court in the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office.

2012

DOMENICK G. LAZZARA has been promoted to managing attorney at Aronfeld Trial Lawyers, Miami. Domenick will be the managing partner based out of the firm’s newly opened Tampa office.

MORGAN J. MCGRATH and MICHAEL B. WALKER have started their own law firm, Walker McGrath PLLC, with three offices in Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Boca Raton. They focus their work primarily in the areas of personal injury and intellectual property.

JOSEPH E. HUNT IV earned his LL.M. in taxation from Boston University in May 2013. Joe received the Ernest M. Haddad Award as the top graduating student, as well as the program’s Pro Bono Award in recognition of Joe’s volunteer work for Greater Boston Legal Services in its Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Joe now works in the Boston office of Deloitte Tax LLP, in its mergers and acquisitions practice.

2013

REBECCA DUFFIELD writes from Atlanta, where she is currently pursuing her LL.M. in Transactional Law (with a concentration in Alternative Dispute Resolution) at Emory University. She is the vice president of Amicus, Emory Law’s society for parent students, and is also coaching the school’s arbitration competition team. Rebecca and her husband are otherwise kept busy by their daughter, one-year old Lily.

Baby Lily, daughter of Rebecca Duffield ‘13

SEAN GELLIS is an assistant attorney general in the civil division of Florida’s Office of Attorney General. Sean is based in the Fort Lauderdale office.

JOSHUA SIMON, the valedictorian of the class of 2013, is a new associate with the Law Offices of Cytryn & Velazquez, P.A., a personal injury firm located in Coral Springs, Florida.

Josh Simon ’13

Download our New St. Thomas Law App!

St. Thomas Law information is now at your fingertips, thanks to the new St. Thomas Law app available for iPhone, iPad, Android, and BlackBerry.

Stay connected with the law school and fellow alumni, and learn of upcoming receptions and events.

A directory of faculty members and a list of newly published books by St. Thomas Law faculty members are also available on the app, as well as updates from the Admissions, Alumni Relations and Career Services offices.

Scan the QR code below with your device to go to the new St. Thomas Law App.
In Memoriam: Judge Amy Karan

by Dara Schottenfeld, Esq. ’09

Judge Amy Karan, a former adjunct professor at St. Thomas Law who served on the Miami-Dade Circuit Court bench until 2010, passed away in September 2013 after a long and courageous battle with multiple system atrophy. Alumna Dara Schottenfeld ’09 offers a reflection on her former professor and mentor.

Judge Karan was standing next to me in my first moments as an attorney. She and Judge Gersten, my mock trial coaches, swore me in together. It seemed the perfect ending to my law school career, where mock trial played such a huge part in my experience at St. Thomas. Judge Karan commanded respect, all the while remaining personable and approachable. She was brilliant in a way that few people are. Every day I learn more about her accomplishments in her unceasing mission to help victims of domestic violence, about the bond between Judge Karan and her daughter and about the lifelong impact she had on the people around her.

When Judge Karan got sick and began to have trouble walking, she had to give up wearing high heels. Instead of lamenting the loss, Judge Karan made a special occasion out of it. One night at trial practice, Judge Karan called the women on the competition team into a classroom. There, she had laid out rows of her heels. We each left that night with more than one pair of shoes and with a great Judge Karan story to tell.

Writing this, I am sad for those people who will never get the chance to meet Judge Karan. I was honored to know her, to have laughed with her, and to have learned with her. I will wear her shoes, think of her often and do my very best to follow in her footsteps.

In October 2013, alumni and friends of the late Professor Sandra A. Ruffin gathered with faculty and staff members at a ceremony honoring Professor Ruffin’s life and many contributions to the St. Thomas Law community.

During the ceremony, Msgr. Andrew L. Anderson, the law school’s chaplain, blessed a beautiful Royal Poinciana tree in memory of Professor Ruffin, who taught at St. Thomas Law for eight years (most recently during the 2008-2009 academic year) and passed away unexpectedly in July 2013.

Professor Siegfried Wiessner took part in the dedication ceremony and remembered his late friend and colleague: ”Sandra leaves us her unforgettable smile, her constant encouragement, and her infectious passion for a better world. Her all-embracing love for humankind – across all divides – made differences look small and disappear, and made everybody come together.”

Joey M. McCall, Esq. ’09, who was a student in Professor Ruffin’s civil procedure class, recalled her willingness to help at all times: “No matter how busy Professor Ruffin was with planning our curriculum or grading exams, she answered all our questions and concerns with a beaming smile. I will always appreciate that about her, and she will truly be missed by us all.”

Professor Ruffin leaves behind her son, Calvin, a sister, Brenda, and countless friends who will forever treasure the life of Sandra Ruffin, the many lives that she touched, and the generosity of spirit that she always exuded.
**SPRING 2014 RECEPTIONS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS**  
Thursday, March 6  
Seasons 52  
11611 Ellison Wilson Road  
5:30 to 7:00 PM

**ST. THOMAS LAW**  
“Speed Networking” Event & Reception  
Thursday, March 20  
Convocation Hall  
16401 NW 37th Ave.  
6 to 8 PM

For above events, RSVP to stulawalumni@stu.edu

**NORTH MIAMI**  
Awards Dinner for Alumni & Friends  
Thursday, April 10  
The Cloisters of the Ancient Spanish Monastery  
16711 West Dixie Highway  
6:30 PM

To purchase tickets for Awards Dinner: www.stu.edu/law/alumni

**ORLANDO**  
Networking Breakfast  
Friday, June 27 (Florida Bar Convention)  
Gaylord Palms Resort  
6000 W. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee  
8 AM

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You are Invited!

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Alumni & Friends
April 10, 2014
The Cloisters of the
Ancient Spanish
Monastery
North Miami Beach, FL
6:30 PM

To purchase tickets for
the Awards Dinner:
www.stu.edu/law/alumni

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