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The Witan

School of Law Publications

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2008

## 2008-2009 School Year

St. Mary's University School of Law

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 1

August 21, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## WELCOME!

**Welcome** to all of our first year students. We are pleased that you chose to join St. Mary's tradition of excellence. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities that await each of you this year.

Please **consult the Witan weekly** for important announcements from the law school administration, faculty, staff and student organizations. The Witan is our **primary** means of alerting students to important announcements.

## FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS MANDATORY MEETING WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

Mr. Jack Marshall of the Texas Board of Law Examiners will hold a **mandatory meeting** for all first-year students on **Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.** in **Law Classrooms 101-103**. Mr. Marshall will impart crucial information for filing the **Declaration of Intention to Study Law** and answer student questions about the process. The timely filing **deadline** for the Declaration of Intent by first-year students is **October 1, 2008**; the cost is \$190. A **late fee** of \$150 is imposed if this deadline is not met.

## CALI LESSONS

As you are starting your new classes, we would like to inform you about CALI lessons. CALI lessons are interactive, computer-based tutorials provided by the non-profit **Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction** ([www.cali.org](http://www.cali.org)). There are over 675 lessons available to help you study 32 different legal subject areas at [www.cali.org](http://www.cali.org).

Lessons are completely **free** for all of our law students and are great for mastering material during the semester and/or studying for exams.

When registering a new account at [www.cali.org](http://www.cali.org), you must use our school's authorization code to create the account. (Click on the "Not a registered user yet" link.) The St. Mary's authorization code is: **SAIMARstu180** (case sensitive).

If you would like to pick up a **free** interactive CD-ROM of CALI lessons, stop by the **Law Library Circulation Desk** or see one of the Reference Librarians.

Good luck with the rest of the semester!

### **LAW MINISTRY**

**Sister Grace Walle**, FMI is the Campus Minister for the St. Mary's University School of Law. Her office is located in **Room 105** of the **Raba (Law Faculty) Building**. Sister Grace is available for pastoral counseling or spiritual guidance. Sister Grace also coordinates service programs that provide outreach to the community. Her telephone number is **436-3063**. Stop by for a cup of coffee or a PBJ sandwich, available just outside her office.

### **TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Smoking is **prohibited** in all law school buildings. Please refrain from the use of all tobacco products in the library and in the classrooms. Chewing tobacco, in particular, can stain furniture and carpets and the waste disposal process is distracting to others.

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  - (1) not greater than 11" by 17" (legal size) and
  - (2) not posted more than ten days before an event;

***Except as provided above, do not tape, staple, pin, or otherwise display any notice on walls or furniture of any building at the Law Center (including classroom entry doors). Announcements posted in violation of this rule will be removed.***

## HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

The University **requires** all students **living on campus** and all **F1 international** students to show proof of health insurance. All students who live on campus and all F1 international students are **automatically billed** for the Student Health Insurance program. If you already carry private insurance and wish to have the charge for the Student Health Insurance removed from your bill, then complete the **waiver process** by going to the following link: [www.ahpcare.com/stmarytx/waiver](http://www.ahpcare.com/stmarytx/waiver).

**Deadline** to waive the Student Health Insurance is **September 4, 2008**. There are no extensions to this deadline. F1 international students are **not** allowed to waive the Student Health Insurance for any reason. Also, intercollegiate athletes must fill out a waiver form with Katie Parkerson, athletic trainer, in order to waive the Student Health Insurance.

**Commuter students** who are interested in enrolling on the Student Health Insurance program can do so online by visiting: [www.academichealthplans.com/stmarytx](http://www.academichealthplans.com/stmarytx). Students have until **September 4, 2008** to request that the insurance premium be added to your business account at STMU. The insurance brochure and FAQ's are available online as well at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/healthcenter>. If you have any **questions**, please feel free to **contact Lorraine Gomez**, Insurance Enrollment Coordinator at **(210) 436-3507**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 2

August 25, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## **WELCOME! FROM THE OFFICE OF DEAN CANTÚ**

Greetings to all of our returning students. Welcome home! I hope you had an enjoyable summer break wherever you may have gone and are now rested and prepared to resume your studies. During the year, Dean Mather and I look forward to meeting with all of you on a regular basis. She will soon issue an invitation designating a time and place where you can join the two of us and discuss whatever issues come to mind.

A special welcome to all of our entering first year students. Last Thursday at your orientation, you received some very encouraging advice from Dr. Charles Cotrell, President of St. Mary's University and from Clem Lyons, President of our Law Alumni Association. I hope you took it to heart. All of you should also plan on taking advantage of all of the resources available to you at St. Mary's. This would certainly include, but not be limited to, joining Dean Mather and myself as mentioned above, as well as visiting the offices of our Campus Ministry, which is led by our very own Sr. Grace Walle. You will find that she will always have a solution for whatever ails you. We wish you good luck as you pursue your new chosen profession and hope you are successful, not only in your studies, but in making new life-long friends. We are glad you have come to St. Mary's. Welcome!

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION**

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upcoming events, and more. In addition to the *Witan* being emailed to your St. Mary's account, copies are placed on the tables in the Law Classroom building. Take one and read it in between classes. Stay informed.

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**VISITING PROFESSOR  
FROM AUSTRALIA**

Professor **Frank Bates** joins the faculty this semester as a **visiting professor**. Professor Bates is a member of the law faculty at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia, and will teach Law and Literature at St. Mary's. While in residence, Professor Bates also will conduct research and work on several writing projects. **His office** is on the ground floor of the Law Faculty building, in the Center for Academic Excellence. Please **welcome** Professor Bates and his wife, Mary, during their stay.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT WANTED**

Professor Reamey is **seeking one or more research assistants** to work on a project involving international and comparative criminal procedure. Background in international research will be very helpful, as will strong writing and organizational skills. Ability to think great thoughts is always a plus. **Students** who are interested should **contact** Professor Reamey at 431-2233 or by e-mail at [greamey@stmarytx.edu](mailto:greamey@stmarytx.edu) for more information and to arrange an interview.

**REGISTRATION/COURSE CHANGES  
FALL 2008 SEMESTER ONLY**

Registration and course changes for Fall 2008 will **begin at 8:00 a.m. on August 25, 2008**. You may access your student registration information as well as the **Fall 2008 course schedule** by going through gateway at <http://gateway.stmarytx.edu>. Click on self service, click on banner self service, click on student and financial assistance, click on student detail to see your own course schedule for fall or click on course schedule for the fall course offerings. The course schedule will give enrollment information for each course. Please be sure there are **no**

**holds** on your student account as this will prevent registration or course changes. Registration for Spring 2009 will take place sometime in October. Information will be sent by email giving the exact dates for Spring registration. Please **contact Ms. Catherine Mery** ([cmery@stmarytx.edu](mailto:cmery@stmarytx.edu)) by email if you have questions or problems.

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## SHHH!

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## **SPRING 2009 INTERNSHIPS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The **Office of General Counsel** (OGC) has begun recruitment of interns for Spring 2009. The internships will be during the Texas Legislature's 81<sup>st</sup> General Session which begins January 13, 2009. Up to three (3) interns will be placed. Internships are open to second- and third-year law students. The positions are unpaid and interns will be expected to work 20 hours per week during their portion of the legislative session. The **deadline** for applications is **Monday, September 22, 2008**. To apply, each applicant must submit a current resume, most recent law school transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable), 2 letters of recommendation, a short (2 page max) legal or non-legal writing sample, and a completed Governor's Fellowship application. Applications are available at [www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships). Applications must be mailed to: General Counsel, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711. Please direct questions to (512) 463-6789 or [Christopher.Burnett@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:Christopher.Burnett@governor.state.tx.us).

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

**Willamette University College of Law Sports Law Journal** is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjohnst@willamette.edu).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$750, Second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **September 26, 2008**.

The University of Leicester presents the 2008 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is \$500. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2008**.

Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the **Donald W. Banner** Diversity Scholarship for law students. This scholarship is part of Banner & Witcoff's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Recipients of the scholarship will receive \$5,000 payable for the Fall semester of their second or third-year of law school. Applications will be accepted through **October 10, 2008**.

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 3

September 1, 2008

By VMM

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## ADVOCACY PROGRAM ORIENTATION

- What opportunities do I have as a 1L to get involved in advocacy?
- How do I get selected to compete at regional and national competitions?
- What is an EAP?

- What is BOA?
- What is the Certificate in Advocacy?
- What is the Order of the Barristers? How can I become a member?
- What are the internal school competitions? When are they going to be held?
- What is the Lone Star Classic?

If you are interested in the answers to these and other questions about the law school's advocacy programs, please attend an **advocacy orientation**, which will be held on **Thursday, September 4, 2008** in **LC101** from **4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Representatives from the Board of Advocates (BOA), the External Advocacy Program (EAP, regional and national competitions), and the Lone Star Classic will be present to tell you about opportunities in those programs and to answer any questions you might have.

### ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* welcomes incoming Staff Writers for Volume 40. Please join us in congratulating the below named students.

Sara Berkeley	Rachael Bernstein	Adam T. Braaten	S. Collanne Bramblett
Alexander D. Burch	Chase W. Butler	Shanna R. Castro	Laura M. Clark
Tracie G. Conner	Ryan V. Cox	Lindsey S. Drake	Shannon K. Dunn
Jane R. Dure	Jonathan D. Fischer	Chris L. Gordon	K. Marie Granger
Miles W. Grant	Christopher C. Hughes	Bonnie K. Kirkland	Patrick M. Knapp
Mark W. Laneman	Jahannah Lemay	Jennifer L. McDaniel	Maggie McEntire
Lindsey Medenwaldt	Nathan Morey	Andrew H. Neal	Rebecca Ott
Ashely Presson	Michael P. Repp	Megan Schad	Constance Smith
Melissa Stewart	Christopher E. Stoy	Heather N. Sutton	Jason A. Todd
Christopher M. West			

### 2007 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

*Presented by the Board of Advocates*

The BOA announces the upcoming **Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition**. Preliminary rounds will be held **September 8-10**. Quarterfinals will be held **September 15**, semi-finals **September 16** and finals on **September 18**. Any 2L or 3L may compete, so grab a partner and sign up! It is a great time to put newly-learned evidence skills to work. It also looks great on a resume (many interviewers want some mock trial or moot court experience – here is how you get that experience)! 1Ls may participate, too, by volunteering as bailiffs or witnesses for the competition. Stop by the BOA table in the classroom building for details and to sign up.

## WEBCASTING OF TEXAS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS

St. Mary's Law School hosts the **live webcasting** of the **Texas Supreme Court's oral arguments**. Under an agreement with the Texas Office of Court Administration, the Law School supplies the technological support and personnel for the project. This is a wonderful and unique opportunity for the public at large and our law school community to **see and hear the arguments live — over the internet**. We are one of only a handful of law schools in the nation that provide this unique access to live webcasting of oral arguments.

You can access the arguments from a link on the home page of the law school's website and from the Advocacy Programs pages on the law school's website. From those same links you can access archived oral arguments that have been broadcast since Spring 2007. When you access the page for the webcasting (hosted by Mediasite) you can also access links to the briefs filed in the case and the lower courts' opinions (pdf).

The next set of **oral arguments** will be held on **September 9, 10, and 11, starting at 9:00 a.m.** Each side has 20 minutes for oral argument. Please take advantage of this unique educational opportunity.

If you have any questions about the webcasting of the arguments, please contact **Professor Schlueter**.

The above summaries for the arguments for September, starting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, were prepared by the Court's staff attorney for public information and reflect his judgment alone on facts and legal issues and in no way represent the Court's opinion about case merits.

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The **Dallas Asian-American Bar Association** (DAABA) will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a law student enrolled at the time of the application and scholarship in an ABA-accredited law school in Texas. Any Asian-American student who intends to practice law in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is eligible to apply. Application must be **postmarked** by **September 20, 2008**.

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Issue 4

September 8, 2008

By VMM

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## **2007 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION** *Presented by the Board of Advocates*

The BOA announces the upcoming **Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition**. Preliminary rounds will be held **September 8-10**. Quarterfinals will be held **September 15**, semi-finals **September 16** and finals on **September 18**. Any 2L or 3L may compete, so grab a partner and sign up! It is a great time to put newly-learned evidence skills to work. It also looks great on a resume (many interviewers want some mock trial or moot court experience – here is how you get that experience)! 1Ls may participate, too, by volunteering as bailiffs or witnesses for the competition. Stop by the BOA table in the classroom building for details and to sign up.

## **WEBCASTING OF TEXAS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS**

St. Mary's Law School hosts the **live webcasting** of the **Texas Supreme Court's oral arguments**. Under an agreement with the Texas Office of Court Administration, the Law School supplies the technological support and personnel for the project. This is a wonderful and unique opportunity for the public at large and our law school community to **see and hear the arguments live — over the internet**. We are one of only a handful of law schools in the nation that provide this unique access to live webcasting of oral arguments.

You can access the arguments from a link on the home page of the law school's website and from the Advocacy Programs pages on the law school's website. From those same links you can access archived oral arguments that have been broadcast since Spring 2007. When you access the page for the webcasting (hosted by Mediasite) you can also access links to the briefs filed in the case and the lower courts' opinions (pdf).



The next set of **oral arguments** will be held on **September 9, 10, and 11, starting at 9:00 a.m.** Each side has 20 minutes for oral argument. Please take advantage of this unique educational opportunity.

If you have any questions about the webcasting of the arguments, please contact **Professor Schlueter**.

The above summaries for the arguments for September, starting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, were prepared by the Court's staff attorney for public information and reflect his judgment alone on facts and legal issues and in no way represent the Court's opinion about case merits.

### **DOCKET CALL**

Do you want to know what different student organizations offer? The Student Bar Association is hosting **Docket Call** on **Thursday, September 11, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Pecan Grove**. Come learn about the various opportunities at your school. Bring your checkbooks so you can join the student organizations that will shape your future. Law School student organizations will have booths set up and will be available to answer your questions. Food and drinks provided. For more information, please contact Daniel Palmer at [atarisfan328@yahoo.com](mailto:atarisfan328@yahoo.com).

### **2008 INNSBRUCK SUMMER PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs taken by the **University of Innsbruck** photographer at the July 14, 2008 **grand reception** with **Chief Justice John Roberts** are now posted online at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/gallery/v/Law/>. These pictures may be downloaded for your personal use. Please see **Professor Reams** if you have any questions.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO**

Please welcome Clinical Fellow Christopher Clapham who is the new Pro Bono Coordinator. There are a variety of **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** projects in which you may volunteer. Many of the continuing and new projects are only one day or even several hours. Feel free to contact Christopher at [cclapham@stmarytx.edu](mailto:cclapham@stmarytx.edu) or (210) 431-5722 for more information or to sign up. Watch for more details in coming issues of the *Witan*.

### **SPRING 2009 INTERNSHIPS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The **Office of General Counsel** (OGC) has begun recruitment of interns for Spring 2009. The internships will be during the Texas Legislature's 81<sup>st</sup> General Session which begins January 13, 2009. Up to three (3) interns will be placed. Internships are open to second- and third-year

law students. The positions are unpaid and interns will be expected to work 20 hours per week during their portion of the legislative session. The **deadline** for applications is **Monday, September 22, 2008**. To apply, each applicant must submit a current resume, most recent law school transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable), 2 letters of recommendation, a short (2 page max) legal or non-legal writing sample, and a completed Governor's Fellowship application. Applications are available at [www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships). Applications must be mailed to: General Counsel, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711. Please direct questions to (512) 463-6789 or [Christopher.Burnett@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:Christopher.Burnett@governor.state.tx.us).

### **CLASS OF 2009 APPLICATION FOR DEGREE CARD**

Please check your student mailbox for your copy of the *Application for Degree* card, which is your official notice to the Law School of your intent to graduate in December 2008, May 2009, or August 2009. **Return the completed form** to Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records [LAB 121] by **Friday, September 26**, to ensure your diploma is printed in time for your graduation. If you did not receive a copy of the *Application for Degree* card in your mailbox, see Ms. Olfers for a replacement card.

### **LAW MINISTRY**

**Sister Grace Walle**, FMI is the Campus Minister for the St. Mary's University School of Law. Her office is located in **Room 105** of the **Raba (Law Faculty) Building**. Sister Grace is available for pastoral counseling or spiritual guidance. Sister Grace also coordinates service programs that provide outreach to the community. Her telephone number is **(210) 436-3063**. Stop by for a cup of coffee or a PBJ sandwich, available just outside her office.

### **UNIVERSITY MINISTRY**

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** and **Confirmation** inquiry sessions are being held in the University Ministry living room on Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.. Confirmation preparation sessions **will begin the week of October 6**. For more information, please stop by the University Ministry Center or call Irene at (210) 436-3065.

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES**

The below guidelines are offered for student organization funding.

#### **I. Organization Funding**

- A. In order to receive funds from the law school a student organization must:
  - i. Be officially approved by the law faculty;

- ii. Have submitted to the SBA a current list of officers and have contact information; and
- iii. Comply with the rules on fundraising, publicity, and use of facilities stated below.

All funding requests shall be submitted in writing to the Student Bar Association with the appropriate form.

- B. **Initial Activity Grants.** Each semester, each officially approved student organization is entitled to receive an initial activity grant of \$150 to support an event on campus, open to the law school community that contributes to the intellectual life of the law school, such as speakers, panels and the like. The money may be used for refreshments to help draw a crowd or for other costs of the event. A closed meeting of organization membership or party does not qualify for a grant. Two or more organizations may pool their funds to sponsor an event, although amounts spent on food for an event ordinarily may not exceed \$150. An organization that uses less than \$150 of an initial activity grant may use the balance of the grant for similar purposes later in the semester. No entitlements are carried over from semester to semester or year to year. For all purposes of these guidelines, “contributing to the intellectual life of the law school” shall be construed broadly.
- C. **Additional Activity Grants.** Each semester a limited number of additional discretionary activity grants in the amount of \$150, for the purpose of supporting activities open to the law school community that contribute to the intellectual life of the law school, may be made to organizations that have already used their initial grants to support successful events. The merits of such applicants will be judged not on the subject matter of the proposal, but on the basis of whether the event is well planned and not duplicative of other recent events.
- D. **Public Service Grants.** Each semester, 15 grants in the amount of \$150 will be available to support public service projects of student organizations. In an appropriate case, two or more organizations may receive grants to work on the same project.
- E. **Extraordinary Grants.** Limited funds may be available each semester to support extraordinarily meritorious student organization activities, including religious activities, that deserve financial support beyond that available through activity grants. Banquets will not be funded. However, organizations may hold banquets for their members, funded by membership dues, ticket sales, and fundraising.

## **II. Fundraising by Organizations**

- A. No student organization shall raise money contributions from any person or entity

to support student organizations activities without prior written approval of the law school Associate Dean Al Hartman. This rule does not apply to in-kind contributions, such as donations of merchandise and gift certificates, or sales where the buyer receives fair market value or donates the ticket or tickets back to the organization. Sponsorships require approval.

- B. A form for requesting approval of fundraising is available from the Development office requiring the organization to identify with reasonable precision the nature of the fundraising activity, its magnitude, and the individuals, business, or firms who will be solicited. Following submission, a form will ordinarily be acted upon within one week. The approval process shall be conducted in a way that encourages continued philanthropic support (e.g. law firm sponsorship awards) established in past years.

### **POSTING NOTICES BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

A student organization may publicize an event or deadline through announcements:

- i. In the *Witan* (provide copy to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) by noon Thursday);
- ii. On its organization bulletin board;
- iii. On the posting walls in the east and west foyers of the law classroom building and in the west foyer of the law faculty building, provided the notice:
  - (1) not greater than 11” by 17” (legal size) and
  - (2) not posted more than ten days before an event;

***Except as provided above, do not tape, staple, pin, or otherwise display any notice on walls or furniture of any building at the Law Center (including classroom entry doors). Announcements posted in violation of this rule will be removed.***

### **TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Smoking is **prohibited** in all law school buildings. Please refrain from the use of all tobacco products in the library and in the classrooms. Chewing tobacco, in particular, can stain furniture and carpets and the waste disposal process is distracting to others.

# *The Scholar*

St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues



## VOLUME 11

### SCHOLAR EDITORIAL BOARD

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### ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

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## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

**Willamette University College of Law** *Sports Law Journal* is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjohnst@willamette.edu).

The **Dallas Asian-American Bar Association** (DAABA) will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a law student enrolled at the time of the application and scholarship in an ABA-accredited law school in Texas. Any Asian-American student who intends to practice law in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is eligible to apply. Application must be **postmarked by September 20, 2008**.

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$750, Second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **September 26, 2008**.

The University of Leicester presents the 2008 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is \$500. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2008**.

Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the **Donald W. Banner** Diversity Scholarship for law students. This scholarship is part of Banner & Witcoff's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Recipients of the scholarship will receive \$5,000 payable for the Fall semester of their second or third-year of law school. Applications will be accepted through **October 10, 2008**.

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 5

September 15, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please join the **Board of Advocates (BOA)** in **congratulating all teams** that competed in the **Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition** last week. The BOA encourages and looks forward to everyone coming out to the **break rounds** to support the teams that are still competing. The quarter finals and semi-finals are Monday and Tuesday, **September 15 and 16** at **6:00 p.m.** Keep in mind that you may earn one BOA point by attending the final round on **September 18**. For more information, please contact Krysta Popp at [kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## ASK-A-LAWYER LEGAL CLINIC

The **Ask-A-Lawyer** Legal Clinic conducted in association with Catholic Charities of San Antonio will be held on **Wednesday, September 17, 2008** at St. Jude Catholic Church, 130 San Augustine, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Law students have an opportunity to interview individuals who need legal assistance and then confer with on-site supervising attorneys to work out answers to “clients” problems. This is an excellent opportunity to work on your client interviewing skills and to meet local attorneys who also volunteer their time to help the community. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. and stay as long as you can. This event is **open to all law students**. Email Alia at [alialevine@live.com](mailto:alialevine@live.com) to sign up or for more information.

## EAT, MEET & GREET CHAMINADE LAW RESIDENTS

A social, dinner and blessing of rooms will be held on **Thursday, September 18, 2008** at **6:15 p.m.** on the rooftop of **Chaminade Residence Hall**. All law school Chaminade residents (and a guest) are invited to attend. This event is sponsored by Sister Grace Walle, Law Ministry.

For more information, please email [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

If you are a **2L interested** in being matched up with a local **attorney mentor**, here is a great opportunity! The local chapter of the **Federal Bar Association** is pairing St. Mary's students with attorneys in a wide variety of practice areas. You don't have to be interested in federal practice to sign up. Just **fill out a form**, available at the FBA bulletin board in the classroom building and **return it** to Carrel 268 or 275, or contact Hector at [hbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:hbenavides@gmail.com) or Laura at [lclark@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:lclark@mail.stmarytx.edu).

### **STUDENT ASSISTANT NEEDED**

Applications are being accepted for the **position of Student Assistant** for the 2009 Innsbruck Program. Please contact Professor Cochran in person (LF230) or by email at [mcochran@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mcochran@stmarytx.edu).

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### **PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 24, 2008** to find out more about **Pro Bono & Community Service** opportunities. The **St. Mary's Pro Bono Service certificate** is awarded at graduation. There will be two information sessions held. The first one is at **12:00 noon** and the second session will be held at **4:00 p.m.** Food will be provided. This event will be held in the **Raba building first floor foyer** and is sponsored by the Student Bar Association, Pro Bono Office and Sister Grace.



**CLASS OF 2009  
APPLICATION FOR DEGREE CARD**

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5K Run & 2 Mile Run/Walk with your Dog**

Volunteers are needed for the first annual **Race for the Rescues** to benefit the homeless and abandoned animals in our community needing specialized care as well as spay and neuter services. **All organizations, sororities and fraternities are welcome** to come out and give of their time or to participate in the run. The run will be held on **Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 7:30 a.m.** and will begin at the **Alamo Heights City Swimming Pool**. Volunteers, please email [cindy.snipsa@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.snipsa@yahoo.com). Pet handlers, water station help, intersection and course marshals, registration and information booth, face painters are but a few positions needed. For more information on this event please visit [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org).

**2008 LONE STAR CLASSIC  
Call for Bailiffs and Marshals**

St. Mary's Law School is hosting the **2008 Lone Star Classic** on **October 9, 10, and 11**. The Classic is an annual invitation **mock trial tournament**. This year, we are hosting sixteen teams: American, Baylor, Brooklyn, Cumberland, Emory, Florida State, University of Houston, LSU, Michigan State, Pace, SMU, South Texas, Texas Wesleyan, Tulane, Villanova, and Washington University. The **preliminary rounds** will be held Thursday afternoon, Friday morning and Friday afternoon at the Bexar County Courthouse. The **semi-final rounds** will be held in the classroom building on **Saturday morning, October 11, at 9:00 a.m.** The **final round** will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the law school's courtroom. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to personally observe excellent advocates from other schools. If you are interested in advocacy or in supporting the school's advocacy programs, you are encouraged to attend at least the **final round** of the competition on **Saturday afternoon, October 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in assisting in serving as a bailiff or marshal, or in any other way, (we need about 50 students) please contact Catherine Deist at [cmdeist@gmail.com](mailto:cmdeist@gmail.com) or Professor Dave Schlueter.

**NOTARY SERVICES**

**Notary services** are available in several departments of the Law School. Please contact any notary as follows: **Law Administration Building** – Becky Adams, room 119, Ruby

Contreras, room 116, Amy Keys, room 120, Bebe Gonzales, room 105 or Amanda Montemayor, room 116. Notaries in the **Law Library** are Elizabeth Cadena, room 130 and Renee Higgins, room 223. **Limited** notary services are available in **Career Services** by Alicia Mendoza and Amber Theis. Notaries in the **Ernest Raba Law Building** are Alice Contreras, Room 106D, Aurelia Vincent, workstation by Room 220 and Maria Vega, workstation by Room 268. Irma Hurd is available at the Center For Legal and Social Justice in room 112 by **appointment only**. Notary services are available free of charge to law students only. Please bring your document to be notarized, a **state issued driver's license** or **identification card** and your current telephone number for notary's record.

## MINISTRY

- ***Marianist World of Education*** – **Thursday, September 18, 2008**, 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. at Casa Maria. Lunch will be served. RSVP to Patricia Garcia at [pgarcia@stmarytx.edu](mailto:pgarcia@stmarytx.edu).
- ***Red Mass*** – reserve the date, **Thursday, October 30, 2008** to celebrate Red Mass at 6:00 p.m. at San Fernando Cathedral. More information to be announced at a later date. Student's, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.
- ***RCIA and Confirmation*** – inquiry sessions are being held in the University Ministry Living Room. For more information stop by the University Ministry Center or call Irene at (210) 436-3065.

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**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 6

September 22, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## SUMMER 2 2008 GRADE REVIEW

All of the course grades for the Innsbruck and Summer 2 2008 sessions have been submitted and processed. **Students** have the right to **review** and **discuss** their final examinations with the faculty through **October 17, 2008**.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR – TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Deans Cantú and Mather will be available for questions and discussion at two **Town Hall** meetings in October. The **first** meeting on **Monday, October 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.** in room 101 of the Law Classroom Building is aimed at second and third year students and their concerns. The **second** meeting, on **Monday, October 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Law Alumni Room is scheduled for first year students. All students are welcome at both meetings.

## FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

### Win a \$100 Gift Card and Get School/Career Advice!

Could you use **\$100** for bookstore purchases? Would you like to **get some advice** from a practicing attorney? If you're a 2L, here is a great opportunity. The local chapter of the **Federal Bar Association** (FBA) is pairing St. Mary's 2Ls with attorneys in a wide variety of practice areas. Those who sign up to get a mentor will be entered in a drawing for a **\$100** campus bookstore gift card. You do not have to be interested in federal practice to sign up. Just fill out a form available at the FBA bulletin board in the classroom building and return it to carrel 268 or 275 or contact Hector at [hbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:hbenavides@gmail.com) or Laura at [lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

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## PHI DELTA PHI PRESENTS Study Skills Workshop

**Phi Delta Phi** invites you to a study skills workshop. This workshop, geared towards 1Ls will provide advice on how to study, outline, and will give information on available resources to students. The workshop will be held on **Thursday, September 25, 2008, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 101**. Food will be provided.

## STUDENT ASSISTANT NEEDED

Applications are being accepted for the **position of Student Assistant** for the 2009 Innsbruck Program. Please contact Professor Cochran in person (LF230) or by email at [mcochran@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mcochran@stmarytx.edu).

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Volunteers are needed for the first annual **Race for the Rescues** to benefit the homeless and abandoned animals in our community needing specialized care as well as spay and neuter services. **All organizations, sororities and fraternities are welcome** to come out and give of their time or to participate in the run. The run will be held on **Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 7:30 a.m.** and will begin at the **Alamo Heights City Swimming Pool**. Volunteers, please email

[cindy.snipsa@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.snipsa@yahoo.com). Pet handlers, water station help, intersection and course marshals, registration and information booth, face painters are but a few positions needed. For more information on this event please visit [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org).

### **2008 LONE STAR CLASSIC Call for Bailiffs and Marshals**

St. Mary's Law School is hosting the **2008 Lone Star Classic** on **October 9, 10, and 11**. The Classic is an annual invitation **mock trial tournament**. This year, we are hosting sixteen teams: American, Baylor, Brooklyn, Cumberland, Emory, Florida State, University of Houston, LSU, Michigan State, Pace, SMU, South Texas, Texas Wesleyan, Tulane, Villanova, and Washington University. The **preliminary rounds** will be held Thursday afternoon, Friday morning and Friday afternoon at the Bexar County Courthouse. The **semi-final rounds** will be held in the classroom building on **Saturday morning, October 11, at 9:00 a.m.** The **final** round will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the law school's courtroom. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to personally observe excellent advocates from other schools. If you are interested in advocacy or in supporting the school's advocacy programs, you are encouraged to attend at least the **final round** of the competition on **Saturday afternoon, October 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in assisting in serving as a bailiff or marshal, or in any other way, (we need about 50 students) please contact Catherine Deist at [cmdeist@gmail.com](mailto:cmdeist@gmail.com) or Professor Dave Schlueter.

### **INFLUENZA VACCINES**

The Student Health Center will offer **influenza vaccines** on **Wednesday, October 15, and Thursday, October 16, 2008** from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Raba Building Foyer**. The **fee** for the vaccine is **\$20** and may be paid by cash, check or may be billed to your student account. This opportunity is available to law students only. For additional information please contact the Student Health Center at (210) 436-3506.

### **U.S. DEPT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

HUD and the **Office of General Counsel (OGC)** is now accepting applications for its *Legal Honors Program 2009-2010*. All application materials must be postmarked by **October 15, 2008**. To be considered for a Legal Honors position at HUD, an original and two copies of the following information must be submitted: 1) The program application form; 2) A completed Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612) or resume, which should include information contained on this form; 3) Law school transcript (official copy only); 4) A writing sample of at least five to ten pages maximum and 5) A list of at least three references (professional and/or academic). The link for the Legal Honors Program brochure and fillable application may be found at [www.hud.gov/offices/ogc](http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc).

**DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR  
SPRING 2009 INTERNSHIPS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The **Office of General Counsel** (OGC) has begun recruitment of interns for Spring 2009. The internships will be during the Texas Legislature's 81<sup>st</sup> General Session which begins January 13, 2009. Up to three (3) interns will be placed. Internships are open to second- and third-year law students. The positions are unpaid and interns will be expected to work 20 hours per week during their portion of the legislative session. The **deadline** for applications has been **extended to Wednesday, October 15, 2008**. Also, **2L's, 3L's, and 2LE's are now eligible to apply**. To apply, each applicant must submit a current resume, most recent law school transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable), 2 letters of recommendation, a short (2 page max) legal or non-legal writing sample, and a completed Governor's Fellowship application. Applications are available at [www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/hr/fellowships). Applications must be mailed to: General Counsel, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711. Please direct questions to Kate Fite, (512) 463-1955 or [kate.fite@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:kate.fite@governor.state.tx.us).

**CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30. Isn't it a mystery why we see Jesus entice “all who labor and are heavy laden” by a promise to give them “rest.” Clearly, it is these very people who, we would agree, need “rest” the most. What makes me tap my brakes is Jesus' description of “rest.” His definition doesn't seem to intimate a load off one's shoulders and a foot-rub, but rather the taking up of a new yolk (His) coalesced with a new call to “learn from” Him. To sweeten His offer, Jesus promises that in being led by Him, we will find rest not for our physical bodies, but for our souls. Realizing the subtext, Jesus Christ appears to be saying that for all those not being guided solely (yoke and all) by Him, the most they can ever hope to find for their already “heavy laden” souls is more unrest. Such a promise is so presumptuous and so bold, only God could back it up. Join us for men's or women's bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men's bible study, Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

**MINISTRY**

- ***Meet and Greet*** – for married couples and/or law students with children. **Saturday, September 27, 2008** starting at **11:00 a.m.** at **Momak's Backyard Malts & Burgers, 13838 Jones Maltsberger**. <http://www.momaks.com/>. Network and fellowship with other students and their family. For more information, contact Andrea at [andreafrax@austin.rr.com](mailto:andreafrax@austin.rr.com).



- **Red Mass** – reserve the date, **Thursday, October 30, 2008** to celebrate Red Mass at 6:00 p.m. at San Fernando Cathedral. More information to be announced at a later date. Student’s, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.
- **RCIA and Confirmation** – inquiry sessions are being held in the University Ministry Living Room. For more information stop by the University Ministry Center or call Irene at (210) 436-3065.

### **KAPLAN PMBR**

**Welcome back to school everyone!** It’s never too early to start studying, whether for the bar or for Fall semester finals. Let Kaplan PMBR help you **get ready with our new Success Packages. 1Ls and 2Ls:** place a deposit and receive study aids and audio lectures for each of your core classes. We are also offering a **free MPRE Complete Online Course** to anyone who fills out a form with one of our reps by **September 30**. Remember, the school is contributing **\$300** every **3L** who signs up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. Come by and learn about other valuable discounts.

**Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the law classroom building!

#### **Kaplan PMBR Reps**

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### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.



**Willamette University College of Law *Sports Law Journal*** is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjohnst@willamette.edu).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$750, Second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **September 26, 2008**.

The University of Leicester presents the 2008 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is \$500. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2008**.

Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the **Donald W. Banner** Diversity Scholarship for law students. This scholarship is part of Banner & Witcoff's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Recipients of the scholarship will receive \$5,000 payable for the Fall semester of their second or third-year of law school. Applications will be accepted through **October 10, 2008**.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments's** (HUD) Office of General Counsel (OGC) is accepting applications for its **2009-2010 Legal Honors Program**. Please visit the OGC website at [www.hud.gov/offices/ogc](http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc) for more information. All applications must be postmarked by **October 15, 2008**.

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

The **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce awards to be presented for (a) the best book chapter or book, (b) the best publishable article or substantial book review, and, (c) the best student case note or comment on a **topic dealing with consumer financial services law**. The awards are cash payments of \$2500, \$2000, and \$1000, respectively, a Certificate of Recognition from the College and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2009 meeting of the College. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 7

September 29, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR – TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Deans Cantú and Mather will be available for questions and discussion at two **Town Hall** meetings in October. The **first** meeting on **Monday, October 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.** in room 101 of the Law Classroom Building is aimed at second and third year students and their concerns. The **second** meeting, on **Monday, October 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Law Alumni Room is scheduled for first year students. All students are welcome at both meetings.

## LEGAL SPORTS SOCIETY

The **Legal Sports Society** will hold their first meeting on **Tuesday, September 30, 2008** at **5:30 p.m.** in the **Law Library, Room 224**. The Legal Sports Society's goal is to engage students in sports that they will likely play once they become lawyers, specifically golf, running, racquetball, and tennis. Come to meet our officers and learn what events have been planned for the year. For more information you may contact Matt Sharpe at [msharpe1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:msharpe1@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## LITIGATING ELECTIONS: THE 2008 CAMPAIGN PROCESS

The **Federalist Society** invites all students and faculty to lunch for a stimulating presentation featuring **Hans von Spakovsky**, Former Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission at **12:00 noon** on **Wednesday, October 1, 2008** in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, **Alumni Room**. For questions about this event please contact Stuart Armstrong at [sarmstrong1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:sarmstrong1@mail.stmarytx.edu) or visit [www.fed-soc.org](http://www.fed-soc.org).

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Interested in property law, mineral rights, or land titles? If so, we have some exciting news to share with all of you. A group of students at St. Mary's are in the process of starting a Property Law Association and welcome everyone to join. Just send a quick e-mail to either Kasia Daniec at [kadaniec@yahoo.com](mailto:kadaniec@yahoo.com) or Kelly McBride at [calmcbride3@yahoo.com](mailto:calmcbride3@yahoo.com) to let us know you are interested. Once we are officially established as a student organization we will let you know about our first meeting and the activities we have planned for the year.

## STUDENT ASSISTANT NEEDED

Applications are being accepted for the **position of Student Assistant** for the 2009 Innsbruck Program. Please contact Professor Cochran in person (LF230) or by email at [mcochran@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mcochran@stmarytx.edu).

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## FREE TELECONFERENCE CALL THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

On **Wednesday, October 15, 2008**, the Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Ecosystem Committee (CCSDE) of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources will host the **first in a series** of 8 Quick Teleconference Calls on **Climate Change Law and Policy**. The teleconference call will be held from **11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.** CST. Location of call to be determined. This is an amazing opportunity for students, professors, and the law school community at large to come together to hear about and then discuss and reflect on the direction the U.S. and the world will take on addressing climate change in the coming years. If you are interested, please contact Kurt Knepper at

[kknepper@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kknepper@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## INFLUENZA VACCINES

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## ANNUAL TEXAS HEALTH LAW CONFERENCE

The **Health Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas and the **Texas Hospital Association** are jointly sponsoring the annual **Texas Health Law Conference** on **November 3-4, 2008** in **Austin, Texas**. As part of the Health Law Section's commitment to continuing education and to promote the practice of health law in Texas, the Health Law Council is pleased to offer **scholarship assistance** to two (2) students from each Texas law school. The assistance includes complimentary conference registration and a stipend of \$250.00 per student to be used to defray travel, lodging and meal expenses. The stipend will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts for expenses incurred. Interested students should contact Associate Dean Victoria Mather at [vmather@stmarytx.edu](mailto:vmather@stmarytx.edu).

## CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30. Isn't it a mystery why we see Jesus entice “all who labor and are heavy laden” by a promise to give them “rest.” Clearly, it is these very people who, we would agree, need “rest” the most. What makes me tap my brakes is Jesus' description of “rest.” His definition doesn't seem to intimate a load off one's shoulders and a foot-rub, but rather the taking up of a new yolk (His) coalesced with a new call to “learn from” Him. To sweeten His offer, Jesus promises that in being led by Him, we will find rest not for our physical bodies, but for our souls. Realizing the subtext, Jesus Christ appears to be saying that for all those not being guided solely (yoke and all) by Him, the most they can ever hope to find for their already “heavy laden” souls is more unrest. Such a promise is so presumptuous and so bold, only God could back it up. Join us for men's or women's bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men's bible study, Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

## LAW MINISTRY

- ***Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty*** – An invitation to extended to all for a special meeting with Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, who together will launch a national collaborative project **opposing the death penalty** for persons with severe mental illness. The meeting will be held on **Friday, October 3, 2008, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at University of the Incarnate Wood**, Bonilla Science Hall Auditorium, Room 129. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210.436.3063.
- ***Red Mass*** – reserve the date, **Thursday, October 30, 2008** to celebrate Red Mass at **6:00 p.m. at San Fernando Cathedral**. More information to be announced at a later date. Student's, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.

- **Mini-Boo Bash** – All students, faculty, staff and their children are invited to attend Mini-Boo Bash on **Friday, October 31, 2008** from **4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**, location to be determined. Lots of candy, prizes, face painting and games will be provided for children in a safe and fun environment. Donations for candy and prizes are being accepted. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food, and help with the kiddie games. Please sign up with your SBA representative. Candy and prize donations may be brought to the Law Campus Ministry Office. For more information, contact your SBA representative or Sr. Grace at 210.436.3063.

### **KAPLAN PMBR**

It's never too early to start studying, whether for the bar or for Fall semester finals. Let Kaplan PMBR help you **get ready with our new Success Packages. 1Ls and 2Ls:** place a deposit and receive study aids and audio lectures for each of your core classes. We are also offering a **free MPRE Complete Online Course** to anyone who fills out a form with one of our reps by **September 30**. Remember, the school is contributing **\$300** every **3L** who signs up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. Come by and learn about other valuable discounts.

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### **FALL 2008 EXAM NUMBERS NOW ON GATEWAY**

The Fall 2008 Exam Numbers are now available on Gateway. Login, click on the "Student" tab, and the information is posted on the right side of the screen, in the box entitled "Anonymous Exam Number." Should you have any difficulty viewing your exam number,

please contact the Law School's IT Department ([jgomez4@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jgomez4@stmarytx.edu), [jflores13@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jflores13@stmarytx.edu), or [lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu)). Thank you for your patience as we continue the migration of data to the University's new computer system.

**FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Win a \$100 Gift Card and Get School/Career Advice!**

Could you use **\$100** for bookstore purchases? Would you like to **get some advice** from a practicing attorney? If you're a 2L, here is a great opportunity. The local chapter of the **Federal Bar Association** (FBA) is pairing St. Mary's 2Ls with attorneys in a wide variety of practice areas. Those who sign up to get a mentor will be entered in a drawing for a **\$100** campus bookstore gift card. You do not have to be interested in federal practice to sign up. Just fill out a form available at the FBA bulletin board in the classroom building and return it to carrel 268 or 275 or contact Hector at [hbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:hbenavides@gmail.com) or Laura at [lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu).

**SUMMER 2 2008 GRADE REVIEW**

All of the course grades for the Innsbruck and Summer 2 2008 sessions have been submitted and processed. **Students** have the right to **review** and **discuss** their final examinations with the faculty through **October 17, 2008**.

**WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

**Willamette University College of Law Sports Law Journal** is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjohnst@willamette.edu).

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 8

October 6, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

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## STUDENT ASSISTANT NEEDED

Applications are being accepted for the **position of Student Assistant** for the 2009 **Innsbruck Program**. Please contact Professor Cochran in person (LF230) or by email at [mcochran@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mcochran@stmarytx.edu).

## MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Build your resume and win money through the **Moot Court Competition** sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and coordinated by the Board of Advocates. Sign up today in the Raba (Law Faculty) Building to compete in this years competition. Preliminary rounds will be held on **Monday, October 20th** through **Wednesday, October 22nd**. Quarter finals, semi-finals, and the final round will be October 27th, 28th, and 29th, respectively. **NO BRIEF Requirement!** Watching the final round or baliffing is a great way for 1Ls to participate (and you get BOA points). If you have questions please contact a BOA member or Krysta Popp at [kpoppp@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kpoppp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Interested in property law, mineral rights, or land titles? If so, we have some exciting news to share with all of you. A group of students at St. Mary's are in the process of starting a Property Law Association and welcome everyone to join. Just send a quick e-mail to either Kasia Daniec at [kadenjec@yahoo.com](mailto:kadenjec@yahoo.com) or Kelly McBride at [calmcbride3@yahoo.com](mailto:calmcbride3@yahoo.com) to let us know you are interested. Once we are officially established as a student organization we will let you know about our first meeting and the activities we have planned for the year.

### 2008 LONE STAR CLASSIC Call for Bailiffs and Marshals

St. Mary's Law School is hosting the **2008 Lone Star Classic** on **October 9, 10, and 11**. The Classic is an annual invitation **mock trial tournament**. This year, we are hosting sixteen teams: American, Baylor, Brooklyn, Cumberland, Emory, Florida State, University of Houston, LSU, Michigan State, Pace, SMU, South Texas, Texas Wesleyan, Tulane, Villanova, and Washington University. The **preliminary rounds** will be held Thursday afternoon, Friday morning and Friday afternoon at the Bexar County Courthouse. The **semi-final rounds** will be held in the classroom building on **Saturday morning, October 11, at 9:00 a.m.** The **final** round will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the law school's courtroom. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to personally observe excellent advocates from other schools. If you are interested in advocacy or in supporting the school's advocacy programs, you are encouraged to attend at least the **final round** of the competition on **Saturday afternoon, October 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in assisting in serving as a bailiff or marshal, or in any other way, (we need about 50 students) please contact Catherine Deist at [cmdeist@gmail.com](mailto:cmdeist@gmail.com) or Professor Dave Schlueter.

### NOW OPEN TO 3Ls MENTOR PROGRAM AND \$100 DRAWING

Could you use **\$100** for bookstore purchases? Would you like to get career and school advice from a practicing attorney? Here is a great opportunity. The local chapter of the **Federal Bar Association** has opened its 2L mentorship program to **3Ls too**. The FBA is pairing St. Mary's 2Ls and **3Ls** with attorneys in a variety of practice areas. You don't have to be interested in federal practice to participate. Students who sign up to get a mentor will be entered in a drawing for a **\$100 campus bookstore gift card**. Take a form from the FBA bulletin board in the classroom building, and return it to carrel 268 or 275 by **Friday, October 10**. Or for more information please contact Hector at [hbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:hbenavides@gmail.com) or Laura at [Lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:Lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu).

### FREE TELECONFERENCE CALL THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Counsel, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711. Please direct questions to Kate Fite, (512) 463-1955 or [kate.fite@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:kate.fite@governor.state.tx.us).

## ANNUAL TEXAS HEALTH LAW CONFERENCE

The **Health Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas and the **Texas Hospital Association** are jointly sponsoring the annual **Texas Health Law Conference** on **November 3-4, 2008** in **Austin, Texas**. As part of the Health Law Section's commitment to continuing education and to promote the practice of health law in Texas, the Health Law Council is pleased to offer **scholarship assistance** to two (2) students from each Texas law school. The assistance includes complimentary conference registration and a stipend of \$250.00 per student to be used to defray travel, lodging and meal expenses. The stipend will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts for expenses incurred. Interested students should contact Associate Dean Victoria Mather at [vmather@stmarytx.edu](mailto:vmather@stmarytx.edu).

## CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30. Isn't it a mystery why we see Jesus entice “all who labor and are heavy laden” by a promise to give them “rest.” Clearly, it is these very people who, we would agree, need “rest” the most. What makes me tap my brakes is Jesus' description of “rest.” His definition doesn't seem to intimate a load off one's shoulders and a foot-rub, but rather the taking up of a new yolk (His) coalesced with a new call to “learn from” Him. To sweeten His offer, Jesus promises that in being led by Him, we will find rest not for our physical bodies, but for our souls. Realizing the subtext, Jesus Christ appears to be saying that for all those not being guided solely (yoke and all) by Him, the most they can ever hope to find for their already “heavy laden” souls is more unrest. Such a promise is so presumptuous and so bold, only God could back it up. Join us for men's or women's bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men's bible study, Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

## LAW MINISTRY

- **Red Mass** – reserve the date, **Thursday, October 30, 2008** to celebrate Red Mass at **6:00 p.m.** at **San Fernando Cathedral**. More information to be announced at a later date. Student's, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.
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### KAPLAN PMBR

**Welcome back everyone!** It's never too early to start studying, whether for the bar or for Fall semester finals. Let Kaplan PMBR help you **get ready with our new Success Packages. 1Ls and 2Ls:** place a deposit and receive study aids and audio lectures for each of your core classes. We are also offering a **free MPRE Complete Online Course** to anyone who fills out a form with one of our reps by **September 30**. Remember, the school is contributing **\$300** every **3L** who signs up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. Come by and learn about other valuable discounts.

**Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the law classroom building!

#### Kaplan PMBR Reps

Kennedy Granger  
Andrea Aguilar  
Joseph Strickland  
Betty Lam

Gema Lopez  
Nicole Hines-Glover  
Lacey Moffatt  
Clare Pace

Sung Je Lee  
Bridgett Clay  
Neysa Lujan

#### Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule

<b>Mon:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Tue:</b> 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Wed:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thu:</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	<b>Fri:</b> 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	

### FALL 2008 EXAM NUMBERS NOW ON GATEWAY

The Fall 2008 **Exam Numbers** are now available on **Gateway**. Login, click on the "Student" tab, and the information is posted on the right side of the screen, in the box entitled "**Anonymous Exam Number.**" Should you have any difficulty viewing your exam number, please contact the Law School's **IT Department** ([jgomez4@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jgomez4@stmarytx.edu), [jflores13@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jflores13@stmarytx.edu), or [lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu)). Thank you for your patience as we continue the migration of data to the University's new computer system.

## SUMMER 2 2008 GRADE REVIEW

All of the course **grades** for the Innsbruck and Summer 2 2008 sessions have been submitted and processed. **Students** have the right to **review** and **discuss** their final examinations with the faculty through **October 17, 2008**.

## JUDICIAL INTERN OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The **ABA Section of Litigation** is now accepting applications for its **Summer 2009 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program** for second-year law students. Beginning December 1, it will accept applications for first-year students. The program places minority or financially disadvantaged law students with state and federal judges for summer internships. Applications are due no later than December 31, 2008. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop](http://www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop) or contact Gail Howard at [howardg@staff.abanet.org](mailto:howardg@staff.abanet.org).

## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

**Willamette University College of Law Sports Law Journal** is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjohnst@willamette.edu).

Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the **Donald W. Banner Diversity Scholarship** for law students. This scholarship is part of Banner & Witcoff's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Recipients of the scholarship will receive \$5,000 payable for the Fall semester of their second or third-year of law school. Applications will be accepted through **October 10, 2008**.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments's (HUD) Office of General Counsel (OGC)** is accepting applications for its **2009-2010 Legal Honors Program**. Please visit the OGC website at [www.hud.gov/offices/ogc](http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc) for more information. All applications must be postmarked by **October 15, 2008**.

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2008 Securities Law Writing Competition. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000. The topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Unpublished papers or papers published or to be published in the calendar year



ending December 31, 2008 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline to submit a paper is **November 15, 2008**.

The **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce awards to be presented for (a) the best book chapter or book, (b) the best publishable article or substantial book review, and, (c) the best student case note or comment on a **topic dealing with consumer financial services law**. The awards are cash payments of \$2500, \$2000, and \$1000, respectively, a Certificate of Recognition from the College and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2009 meeting of the College. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

The **Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2009 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. A \$5,000 cash award will be given to the author of the winning essay. The 2009 topic is *Pollution Preemption: Federal Preemption of State Tort Law and Environmental Protection*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and June 1, 2009. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.



# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 9

October 13, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## THANK YOU FOR HURRICANE IKE RELIEF EFFORTS

The Student Bar Association and the Office of Law Campus Ministry extend their **deepest gratitude** to all students, faculty, staff and student organizations involved in the Hurricane Ike Relief Effort. More than \$1,500 in cash, food, clothing and canned goods were collected. A **special thank you** goes to **Matt Goss** and **The Scholar Service Committee** for spearheading this project.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MOOT COURT TEAMS

Three EAP Moot Court Teams competed in the **11th Annual Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition**, the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, in Austin. This is one of two moot court competitions (TYLA being the other) which is open solely to law schools in the State of Texas. Two of St. Mary's teams made it into the elimination rounds of the competition, with the team of **Emily Jeffcott (3L)**, **Ashley Bower (2L)** and **Fernando Gireud (2L)** reaching the semi-finals before losing a hard fought round to the remaining team from South Texas. **Congratulations** and **thanks to these students** and their **coach Ricky Poole**, who put in long hours preparing for this competition!

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Deans Cantú and Mather will host their second **Town Hall** meeting on **Monday, October 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Law Alumni Room for first year students. All students are welcome. **An evening town hall meeting will be scheduled for late October.**

## **PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE STUDY AND RECEIVE \$20!**

**Researchers** at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City are looking for law students who have voir dire experience (have either observed or participated in a voir dire) to **participate in a study on jury selection**. The online study will present a profile of a juror and ask participants to formulate hypothetical voir dire questions. This **web study** takes 15-30 minutes to complete and **participants will be paid \$20 for their participation**. To receive a link to the study, please contact Caroline Crocker at [jjaylawlab@gmail.com](mailto:jjaylawlab@gmail.com) or (212) 484-1351 and provide your name, phone number, year in law school, and a description of your experience with voir dire.

## **LAW LIBRARY COMPUTER LABS**

The two **computer labs** in the **Law Library** have been known to students as Westlaw Lab and Lexis Lab because the labs used to house computers donated by the two companies. Earlier this year, the computers in the labs were completely replaced with computers purchased by the law school. The law school now owns and supports all of the computers. **Lexis** and **Westlaw** still have their dedicated printers and supplies in the respective labs. We are in the process of reorganizing the labs to reflect the change. The **computers in both labs are identical** and have the same type of software on them. All students should feel free to use computers in either lab for research and/or word processing. **Tim Wilson**, Electronic Services Librarian, is responsible for supervising the two labs. Please contact Mr. Wilson at [twilson11@stmarytx.edu](mailto:twilson11@stmarytx.edu) or telephone (210) 436-3512 if you have questions or need assistance.

## **TEXAS TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON**

The **Texas Trial Lawyers Association** invites you to attend a free panel discussion with local trial attorneys on **Wednesday, October 15, 2008**. Come hear from four successful trial attorneys as they describe their work and answer questions for the audience. Lunch will be served. It all takes place at the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, Alumni Room, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Please **RSVP** to Lacey Kohnen at [lkohnen@ttla.com](mailto:lkohnen@ttla.com) to ensure a lunch is ordered for you.

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## LEGAL SPORTS SOCIETY TENNIS WORKSHOP

Come out and enjoy a day of tennis! We will meet at the **tennis courts** behind the law library on **Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** From 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. we will have some basic skills review for those of who have never played or are a bit rusty. Then we will pair up for match play and/or rallying. Sign up on our TWEN page to be notified of future events. Please email Ebi Dodge ([ecdodge@gmail.com](mailto:ecdodge@gmail.com)) or Matt Sharpe ([msharpe83@gmail.com](mailto:msharpe83@gmail.com)) if you plan on attending.

## HISPANIC LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The **Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)** is holding its **8th Annual Hispanic Fest** on **October 25, 2008, 6:30 p.m.** at Dean Valencia's house. **Hispanic Fest** recognizes many diverse cultural influences by offering food and music from a number of Hispanic countries. **Hispanic Fest** also offers the opportunity to meet and network with members of the San Antonio legal community, professors, and fellow students. The event is open to the community at large. Tickets for **Hispanic Fest** are **FREE** for paid **HLSA** members, \$10 pre-sale tickets or \$15 at the door for non-members. Tickets will be sold in the Law Classroom Building tables from October 15th to the 24th. Funds raised will go to **HLSA** academic scholarships distributed to deserving members at the end of the academic year. Food and beverages will be provided!

## CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

In the Bible, Jesus Christ refers to Himself as the “**light**” that came to the world to shine in the **darkness**, so that whoever believes in Him may not “**remain in darkness**” (John 1:4-9; John 12:46 ). It's either Christ or darkness? For this metaphor to gain any traction (and we will assume Jesus wants it to), you must rule out the possibility of light (or truth) existing outside of Christ. **But beware**; such a concession is so patently divisive, provocative, and contrary to postmodern thought that by making it you may find yourself at odds with many. However, you will be without a doubt in good company, namely, Jesus Christ himself. (John 14:6). Join us for men's or women's bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men's bible study, Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

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Andrea Aguilar	Nicole Hines-Glover	Bridgett Clay
Joseph Strickland	Lacey Moffatt	Neysa Lujan
Betty Lam	Clare Pace	

### **Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule**

<b>Mon:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Tue:</b> 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Wed:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thu:</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	<b>Fri:</b> 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	

### **FALL 2008 EXAM NUMBERS NOW ON GATEWAY**

The Fall 2008 **Exam Numbers** are now available on **Gateway**. Login, click on the “Student” tab, and the information is posted on the right side of the screen, in the box entitled “**Anonymous Exam Number.**” Should you have any difficulty viewing your exam number, please contact the Law School’s **IT Department** ([jgomez4@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jgomez4@stmarytx.edu), [jflores13@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jflores13@stmarytx.edu), or [lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu)). Thank you for your patience as we continue the migration of data to the University’s new computer system.

### **SUMMER 2 2008 GRADE REVIEW**

All of the course **grades** for the Innsbruck and Summer 2 2008 sessions have been submitted and processed. **Students** have the right to **review** and **discuss** their final examinations with the faculty through **October 17, 2008**.

### **JUDICIAL INTERN OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

The **ABA Section of Litigation** is now accepting applications for its **Summer 2009 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program** for second-year law students. Beginning December 1, it will accept applications for first-year students. The program places minority or financially disadvantaged law students with state and federal judges for summer internships. Applications are due no later than December 31, 2008. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop](http://www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop) or contact Gail Howard at [howardg@staff.abanet.org](mailto:howardg@staff.abanet.org).

## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

**Willamette University College of Law Sports Law Journal** is soliciting articles. For more information please visit <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/sportslaw/> or email [mjjohnst@willamette.edu](mailto:mjjohnst@willamette.edu).

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments's** (HUD) Office of General Counsel (OGC) is accepting applications for its **2009-2010 Legal Honors Program**. Please visit the OGC website at [www.hud.gov/offices/ogc](http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc) for more information. All applications must be postmarked by **October 15, 2008**.

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc.** (ASECA) is pleased to announce their 2008 Securities Law Writing Competition. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000. The topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Unpublished papers or papers published or to be published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2008 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline to submit a paper is **November 15, 2008**.

The **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce awards to be presented for (a) the best book chapter or book, (b) the best publishable article or substantial book review, and, (c) the best student case note or comment on a **topic dealing with consumer financial services law**. The awards are cash payments of \$2500, \$2000, and \$1000, respectively, a Certificate of Recognition from the College and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2009 meeting of the College. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

The **Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2009 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. A \$5,000 cash award will be given to the author of the winning essay. The 2009 topic is *Pollution Preemption: Federal Preemption of State Tort Law and Environmental Protection*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

**The American Indian Law Review** (AILR) is pleased to announce its annual writing competition. Papers will be accepted on any issue concerning American Indian Law. First place will be awarded \$1,000 and publication of paper in the AILR, an official periodical of the



University of Oklahoma College of Law. Second place is \$500 and third place is \$250.  
Deadline is **January 31, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and June 1, 2009. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.



# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 10

October 20, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Please come out and watch the **final round** of the **Moot Court Competition** sponsored by the **San Antonio Federal Bar Association**. The finals will be held at **6:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 29, 2008** in the St. Mary's Moot Court Room. **Remember:** Watching the final round or baliffing throughout the entire competition is a great way for 1Ls to participate (and you get BOA points). If you have questions please contact a BOA member or Krysta Popp at [kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## SAYLA'S ANNUAL COURTHOUSE TOUR AND JUDICIAL RECEPTION

The San Antonio Young Lawyer's Association's **Annual Courthouse Tour & Judicial Reception** is set for **Wednesday, October 29, 2008**. The Courthouse Tour and Seminar will take place from **1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** in the Bexar County Courthouse Presiding District Courtroom. In addition to a tour of the courthouse, the seminar portion of the Courthouse Tour will encompass topics ranging from the Bexar County presiding and monitoring system to motions practice, 4<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals appellate practice, the district clerk's office, probate courts, and more. The cost of the Courthouse Tour is \$30 per person or \$25.00 for law students, with approval for 4 hours CLE credit anticipated. The **Judicial Reception** is an opportunity for young lawyers and law students to interact with the judges and justices of the local federal and state courts. The reception will be held at **Club Giraud**, located on **707 N. St. Mary's Street**, at **5:30 p.m.** Tickets for the reception are **\$30.00 in advance and \$35.00 at the door** per person. The **registration form** for this event may be downloaded from the [SAYLA Twen page](#) For more information please contact Lawrence Morales, II at 210.978-7440.

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The **Law School Financial Aid** office staff, Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna, will join the Business Office and the University Financial Aid Office in Banner training sessions over the next few weeks. The training sessions will be held **Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Thursday** mornings. The Office of Financial Assistance will be **CLOSED** between **8:00 a.m.** and **10:15 a.m.** on these days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Fall Blood Drive

The **Health Law Association** will be sponsoring their annual **Fall Blood Drive** on **Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Location and other details to follow soon. Save the date!

### NAME CORRECTION HURRICANE IKE RELIEF EFFORT

In our announcement last week thanking everyone for their contributions to the **Hurricane Ike Relief Effort**, we inadvertently misspelled **Matt Doss's** name. **Thank you** Matt for all of your hard work in spearheading this project. The *Witan* apologizes for this error.

### PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE STUDY AND RECEIVE \$20!

**Researchers** at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City are looking for law students who have voir dire experience (have either observed or participated in a voir dire) to **participate in a study on jury selection**. The online study will present a profile of a juror and ask participants to formulate hypothetical voir dire questions. This **web study** takes 15-30 minutes to complete and **participants will be paid \$20 for their participation**. To receive a link to the study, please contact Caroline Crocker at [jjaylawlab@gmail.com](mailto:jjaylawlab@gmail.com) or (212) 484-1351 and provide your name, phone number, year in law school, and a description of your experience with voir dire.

### LAW LIBRARY COMPUTER LABS

The two **computer labs** in the **Law Library** have been known to students as Westlaw Lab and Lexis Lab because the labs used to house computers donated by the two companies. Earlier this year, the computers in the labs were completely replaced with computers purchased by the law school. The law school now owns and supports all of the computers. **Lexis** and **Westlaw** still have their dedicated printers and supplies in the respective labs. We are in the process of reorganizing the labs to reflect the change. The **computers in both labs are identical** and have the same type of software on them. All students should feel free to use computers in either lab for research and/or word processing. **Tim Wilson**, Electronic Services Librarian, is

responsible for supervising the two labs. Please contact Mr. Wilson at [twilson11@stmarytx.edu](mailto:twilson11@stmarytx.edu) or telephone (210) 436-3512 if you have questions or need assistance.

### HISPANIC LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The **Hispanic Law Students Association** (HLSA) is holding its **8th Annual Hispanic Fest** on **October 25, 2008, 6:30 p.m.** at Dean Valencia's house. **Hispanic Fest** recognizes many diverse cultural influences by offering food and music from a number of Hispanic countries. **Hispanic Fest** also offers the opportunity to meet and network with members of the San Antonio legal community, professors, and fellow students. The event is open to the community at large. Tickets for **Hispanic Fest** are **FREE** for paid **HLSA** members, \$10 pre-sale tickets or \$15 at the door for non-members. Tickets will be sold in the Law Classroom Building tables from October 15th to the 24th. Funds raised will go to **HLSA** academic scholarships distributed to deserving members at the end of the academic year. Food and beverages will be provided!

### CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

In the Bible, Jesus Christ refers to Himself as the "**light**" that came to the world to shine in the **darkness**, so that whoever believes in Him may not "**remain in darkness**" (John 1:4-9; John 12:46). It's either Christ or darkness? For this metaphor to gain any traction (and we will assume Jesus wants it to), you must rule out the possibility of light (or truth) existing outside of Christ. **But beware**; such a concession is so patently divisive, provocative, and contrary to postmodern thought that by making it you may find yourself at odds with many. However, you will be without a doubt in good company, namely, Jesus Christ himself. (John 14:6). Join us for men's or women's bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men's bible study, Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

### LAW MINISTRY

- **Red Mass** – reserve the date, **Thursday, October 30, 2008** to celebrate Red Mass at **6:00 p.m.** at **San Fernando Cathedral**. More information to be announced at a later date. Student's, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.
- **Mini-Boo Bash** – All students, faculty, staff and their children are invited to attend Mini-Boo Bash on **Friday, October 31, 2008** from **4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**, location to be determined. Lots of candy, prizes, face painting and games will be provided for children in a safe and fun environment. Donations for candy and prizes are being accepted. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food, and help with the kiddie games. Please sign up with your SBA representative. Candy and prize donations may be brought to the Law Campus Ministry Office. For more information, contact your SBA representative or Sr. Grace at 210.436.3063.

## STUDENT ASSISTANT NEEDED

Applications are being accepted for the **position of Student Assistant** for the 2009 **Innsbruck Program**. Please contact Professor Cochran in person (LF230) or by email at [mcochran@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mcochran@stmarytx.edu).

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Interested in property law, mineral rights, or land titles? If so, we have some exciting news to share with all of you. A group of students at St. Mary's are in the process of starting a Property Law Association and welcome everyone to join. Just send a quick e-mail to either Kasia Daniec at [kadenjec@yahoo.com](mailto:kadenjec@yahoo.com) or Kelly McBride at [calmcbride3@yahoo.com](mailto:calmcbride3@yahoo.com) to let us know you are interested. Once we are officially established as a student organization we will let you know about our first meeting and the activities we have planned for the year.

## KAPLAN PMBR

**Welcome back everyone!** It's never too early to start studying, whether for the bar or for Fall semester finals. Let Kaplan PMBR help you **get ready with our new Success Packages**. **1Ls and 2Ls:** place a deposit and receive study aids and audio lectures for each of your core classes. We are also offering a **free MPRE Complete Online Course** to anyone who fills out a form with one of our reps by **September 30**. Remember, the school is contributing **\$300** every **3L** who signs up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. Come by and learn about other valuable discounts.

**Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the law classroom building!

### Kaplan PMBR Reps

Kennedy Granger  
Andrea Aguilar  
Joseph Strickland  
Betty Lam

Gema Lopez  
Nicole Hines-Glover  
Lacey Moffatt  
Clare Pace

Sung Je Lee  
Bridgett Clay  
Neysa Lujan

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## 1L FINGERPRINTING FOR THE DECLARATION OF INTENT TO STUDY LAW

**Fingerprinting** for the **1L students** by IBT Identity Solutions is scheduled for **Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Friday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in LF103 of the Raba Law Faculty Building.** Fingerprints are handled through the **Fingerprint Application Services of Texas (FAST)**, which collects and submits fingerprints electronically. Law students are required to **complete the FAST Print Pass, available with the BLE’s on-line Declaration package, and bring it with them when they have their prints taken.** Students are required to **register with IBT and schedule an individual appointment** by following the below **instructions**:

- Go to [www.ibtfingerprint.com](http://www.ibtfingerprint.com)
- Click on the “Texas” link and then go to “Schedule a Fingerprinting Appointment On-line.”
- Step 2-Application ID; please **select “All Others”**
- The next screen will give you two options. Option A for electronic submission or Option B for fingerprint cards. **Please select Option A.**
- **Select “Yes, I have my FAST form.”**
- Enter the **ORI number off of the FAST application.**
- Step 3 is choosing your location; the screen will ask you to enter your zip code OR choose from the regions on the drop down menu. **Please use the drop down menu to choose Special Print.**
- You will need to **locate the Special Print labeled Special- St Mary’s Univ School of Law.** November 19<sup>th</sup>,20<sup>th</sup>,21<sup>st</sup> will be highlighted. **Please click on the date.**

- **Choose the time slot** that you would like to schedule your appointment.
- **Enter your complete demographic and payment information.** You will have the option of paying by check or money order the day of fingerprinting or by credit card when scheduling. IBT uses Texas ePay for all credit card transactions and a small convenience fee will be added.
- **Please make sure to bring your TX Drivers License, TX ID card or Passport to your appointment along with the FAST fingerprinting application.**

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**NEW** – The **Senate Hispanic Research Council (SHRC)** is currently accepting applications for its 2009 Senator Gregory Luna Legislative Scholars and Fellows Program. Applications may be downloaded from the SHRC website at [www.tshrc.org](http://www.tshrc.org). Please note, the **application deadline has been extended to October 27, 2008**. Through this unique program, students have the opportunity to gain experience and develop leadership skills as a full-time legislative assistants in the Texas Senate. The program will begin January 7, 2009 and end on the last day of the legislative session, June 1, 2009. Program participants will receive a \$2,000 monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. For more information please contact Sarah Saenz, Executive Program Director at (512) 499-8606 or [sarah@tshrc.org](mailto:sarah@tshrc.org).

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

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*and Environmental Protection.*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

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**NEW** – Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law announces its 2008-2009 **Trandafir International Business Writing Competition**. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded. Winning essay will also be published in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems, a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. Entry deadline is **February 1, 2009**. For rules and eligibility, please see <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp/trandafir.php>.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 11

October 27, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RED MASS

All members of the Law School community are invited to attend the **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Mass** to be celebrated on **Thursday, October 30, 2008**. The blessing of the judicial year will begin at **6:00 p.m.**, **San Fernando Cathedral** located at 115 Main Plaza in San Antonio. A reception will follow for all mass participants at **The Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower**, 100 W. Houston Street, San Antonio.

This tradition is coordinated by St. Mary's University School of Law, the Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio and representatives from the various San Antonio legal organizations, judiciary, and Texas legislature. The **inclusion of law students in the mass is unique** to San Antonio, and is a great opportunity to worship and network with members of the legal community, judiciary, and law alumni.

While **Red Mass** is in the Catholic tradition of a Mass, we emphasize that this is an interfaith event and **everyone is welcome** to pray for the concerns of justice. The Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio will be the principal presider, with the Reverend Warren Brown, O.M.I. from the Oblate Theological Seminary delivering the homily. The Honorable Alma Lopez, Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals will offer reflections.

## MINI BOO BASH

All students, faculty, staff and their children are invited to **Mini Boo Bash** on **Friday, October 31, 2008** from **4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**, **Law School Plaza**. Lots of candy, prizes, face painting and games will be provided for children in a safe and fun environment.



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### **TRIAL ADVOCACY – WAITING LIST**

There is a **waiting list** for the **Spring 2009 Trial Advocacy** course and it is posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, **LFB 270**. Because the course has been **blocked from electronic access**, students will only be able to drop or add Trial Advocacy by contacting Ms. Catherine Mery in the Law Administration Building, who will make the drops and add names from the waiting list.

When you add your name to the waiting list, please note that **3L's** will be given preference over 2L's. If you list a preference for a particular adjunct professor's section (with no alternative sections noted) and that section has not opened up, we will go to the next person on the list who has indicated no preference. Thus, your chances of being added to any of the sections are better if you state no preference or state several preferences. If you have any questions about the course, please contact **Professor Schlueter**.

### **INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES**

Participants in the **2008 Innsbruck Program** can pick up their **certificates** from Caroline Buckley in the Raba building. Her desk is located on the second floor near the east stairwell.

### **EVENING STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (ESBA) BAKE SALE**

Hungry late in the afternoon? Need some nice hot coffee to stay awake a little longer? On **Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, the **ESBA** is sponsoring a bake sale with coffee – prices are cheap! Sandwiches, homemade cookies, cupcakes and other baked goods. Bake sale will be held between **4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** in the **LC building**. Please let your classmates know!

### **EVENING PROGRAM TOWN HALL MEETING**

On **Monday, November 3, at 5:15 p.m. in LCB 103**, all evening division students are invited to attend a **Town Hall** question and answer session. Associate Deans Ariens and Mather will be available to take your questions on the state of the law school, the state of the evening division, and all other topics of interest.

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**Here it is!**

The **Health Law Association** will be sponsoring their annual **Fall Blood Drive** on **Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** More details coming soon.

## LAW LIBRARY COMPUTER LABS

The two **computer labs** in the **Law Library** have been known to students as Westlaw Lab and Lexis Lab because the labs used to house computers donated by the two companies. Earlier this year, the computers in the labs were completely replaced with computers purchased by the law school. The law school now owns and supports all of the computers. **Lexis** and **Westlaw** still have their dedicated printers and supplies in the respective labs. We are in the process of reorganizing the labs to reflect the change. The **computers in both labs are identical** and have the same type of software on them. All students should feel free to use computers in either lab for research and/or word processing. **Tim Wilson**, Electronic Services Librarian, is responsible for supervising the two labs. Please contact Mr. Wilson at [twilson11@stmarytx.edu](mailto:twilson11@stmarytx.edu) or telephone 210. 436.3512 if you have questions or need assistance.

## CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

In the Bible, Jesus Christ refers to Himself as the “**light**” that came to the world to shine in the **darkness**, so that whoever believes in Him may not “**remain in darkness**” (John 1:4-9; John 12:46 ). It’s either Christ or darkness? For this metaphor to gain any traction (and we will assume Jesus wants it to), you must rule out the possibility of light (or truth) existing outside of Christ. **But beware**; such a concession is so patently divisive, provocative, and contrary to postmodern thought that by making it you may find yourself at odds with many. However, you will be without a doubt in good company, namely, Jesus Christ himself. (John 14:6). Join us for men’s or women’s bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men’s bible study, Wednesday’s at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Interested in property law, mineral rights, or land titles? If so, we have some exciting news to share with all of you. A group of students at St. Mary’s are in the process of starting a Property Law Association and welcome everyone to join. Just send a quick e-mail to either Kasia Daniec at [kadenjec@yahoo.com](mailto:kadenjec@yahoo.com) or Kelly McBride at [calmcbride3@yahoo.com](mailto:calmcbride3@yahoo.com) to let us know you are interested. Once we are officially established as a student organization we will let you know about our first meeting and the activities we have planned for the year.

## KAPLAN PMBR

**Welcome back everyone!** It’s never too early to start studying, whether for the bar or for Fall semester finals. Let Kaplan PMBR help you **get ready with our new Success Packages**. **1Ls and 2Ls**: place a deposit and receive study aids and audio lectures for each of your core classes. We are also offering a **free MPRE Complete Online Course** to anyone who fills out a form with one of our reps by **September 30**. Remember, the school is contributing **\$300** every **3L** who signs up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. Come by and learn about other

valuable discounts.

**Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the law classroom building!

**Kaplan PMBR Reps**

Kennedy Granger	Gema Lopez	Sung Je Lee
Andrea Aguilar	Nicole Hines-Glover	Bridgett Clay
Joseph Strickland	Lacey Moffatt	Neysa Lujan
Betty Lam	Clare Pace	

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**1L FINGERPRINTING FOR THE  
DECLARATION OF INTENT TO STUDY LAW**

**Fingerprinting** for the **1L students** by IBT Identity Solutions is scheduled for **Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Friday,**

**November 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in LF103 of the Raba Law Faculty Building.**

Fingerprints are handled through the **Fingerprint Application Services of Texas (FAST)**, which collects and submits fingerprints electronically. Law students are required to **complete the FAST Print Pass, available with the BLE's on-line Declaration package, and bring it with them when they have their prints taken.** Students are required to **register with IBT and schedule an individual appointment** by following the below **instructions**:

1. Go to [www.ibtfingerprint.com](http://www.ibtfingerprint.com)
2. **Click** on the "Texas" link and then go to "**Schedule a Fingerprinting Appointment On-line.**"
3. Step 2-Application ID; please **select "All Others"**
4. The next screen will give you two options. Option A for electronic submission or Option B for fingerprint cards. **Please select Option A.**
5. **Select "Yes, I have my FAST form."**
6. Enter the **ORI number off of the FAST** application.
7. Step 3 is choosing your location; the screen will ask you to enter your zip code OR choose from the regions on the drop down menu. **Please use the drop down menu to choose Special Print.**
8. You will need to **locate the Special Print labeled Special- St Mary's Univ School of Law.** November 19<sup>th</sup>,20<sup>th</sup>,21<sup>st</sup> will be highlighted. **Please click on the date.**
9. **Choose the time slot** that you would like to schedule your appointment.
10. **Enter your complete demographic and payment information.** You will have the option of paying by check or money order the day of fingerprinting or by credit card when scheduling. IBT uses Texas ePay for all credit card transactions and a small convenience fee will be added.
11. **Please make sure to bring your TX Drivers License, TX ID card or Passport to your appointment along with the FAST fingerprinting application.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Senate Hispanic Research Council (SHRC)** is currently accepting applications for its 2009 Senator Gregory Luna Legislative Scholars and Fellows Program. Applications may be downloaded from the SHRC website at [www.tshrc.org](http://www.tshrc.org). Please note, the **application deadline has been extended to October 27, 2008.** Through this unique program, students have the opportunity to gain experience and develop leadership skills as a full-time legislative assistants in the Texas Senate. The program will begin January 7, 2009 and end on the last day of the legislative session, June 1, 2009. Program participants will receive a \$2,000 monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. For more information please contact Sarah Saenz, Executive Program Director at (512) 499-8606 or [sarah@tshrc.org](mailto:sarah@tshrc.org).

AARP Foundation Litigation announces the third annual **AARP Foundation Litigation Herbert Semmel Elder Law Fellowship** for second-year law students interested in issues affecting older persons. The fellowship includes salary for a 12-week summer clerkship in Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 scholarship. **Deadline** to apply is **November 7, 2008**.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2008 Securities Law Writing Competition. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000. The topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Unpublished papers or papers published or to be published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2008 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline to submit a paper is **November 15, 2008**.

The **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce awards to be presented for (a) the best book chapter or book, (b) the best publishable article or substantial book review, and, (c) the best student case note or comment on a **topic dealing with consumer financial services law**. The awards are cash payments of \$2500, \$2000, and \$1000, respectively, a Certificate of Recognition from the College and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2009 meeting of the College. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

The **Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2009 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. A \$5,000 cash award will be given to the author of the winning essay. The 2009 topic is *Pollution Preemption: Federal Preemption of State Tort Law and Environmental Protection*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

The **American Indian Law Review (AILR)** is pleased to announce its annual writing competition. Papers will be accepted on any issue concerning American Indian Law. First place will be awarded \$1,000 and publication of paper in the AILR, an official periodical of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Second place is \$500 and third place is \$250. Deadline is **January 31, 2009**.

Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law announces its 2008-2009 **Trandafir International Business** Writing Competition. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded. Winning essay will also be published in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems, a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. Entry deadline is **February 1, 2009**. For rules and eligibility, please see <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp/trandafir.php>.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and June 1, 2009. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 12

November 3, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT

The **Civil Justice Clinic** was recently awarded a **\$23,000 grant** by the **Texas Bar Foundation**. Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$9 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably funded bar foundation.

The grant allows the clinic to expand services to the homeless in Webb and surrounding counties, expand the Bexar County outreach sites, and furthers the Clinic's efforts in providing representation in consumer cases and social security claims.

Law students registered in the Clinic class provide legal representation under the supervision of faculty member. In all of the cases the law student is the lead attorney. The Civil Justice Clinic has been providing free legal services to the San Antonio homeless population for 17 years.

## EVENING PROGRAM TOWN HALL MEETING

On **Monday, November 3, at 5:15 p.m. in LCB 103**, all evening division students are invited to attend a **Town Hall** question and answer session. Dean Charles Cantú and Associate Deans Ariens, Mather and Valencia will be available to take your questions on the state of the law school, the state of the evening division, and all other topics of interest.



## BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** would like to congratulate **Sung Je Lee** and **Russell Jackson**, winners of the **2008 Moot Court Competition** sponsored by the San Antonio Federal Bar Association. **Congratulations** also to the runner up team of **Alexis Lorick** and **Blake Stribling** and to Alexis Lorick for winning Best Advocate of the competition. It was a successful competition and the **Board of Advocates sends a thank you to all participants.**

## COURTROOM DONOR TO VISIT ST. MARY'S

**Mr. Nicholas Ribis**, the \$1 million name courtroom donor, will be on campus on **Tuesday, November 11, 2008** to give a lecture to all law students and faculty. The lecture will be held at **11:00 a.m. in classrooms 101, 102 and 103.** Mr. Ribis is the Chief Executive Officer of Resorts, International, Inc. He was formerly with Trump Enterprises and is one of our most successful alums. **All faculty and students are encouraged to attend.**

## 2008 NEGOTIATIONS COMPETITION

The **Board of Advocates** announces the **2008 Negotiations Competition** sponsored by Ceasefire. **Sign up now** in the law classroom building to compete. The preliminary rounds will be held November 10-12, 2008 with the break rounds occurring on November 17-18. We encourage everyone to come out and watch the final round on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact any BOA member or you may contact Krysta at [kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## MEN'S SUITS

**St. Mary's Center for Civil and Legal Justice and The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues** have been gifted with several new and gently used **men's suits**. If you are a current student of St. Mary's University School of Law in genuine need of a suit and unable to afford a suit due to financial constraints, please contact **Irma Hurd** at the Clinic. Her email address is [ihurd@stmarytx.edu](mailto:ihurd@stmarytx.edu).

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO

November 4<sup>th</sup> – VOTE. **November 12<sup>th</sup>, donate blood** at the **Health Law Association Fall Blood Drive, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the **Law Administration Atrium**. Random prize drawings for all donors....you could WIN. See you there!

## 2009 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING

**Students interested** in next summer's **Innsbruck Program** should attend an

**informational meeting on Wednesday, November 12, at 3:30 p.m. in Law Classroom 103.** Information about registration, courses, housing, and financial aid will be available.

### **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**Battle of the Bands** is happening this **Spring, February 21, 2009**. This is early to advertise, but know it takes time and practice to make music. The event is bring-your-own-liquor and will be five dollars per ticket. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post along the San Antonio River. There is a bar available for beer and mixers, and there will be a grill sparked up for edibles. Currently, we are **looking for musicians and volunteers** to help put on the show. If you have a band, know a friend with a band, play acoustic, or just want to sing or play solo **SIGN UP!** Tabling will occur in the next few weeks for volunteers and performers. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets at the beginning of next semester. If you have any questions please look at the SBA website <http://stmarytxsba.com/> or contact Byron Miller: [bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu), carrel #226, 512.825.3093.

### **TRIAL ADVOCACY – WAITING LIST**

There is a **waiting list** for the **Spring 2009 Trial Advocacy** course and it is posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, **LFB 270**. Because the course has been **blocked from electronic access**, students will only be able to drop or add Trial Advocacy by contacting Ms. Catherine Mery in the Law Administration Building, who will make the drops and add names from the waiting list.

When you add your name to the waiting list, please note that **3L's** will be given preference over **2L's**. If you list a preference for a particular adjunct professor's section (with no alternative sections noted) and that section has not opened up, we will go to the next person on the list who has indicated no preference. Thus, your chances of being added to any of the sections are better if you state no preference or state several preferences. If you have any questions about the course, please contact **Professor Schlueter**.

### **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The **Law School Financial Aid** office staff, Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna, will join the Business Office and the University Financial Aid Office in Banner training sessions over the next few weeks. The training sessions will be held **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** mornings. The Office of Financial Assistance will be **CLOSED** between **8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.** on these days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES**

Participants in the **2008 Innsbruck Program** can pick up their **certificates** from Caroline Buckley in the Raba building. Her desk is located on the second floor near the east stairwell.

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unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

**New – Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law’s Institute for Law and the Workplace** will co-sponsor the 2008-2009 Louis Jackson National Student Writing Competition in Employment and Law. The competition is open to all students who have completed or are currently taking courses in employment or labor law. One top honors award of \$3,000 and two \$1,000 awards will be presented to the top three entries. In addition to the cash awards, the top three entries will be published on the *Institute for Law and the Workplace* website. For more information, please visit [www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html](http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html) or contact Professor Martin Malin at [mmalin@kentlaw.edu](mailto:mmalin@kentlaw.edu). The deadline for submission is **January 20, 2009**.

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**NEW – The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF)** is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Program for Latino law students. The **PRBA Scholarship Award is \$2,000**. All applicants must be a first or second year student. Students working towards their LL.M. are NOT eligible for this award. Postmark deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

**NEW – Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ)** announce the Sarah Weddington Writing Prize Call for Submissions. LSRJ is accepting submissions for its 4<sup>th</sup>

annual writing prize. The theme this year is “Seeking Reproductive Justice in All Places for All People.” Winning authors will receive a \$750 (1<sup>st</sup> place) or \$250 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and get published on LSRJ’s website. For more information please visit [www.lsrj.org](http://www.lsrj.org). Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2009**.

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 13

November 10, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## GUEST LECTURE POSTPONED

The **lecture** scheduled to be delivered by **Nicholas Ribis** on **Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** has been **postponed**. Classes will resume as regularly scheduled. As soon as we learn the new date, you will be advised.

## HELP SAVE A LIFE DONATE BLOOD

The **Health Law Association Fall Blood Drive** will be held on **Wednesday, November 12, 2008** from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Law Administration **Atrium**. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** T-shirts, random prize drawings, etc. See you there.

## 2009 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING

**Students interested** in next summer's **Innsbruck Program** should attend an **informational meeting** on **Wednesday, November 12**, at **3:30 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 103**. Information about registration, courses, housing, and financial aid will be available.

## LAW SCHOOL THANKSGIVING 2008 A Time to be Grateful

Please join us on **Monday, November 17, 2008** for **12:00 noon Mass** in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, **Alumni Room**. A thanksgiving lunch will follow at **12:30 p.m.** **Prayer for finals** will be offered during the meal. All students, faculty and staff are invited. This event is sponsored by Catholic Law Students, Christian Legal Society and Law Ministry.



## COMPLETION OF LEGAL STUDIES

A celebration in honor of the **December Completion of Legal Studies** will be held on **Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Ernest Raba** Law Faculty building. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate. Students completing their legal studies in December should contact Sister Grace at 210.436.3063 or [gwall@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwall@stmarytx.edu) with questions or schedule conflicts.

## 2008 NEGOTIATIONS COMPETITION

The **Board of Advocates** announces the **2008 Negotiations Competition** sponsored by Ceasefire. **Preliminary rounds** will be held November 10-12, 2008 with the **break rounds** occurring on November 17-18. We encourage everyone to come out and watch the final round on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in LC104. If you have any questions please contact any BOA member or you may contact Krysta at [kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## MEN'S SUITS

**St. Mary's Center for Civil and Legal Justice and The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues** have been gifted with several new and gently used **men's suits**. If you are a current student of St. Mary's University School of Law in genuine need of a suit and unable to afford a suit due to financial constraints, please contact **Irma Hurd** at the Clinic. Her email address is [ihurd@stmarytx.edu](mailto:ihurd@stmarytx.edu).

## CLASS OF 2009 – GRADUATION INFORMATION ORDERS FOR TAMS, GORWNS, INVITATION AND RINGS

Representatives from **The Herff Jones/Graduation Center** will be in the **Atrium** on **Thursday, November 20, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and on **Friday, November 21, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** to take orders for the Class of 2009 for academic regalia (tams, gowns, and hoods for which there is no charge to the student), as well as graduation announcements and invitations, plus class rings, which are sold directly by The Herff Jones/Graduation Center. **Check your student mailbox** for complete ordering information and prices.

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The **Law School Financial Aid** office staff, Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna, will join the Business Office and the University Financial Aid Office in Banner training sessions over the next few weeks. The training sessions will be held **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** mornings. The Office of Financial Assistance will be **CLOSED** between **8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.** on these days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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In the Bible, Jesus Christ refers to Himself as the “**light**” that came to the world to shine in the **darkness**, so that whoever believes in Him may not “**remain in darkness**” (John 1:4-9; John 12:46 ). It’s either Christ or darkness? For this metaphor to gain any traction (and we will assume Jesus wants it to), you must rule out the possibility of light (or truth) existing outside of Christ. **But beware**; such a concession is so patently divisive, provocative, and contrary to postmodern thought that by making it you may find yourself at odds with many. However, you will be without a doubt in good company, namely, Jesus Christ himself. (John 14:6). Join us for men’s or women’s bible study. **Selah - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Brenna at [selah.biblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:selah.biblestudy@gmail.com) **Men’s bible study, Wednesday’s at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Josh at [jsc427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsc427@sbcglobal.net).

## KAPLAN PMBR

Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for a course? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the law classroom building!

### Kaplan PMBR Reps

Kennedy Granger  
Andrea Aguilar  
Joseph Strickland  
Betty Lam

Gema Lopez  
Nicole Hines-Glover  
Lacey Moffatt  
Clare Pace

Sung Je Lee  
Bridgett Clay  
Neysa Lujan

### Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule

<b>Mon:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Tue:</b> 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Wed:</b> 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thu:</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	<b>Fri:</b> 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	

## FALL 2008 EXAM NUMBERS NOW ON GATEWAY

The Fall 2008 **Exam Numbers** are now available on **Gateway**. Login, click on the “Student” tab, and the information is posted on the right side of the screen, in the box entitled

“**Anonymous Exam Number.**” Should you have any difficulty viewing your exam number, please contact the Law School’s **IT Department** ([jgomez4@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jgomez4@stmarytx.edu), [jflores13@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jflores13@stmarytx.edu), or [lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu)). Thank you for your patience as we continue the migration of data to the University’s new computer system.

## **JUDICIAL INTERN OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

The **ABA Section of Litigation** is now accepting applications for its **Summer 2009 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program** for second-year law students. Beginning December 1, it will accept applications for first-year students. The program places minority or financially disadvantaged law students with state and federal judges for summer internships. Applications are due no later than **December 31, 2008**. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop](http://www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop) or contact Gail Howard at [howardg@staff.abanet.org](mailto:howardg@staff.abanet.org).

## **1L FINGERPRINTING FOR THE DECLARATION OF INTENT TO STUDY LAW**

**Fingerprinting** for the **1L students** by IBT Identity Solutions is scheduled for **Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Friday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in LF103 of the Raba Law Faculty Building.** Fingerprints are handled through the **Fingerprint Application Services of Texas (FAST)**, which collects and submits fingerprints electronically. Law students are required to **complete the FAST Print Pass, available with the BLE’s on-line Declaration package, and bring it with them when they have their prints taken.** Students are required to **register with IBT and schedule an individual appointment** by following the below **instructions**:

1. Go to [www.ibtfingerprint.com](http://www.ibtfingerprint.com)
2. **Click** on the “Texas” link and then **go to** “Schedule a Fingerprinting Appointment On-line.”
3. Step 2-Application ID; please **select** “All Others”
4. The next screen will give you two options. Option A for electronic submission or Option B for fingerprint cards. **Please select Option A.**
5. **Select** “Yes, I have my FAST form.”
6. Enter the **ORI number off of the FAST** application.
7. Step 3 is choosing your location; the screen will ask you to enter your zip code OR choose from the regions on the drop down menu. **Please use the drop down menu to choose Special Print.**
8. You will need to **locate the Special Print labeled Special- St Mary’s Univ School of Law.** November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> will be highlighted. **Please click on the date.**
9. **Choose the time slot** that you would like to schedule your appointment.
10. **Enter your complete demographic and payment information.** You will have the option of paying by check or money order the day of fingerprinting or by credit card when scheduling. IBT uses Texas ePay for all credit card transactions and a small convenience

fee will be added.

11. **Please make sure to bring your TX Drivers License, TX ID card or Passport to your appointment along with the FAST fingerprinting application.**

### **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**Battle of the Bands** is happening this **Spring, February 21, 2009**. This is early to advertise, but know it takes time and practice to make music. The event is bring-your-own-liquor and will be five dollars per ticket. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post along the San Antonio River. There is a bar available for beer and mixers, and there will be a grill sparked up for edibles. Currently, we are **looking for musicians and volunteers** to help put on the show. If you have a band, know a friend with a band, play acoustic, or just want to sing or play solo **SIGN UP!** Tabling will occur in the next few weeks for volunteers and performers. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets at the beginning of next semester. If you have any questions please look at the SBA website <http://stmarytxsba.com/> or contact Byron Miller: [bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu), carrel #226, 512.825.3093.

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2008 Securities Law Writing Competition. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000. The topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Unpublished papers or papers published or to be published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2008 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline to submit a paper is **November 15, 2008**.

The **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce awards to be presented for (a) the best book chapter or book, (b) the best publishable article or substantial book review, and, (c) the best student case note or comment on a **topic dealing with consumer financial services law**. The awards are cash payments of \$2500, \$2000, and \$1000, respectively, a Certificate of Recognition from the College and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2009 meeting of the College. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2008**.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 2008-2009 Louis Jackson National Student Writing Competition in Employment and Law. The competition is open to all students who have completed or are currently taking courses in employment or labor law. One top honors award of \$3,000 and two \$1,000 awards will be presented to the top three entries. In addition to the cash awards, the top three entries will be published on the *Institute for Law and the Workplace* website. For more information, please visit [www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html](http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html) or contact Professor Martin Malin at [mmalin@kentlaw.edu](mailto:mmalin@kentlaw.edu). The deadline for submission is **January 20, 2009**.

The **Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2009 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. A \$5,000 cash award will be given to the author of the winning essay. The 2009 topic is *Pollution Preemption: Federal Preemption of State Tort Law and Environmental Protection*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

The **American Indian Law Review (AILR)** is pleased to announce its annual writing competition. Papers will be accepted on any issue concerning American Indian Law. First place will be awarded \$1,000 and publication of paper in the AILR, an official periodical of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Second place is \$500 and third place is \$250. Deadline is **January 31, 2009**.

Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law announces its 2008-2009 **Trandafir International Business** Writing Competition. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded. Winning essay will also be published in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems, a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. Entry deadline is **February 1, 2009**. For rules and eligibility, please see <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp/trandafir.php>.

The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF)** is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Program for Latino law students. The **PRBA Scholarship Award is \$2,000**. All applicants must be a first or second year student. Students working towards their LL.M. are NOT eligible for this award. Postmark deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 14

November 17, 2008

By VMM

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#### ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS KAPLAN PMBR

The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, November 21, 2008**. The price will go up after November 21<sup>st</sup>. Place your deposits NOW to lock in the best rate available to you this year.

1Ls - \$100  
2Ls - \$100  
3Ls - \$200

Also, 3Ls, as a special promotional offer, if you **enroll in any MBE course before November 21<sup>st</sup>, you get an upgrade to Premium for free!**

- 1,000 additional practice questions and \*\*\* THIS IS A \$200 VALUE \*\*\*
- 32 hours of MP3 audio lectures

**3Ls: All February bar takers MUST be paid in full by November 21<sup>st</sup>.**

- **Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the Law Classroom buildig.
- Feel free to email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu)

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Kennedy Granger	Gema Lopez
Andrea Aguilar	Nicole Hines-Glover
Joseph Strickland	Neysa Lujan
Betty Lam	Sung Je Lee
Bridget Clay	

### **Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule**

**Mon:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Tue:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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.

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## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 2008-2009 Louis Jackson National Student Writing Competition in Employment and Law. The competition is open to all students who have completed or are currently taking courses in employment or labor law. One top honors award of \$3,000 and two \$1,000 awards will be presented to the top three entries. In addition to the cash awards, the top three entries will be published on the *Institute for Law and the Workplace* website. For more information, please visit [www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html](http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/plel/LouisJacksonNWC.html) or contact Professor Martin Malin at [mmalin@kentlaw.edu](mailto:mmalin@kentlaw.edu). The deadline for submission is **January 20,**

**2009.**

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The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to participate.. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 15

November 24, 2008

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## FALL 2008 EXAM NUMBERS NOW ON GATEWAY

The Fall 2008 **Exam Numbers** are now available on **Gateway**. Login, click on the “Student” tab, and the information is posted on the right side of the screen, in the box entitled “**Anonymous Exam Number.**” Should you have any difficulty viewing your exam number, please contact the Law School’s **IT Department** ([jgomez4@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jgomez4@stmarytx.edu), [jflores13@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jflores13@stmarytx.edu), or [lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lsobrevinas@stmarytx.edu)). Thank you for your patience as we continue the migration of data to the University’s new computer system.

## GUANAJUATO SUMMER LAW INSTITUTE

Are you interested in **studying abroad** and getting some credit hours out of the way during the summer? If so, then join us for an **informational meeting** about the **Guanajuato Summer Law Institute** on **Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 12:00 noon**, Sarita Kenedy Law Library **Alumni Room**. Pizza and beverages will be served.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOCK TRIAL TEAM

From November 12 to 16<sup>th</sup>, one of our mock trial teams, **Thom Nisbet, Jason Goss, Anna Brunkenhoefer, Melissa Gunnels**, and alternates **Aissa Garza and Jeff Finley**, placed third overall at the **National Civil Trial Competition** held at **Loyola School of Law in Los Angeles, California**.

This national tournament is an **invitation-only** competition and is considered to be one of the most **prestigious advocacy competitions** in the United States. The St. Mary's team, competing for the first time in this tournament, bested all schools from Texas and other

institutions ranked in the U.S. News and World Report "Top 10" advocacy programs in the nation. One criterion of admission into this tournament is prior admission into the annual **National Tournament of Champions** (sponsored by NITA) and a school's record in the National Trial Competition (NTC). (St. Mary's received the invitation for this year's competition after competing against Loyola School of Law-Los Angeles, last Spring in the NTC. That school's coach/tournament director was impressed with our team's ability and professionalism). **St. Mary's was the only school present that had not previously been ranked in the Top 10** in the nation in U.S. News and World Report or that had not competed in the Tournament of Champions.

Our team lost to Loyola of Chicago in the semi-final round — the school that eventually took the championship in the final round.

After the announcement of St. Mary's accomplishment at an **awards banquet** held by the host school on Saturday evening, the **St. Mary's team received a standing ovation** recognizing this tremendous feat for a team competing in the competition for the first time. Advocate **Thom Nisbet** received additional accolades by being named 1st runner up as "**Best Overall Advocate.**"

The team was coached by **Bill Squires** and **Cliff Herberg** with the assistance of Advocacy Fellow **Allison Skipper**.

Please congratulate the coaches and team members, and all of the others who contributed to making this great showing on the national stage. They have made us proud!

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Fall 2008 Negotiations Competition Winners**  
**Sponsored by Ceasefire**

The **Board of Advocates** would like to congratulate the Fall 2008 **Negotiations Competition** winning teams. The winners are **Adam Braaten** and **Bonnie Kirkland**. The runner-up team was **Blair Gates** and **Andria Aguayo**. Please join us in congratulating them. Thank you also to all the competitors for their continued support of advocacy at St. Mary's.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED**

Professor Gary Liu is looking for a student **research assistant** to help with a food safety law project. The work involves online researching, copying, printing and organizing materials. **Hours are flexible**. Please **contact Professor Liu** at [cliu@stmarytx.edu](mailto:cliu@stmarytx.edu).

**WEBCASTING OF TEXAS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS**

St. Mary's Law School hosts the **live webcasting** of the **Texas Supreme Court's** oral arguments. Under an agreement with the Texas Office of Court Administration, the University

supplies the technological support and personnel for the project. This is a wonderful opportunity for the public at large and our law school community to **see and hear the arguments live**, over the internet. We are one of only a handful of law schools in the nation that provide this unique access to live webcasting of oral arguments.

You can **access the arguments** from a link on the home page of the law school's website and from the Advocacy Programs pages on the law school's website. From those same links you can **access archived oral arguments** that have been broadcast since Spring 2007. When you access the page for the webcasting (hosted by Mediasite) you can also access links to the briefs filed in the case (pdf).

The **most recent** of oral arguments were held on November 12 and 13. The following summarizes those cases. If you have any questions about the webcasting of the arguments, please contact Professor Schlueter.

*State of Texas v. George Lueck*

The issues in this Whistleblower Act case are (1) whether Lueck, a Texas Transportation Department employee fired for questioning an outside vendor's contract termination, properly stated a claim under the act to confer jurisdiction on the trial court and (2) whether, if so, he properly reported violation of a state or federal law to an appropriate law-enforcement authority.

*In re James Allen Hall*

The principal issue is whether an adult held over from juvenile-delinquency confinement on a 40-year determinate sentence has a right to an attorney for a habeas corpus action.

*In Re Lester Collins, M.D.*

The principal issues in the medical-malpractice case are (1) whether the trial court abused its discretion by prohibiting ex parte communication with non-party physicians and health-care providers who treated the plaintiff and listed by her on the statutory schedule for disclosure and release; (2) whether Civil Practices and Remedies Code section 74.052 prohibits ex parte communications with the med-mal plaintiff's physicians and health-care providers; and (3) whether federal law (HIPAA) prohibits ex parte communications and preempts section 74.052.

*In re Department of Family & Protective Services*

The issues in this parental-rights termination case are (1) whether the trial court's new-trial order after the statutory dismissal deadline vacated a termination order rendered before the deadline passed; (2) whether an objection based on the trial court's failure to dismiss was waived because it came after the new-trial order; (3) whether mandamus relief is appropriate when the state can pursue an accelerated appeal; and (4) whether Family Code section 263.401(b) restrictions are jurisdictional.

*Mann Frankfort Stein & Lipp Advisors Inc, et al. v. Brendan J. Fielding*

Principal issues arising from this declaratory-judgment action are (1) whether a provision requiring an accountant to purchase clients if he left the firm was ancillary to his employment



agreement and an enforceable covenant not to compete; (2) whether the Covenants Not to Compete Act preempts the plaintiff's attorneys fees claim; and (3) whether the client-purchase provisions are severable.

*Walter E. Harrell v. State of Texas*

The principal issues are (1) whether the state is required to follow garnishment procedures to take money from a prisoner's inmate trust account to pay for his court-appointed attorney and court fees and (2) whether the court of appeals had jurisdiction to hear Harrell's appeal.

*Lauri Smith and Howard Smith v. Patrick W.Y. Tam Trust*

The principal issue is whether \$47,000 in attorneys fees are reasonable when the judgment obtained was for \$65,000, less than a third of what was sought.

### COMPLETION OF LEGAL STUDIES

A celebration in honor of the **December Completion of Legal Studies** will be held on **Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Ernest Raba** Law Faculty building. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate. Students completing their legal studies in December should contact Sister Grace at 210.436.3063 or [gwall@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwall@stmarytx.edu) with questions or schedule conflicts.

### END OF SEMESTER CELEBRATION

The **ESBA** is hosting a family-oriented **end-of-semester party** on **December 13, 2008** from **6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** at the **Lou Hamilton Community Center, 10700 Nacogdoches Road**. All law students and their families are invited to attend. Please contact Tiffany House [utsatiff@aol.com](mailto:utsatiff@aol.com) or Cari Rangel [crangel2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:crangel2@mail.stmarytx.edu) if you will be attending, or would like more information.

### FEAST OF SHARING

The **Evening Student Bar Association (ESBA)** will be volunteering at **The Feast of Sharing** from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 20, 2008** at the **Henry B. Gonzalez Center**. The Feast of Sharing is a **community event** that provides Holiday food, fun and entertainment for thousands of people from the San Antonio and surrounding areas. The event is **sponsored by HEB** and coordinated by the **United Way of San Antonio**. In years past, entertainment has included Patsy Torres, Emilio and many more.

If you would like to be involved, **please contact Nicole** at [monsi320@gmail.com](mailto:monsi320@gmail.com) by no later than **Monday, December 1, 2008**. This is a great opportunity to be involved in community service **during the break and help** out over 15,000 people!

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The **Law School Financial Aid** office staff, Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna, will join the Business Office and the University Financial Aid Office in Banner training sessions over the next few weeks. The training sessions will be held **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** mornings. The Office of Financial Assistance will be **CLOSED** between **8:00 a.m.** and **10:15 a.m.** on these days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS KAPLAN PMBR

The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, November 21, 2008**. The price will go up after November 21<sup>st</sup>. Place your deposits NOW to lock in the best rate available to you this year.

1Ls - \$100  
2Ls - \$100  
3Ls - \$200

Also, 3Ls, as a special promotional offer, if you **enroll in any MBE course before November 21<sup>st</sup>**, you get an **upgrade to Premium for free!**

- 1,000 additional practice questions and **\*\*\* THIS IS A \$200 VALUE \*\*\***
- 32 hours of MP3 audio lectures

**3Ls: All February bar takers MUST be paid in full by November 21<sup>st</sup>.**

- **Questions?** Have PMBR questions or want to sign up for the courses? Contact any of the following PMBR representatives or stop by the PMBR table in the Law Classroom buildig.
- Feel free to email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu)

### Kaplan PMBR Reps

Kennedy Granger  
Andrea Aguilar  
Joseph Strickland

Gema Lopez  
Nicole Hines-Glover  
Neysa Lujan

Betty Lam  
Bridget Clay  
Sun Je Lee

### Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule

**Mon:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Tue:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Wed:** 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**.Thu:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.      **Fri:** 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## **JUDICIAL INTERN OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

The **ABA Section of Litigation** is now accepting applications for its **Summer 2009 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program** for second-year law students. Beginning December 1, it will accept applications for first-year students. The program places minority or financially disadvantaged law students with state and federal judges for summer internships. Applications are due no later than **December 31, 2008**. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop](http://www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop) or contact Gail Howard at [howardg@staff.abanet.org](mailto:howardg@staff.abanet.org).

## **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**Battle of the Bands** is happening this **Spring, February 21, 2009**. This is early to advertise, but know it takes time and practice to make music. The event is bring-your-own-liquor and will be five dollars per ticket. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post along the San Antonio River. There is a bar available for beer and mixers, and there will be a grill sparked up for edibles. Currently, we are **looking for musicians and volunteers** to help put on the show. If you have a band, know a friend with a band, play acoustic, or just want to sing or play solo **SIGN UP!** Tabling will occur in the next few weeks for volunteers and performers. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets at the beginning of next semester. If you have any questions please look at the SBA website <http://stmaryxsba.com/> or contact Byron Miller: [bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu), carrel #226, 512.825.3093.

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 16

January 12, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## UNITED STATES JUDICIAL CONFERENCE'S STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

On **January 12-13, 2009**, St. Mary's University School of Law will host a meeting of the **United States Judicial Conference's Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure**, commonly called the "Standing Committee." This Committee is charged with reviewing and amending the various Rules of Procedure used in the Federal Courts: Appellate, Bankruptcy, Civil, Criminal, and Evidence. The Committee reviews and coordinates the recommendations from the five advisory committees for those various rules and in turn recommends proposed rules changes to the Judicial Conference, chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The **Supreme Court** reviews any proposed rules changes and forwards them to Congress, which can reject or accept them.

The Standing Committee and five advisory committees are composed of federal judges, law professors, state Supreme Court chief justices, practitioners, and representatives of the Department of Justice. In addition, each committee has a "reporter"—a law professor—who coordinates the committees' agendas and drafts proposed amendments and accompanying committee notes. **Judge Lee H. Rosenthal**, a federal district judge from Houston, is the current chair of the Committee. The current reporter is **Professor Dan Coquillete**, former Dean of Boston College of Law, and currently a member of the faculties of Harvard School of Law and Boston College School of Law.

The meeting, which is **open to the public**, will be held in the **Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library** on the law school's campus. **Professor Dave Schlueter**, who served as the Reporter for the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Advisory Committee for 17 years, stated that the law students and legal community will have a unique opportunity to

witness first hand the process for considering amendments to the various federal rules. Normally, the Committee meets twice a year: once in Washington, D.C. and once at another location. Schlueter also stated that the school is very grateful for the assistance of **Judge Pat Higginbotham**, a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and a visiting professor of law at the Law School, who helped arrange for the Committee to meet at our law school.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CITYWIDE MARCH**

*“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”* Martin Luther King Jr.

On **January 19, 2009**, St Mary’s School of Law **student organizations** will have a great opportunity to join together hand in hand and show the community of San Antonio the prominence of our student body. The 19th of January is celebrated around the country as day of peace, love, and brotherhood. The **Black Law Student Association (BLSA)** is asking every organization to join hand in hand and march together in the annual citywide Martin Luther King Jr. march in San Antonio, Texas. Martin Luther King day is not just a day for African-Americans, but for all Americans. BLSA would love to see at least four participants from every organization in the march. We are asking that every organization participant wear their organization shirts. If an organization does not have a shirt, we ask for the participants to wear a St. Mary School of Law shirt. More information forthcoming.

### **ST. MARY’S TO HOST NATIONAL ARBITRATION COMPETITION**

On **January 23-24, 2009**, St. Mary’s University School of Law will be hosting the **2009 National Finals of the Arbitration Competition**, conducted by the ABA Law Student Division and the National Arbitration Forum. Teams from fourteen law schools, who have won their regional competitions, will be represented.

All of the competition hearings will be held on the Law School campus. The two **preliminary rounds** will be held on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four teams will break to the **semi-final rounds** on Saturday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup>, with the **final round** on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup>, at the law school’s state-of-the-art courtroom. Current plans are to webcast the final round. The Law School’s **Board of Advocates** will be providing the essential logistical support for this national competition.

**Law Professor Dave Schlueter**, Director of Advocacy Programs, stated that the competition provides another opportunity to showcase the school’s strong and nationally-recognized reputation as a school dedicated to advocacy skills. He added that the competition

also provides the Board of Advocates with an opportunity to host coaches and students from other law schools.

If **you are interested** in serving as an arbitrator judge for the preliminary or semi-final rounds, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter at 210-431-2212.

### **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

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### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the Texas Access to Justice Commission in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

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The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to

participate.. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

**NEW** – The **American Inns of Court** presents the Warren E. Burger prize, \$5,000 for the winning unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic of your choice addressing issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Entry deadline is **June 15, 2009**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or [www.innsocourt.org](http://www.innsocourt.org).

**The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2009 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject may be on any federal or state tax topic and is open to all J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. law students. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please go to [www.tannenwald.org](http://www.tannenwald.org). Entry deadline is **July 1, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 17

January 19, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## **THE MULTISTATE BAR EXAM (MBE) HAS CHANGED**

*Are You Ready?*

### **Don't Miss the 3L Bar Exam Information Session**

- Updates on the new MBE format
- Learn about BarBri's new MBE workshops
- Free lunch! (not pizza!)

**Thursday, January 22, 2009 – 12:00 p.m.**

*(but drop by anytime before 1:00)*

**Alumni Room**

Hosted by St. Mary's Law grad, R.C. Mosier, Associate Director of Texas BarBri

## **DO YOU WANT A 90% CHANCE TO PASS THE BAR?**

Have lunch with the MBE experts and learn how our highly personalized course can help you pass the bar. Join us on **Wednesday, January 21, 2009 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**. Lunch will be served. Did you know?

- Both the Dean's office and the Alumni Association want you to take Kaplan PMBR.
- In recent surveys to our students they agreed – our questions are more exam-like than those found in other courses.
- 65% of our students found the MBE section to be the hardest part of the bar.
- And yes, 90% of our students pass the bar!

## LEGAL MENTORING SEMINAR

The **State Bar of Texas** Law Student's Division is hosting a **Legal Mentoring Seminar** on **Wednesday, January 21, 2009** from **12:00 to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Learn the ins and outs of practicing in specialized fields of law. **Frank Ruttenburg**, Business Law and D.A. **Rene Guerra**, Criminal Justice, will share their insights and experiences with you and conclude their program with a question and answer session. Lunch will be provided.

## LAW MINISTRY WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON/ DINNER

Law Ministry will host a **luncheon** for our day program students on **Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in the Foyer of the Law Faculty Building. A **dinner will also be served** on the same day from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** for our **evening program students**. Please join us at lunch or dinner to learn about pro bono events such as the Wills Clinic, Ask-A-Lawyer and Vita. Information will be available on alternative **Spring Break** trips, the Sarah Thompson Innsbruck **essay contest**, the upcoming **University-wide Service Day**. Also, Law Ministry will offer the **second semester blessing** of service and community. Everyone is invited for good food and fellowship.

## THE INSIDE SCOOP: A STUDENT PANEL PRESENTATION ON JOBS & OTHER OPTIONS

It is not too early to **start planning** for THIS summer and NEXT academic year. Students will give the inside perspective on jobs and other opportunities at **The Inside Scoop: A Student Panel Presentation on Jobs and Other Options**, set for **Thursday, January 22, 2009** from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium**, Law Administration Building. They will share the pros and cons of getting a job, going to summer school, going to Innsbruck, doing volunteer work, having a judicial clerkship and will tell you how to accomplish these options. 1L and Evening students in particular should attend since obtaining a legal job after the first year may be tough. The 1L and Evening students need to hear that **there are very good, worthwhile alternatives**. 1L students are, of course, prohibited from working during their first academic year but usually do not realize how long it may take to line up a summer opportunity. This is a great chance to get your questions answered from those in the know so be sure to attend.

## ST. MARY'S TO HOST NATIONAL ARBITRATION COMPETITION

On **January 23-24, 2009**, St. Mary's University School of Law will be hosting the **2009 National Finals of the Arbitration Competition**, conducted by the ABA Law Student Division and the National Arbitration Forum. Teams from fourteen law schools, who have won their regional competitions, will be represented.

All of the competition hearings will be held on the Law School campus. The two **preliminary rounds** will be held on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four teams will break to the **semi-final rounds** on Saturday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup>, with the **final round** on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup>, at the law school's state-of-the-art courtroom. Current plans are to webcast the final round. The Law School's **Board of Advocates** will be providing the essential logistical support for this national competition.

**Law Professor Dave Schlueter**, Director of Advocacy Programs, stated that the competition provides another opportunity to showcase the school's strong and nationally-recognized reputation as a school dedicated to advocacy skills. He added that the competition also provides the Board of Advocates with an opportunity to host coaches and students from other law schools.

If **you are interested** in serving as an arbitrator judge for the preliminary or semi-final rounds, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter at 210-431-2212.

### **CONTINUING THE HERITAGE OF SERVICE**

St. Mary's University School of Law continues its **heritage of pro bono work** in coordination with the **University-wide service day on Saturday, January 24, 2009**. You may volunteer your time, energy and talent to either Habitat for Humanity, WINGS for Life or the Children's Shelter. Habitat for Humanity will meet 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. You may volunteer at any given time. Location will be the Palo Alto Community on Cococino Drive. WINGS for Life is a shelter for at-risk teen mothers in need of refurbishing their facility located at 1104 Country Lane, Marion, Texas. The Children's Shelter provides local care for abused and neglected children. You will work with children by providing lunch and an activity. 12:00 noon. For more information or to become a program coordinator, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at (210) 436-3063 or email [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **ESSAY ADVANTAGE WORKSHOP**

This is a reminder that the **Essay Advantage Workshop** will be offered **Saturday, January 24, 2009** from **1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** in the **University Center, Conference Room A**. This is a live, one-day, interactive essay writing workshop that teaches a systematic method for approaching and writing bar exam essays. Mike Sims, a nationally recognized expert on bar exam essay success, will conduct the workshop. On **Sunday, January 25, 2009** from **1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** we will offer a **simulated bar essay exam** in **LC 101**.

Individuals who plan to take the **February 2009** or **July 2009 bar exam** should attend the workshop and the simulated essay exam session. The workshop fee is \$95 for St. Mary's Students and \$125 for students from other law schools. Dean Cantu has graciously agreed to financially sponsor the first 75 St. Mary's students who enroll. Thanks to the Dean's support, the first 75 students will pay only \$45. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m., so make plans to arrive early.

Enrollment forms may be requested at [academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu](mailto:academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu). Please submit the enrollment form and your payment to the Office of Academic Excellence, LF 106 A & D. I hope to see you next weekend!

## **CLONING AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS A LECTURE WITH DR. FRANCIS J. BECKWITH**

Please join us on **Monday, January 26, 2009** for a lecture on **Cloning and Reproductive Rights** with **Dr. Francis J. Beckwith**. The event will be held in **Law Classroom 101 at 1:00 p.m.** Dr. Beckwith is a Professor of Philosophy & Church-Studies at **Baylor University** and the author of numerous books, articles, and papers, specializing in politics, jurisprudence, religion, and applied ethics. He is **currently on the faculty** of the **The University of Notre Dame** as the Mary Ann Remick Senior Visiting Fellow in Notre Dame's Center for Ethics & Culture. This lecture is presented by **The St. Mary's Chapter of The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies**. For more information, please contact [sarmstrong1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:sarmstrong1@mail.stmarytx.edu) or visit [www.fed-soc.org](http://www.fed-soc.org).

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*The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* announces **The Scholar's 2009 'Women and the Law Symposium.'** This program will address various topics pertaining to women and the law. Attendees will earn 6.5 ABA approved CLE hours, including 2 hours of ethics. **Speakers will be** Chief Justice Alma Lopez, 4<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, Donna McElroy, Cox, Smith, Matthews, Inc., Sara Buel, Professor of Law, University of Texas School of Law, Judi Craig, Ph.D., MCC, Senior Practice Advisor, Atticus, Inc., author of *Women Attorneys Speak Out! How Practicing Law is Different for Women Than for Men*, will also be available for a special book-signing session after her presentation, Linda Brandmiller, Director of Immigration Services, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bill Piatt, Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law and Dayla S. Pepi, Clinical Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law. The event will be held on **Friday, January 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at the St. Mary's **University Center**. Registration fee for STMU students is \$25.00. Registration **deadline** is Friday, January 23, 2009. To register or for more information, please contact Francisca Perez at (210) 431-4229 or email [fperez1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:fperez1@stmarytx.edu) or [scholarsymposium@stmarytx.edu](mailto:scholarsymposium@stmarytx.edu).

## **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous



representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's  
Office, Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

## **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**Battle of the Bands** is happening **February 21, 2009**. The event is bring-your-own-liquor and tickets are \$5.00 each. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post along the San Antonio River. There is a bar available for beer and mixers, and there will be a grill sparked up for edibles. Currently, we are **looking for musicians and volunteers** to help put on the show. If you have a band, know a friend with a band, play acoustic, or just want to sing or play solo **SIGN UP!** Tabling will occur in the next few weeks for volunteers and performers. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets at the beginning of next semester. If you have any questions please check the SBA website <http://stmarytxsba.com/> or contact Byron Miller: [bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu), carrel #226, 512.825.3093.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

**STATE BAR OF TEXAS INSURANCE TRUST**  
**OFFERS TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**

The **State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust** is pleased to announce the implementation of a new Guaranteed Issue Student Group Term Life Insurance plan for all law students of record at Texas law schools effective January 1, 2009. The **availability** for this product will be the first day of classes second semester. Each student will be eligible to obtain \$50,000 of group term life insurance without having to provide proof of good health.

The coverage is guaranteed issue only if the student enrolls in the plan within 90 days of the first day of classes second semester using the appropriate form provided to the school (attached). It should be noted that students not enrolling within the 90 day special enrollment period are still eligible to apply for coverage at a later date, however, approval will then be subject to evidence of insurability.

This is a very important benefit because every law student regardless of their health will have the guarantee of receiving \$50,000 of term life insurance provided they enroll during the special enrollment period. The State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust also has other plans available to law students the same as for attorney members of the Bar including health insurance and dental insurance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to make this coverage option available to all law students during the initial enrollment period we are extending the offer this **one time only** to 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year law students during the 2008/2009 school year. All future "guaranteed issue" offerings will be made available only to incoming freshmen each year. Please email Bebe Gonzales, [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) for application and plan brochure.

## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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## THE SCHOLAR'S 2009 WOMEN AND THE LAW SYMPOSIUM

*The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* announces **The Scholar's 2009 'Women and the Law Symposium.'** This program will address various topics pertaining to women and the law. Attendees will earn 6.5 ABA approved CLE hours, including 2 hours of ethics. **Speakers will be** Chief Justice Alma Lopez, 4<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, Donna McElroy, Cox, Smith, Matthews, Inc., Sara Buel, Professor of Law, University of Texas School of Law, Judi Craig, Ph.D., MCC, Senior Practice Advisor, Atticus, Inc., author of *Women Attorneys Speak Out! How Practicing Law is Different for Women Than for Men*, will also be available for a special book-signing session after her presentation, Linda Brandmiller, Director of Immigration Services, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bill Piatt, Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law and Dayla S. Pepi, Clinical Professor of Law, St. Mary's

University School of Law. The event will be held on **Friday, January 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at the St. Mary's **University Center**. Registration fee for STMU students is \$25.00. Registration **deadline** is Friday, January 23, 2009. To register or for more information, please contact Francisca Perez at (210) 431-4229 or email [fperez1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:fperez1@stmarytx.edu) or [scholarsymposium@stmarytx.edu](mailto:scholarsymposium@stmarytx.edu).

### **JUDGES NEEDED FOR FIRST YEAR MOOT COURT**

The **Board of Advocates** is currently looking for second and third year students interested in volunteering to judge the preliminary rounds of the **2009 First Year Moot Court Competition**. The rounds start Monday, March 23 and end Thursday, March 26. If you are interested in judging first year moot court, please contact Ali Crocker at [alicrocker@gmail.com](mailto:alicrocker@gmail.com) with your name, telephone number, email address, and availability before Friday, February 20 by 5:00 p.m.

### **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

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**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry,

political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**Battle of the Bands** is happening **February 21, 2009**. The event is bring-your-own-liquor and tickets are \$5.00 each. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post along the San Antonio River. There is a bar available for beer and mixers, and there will be a grill sparked up for edibles. Currently, we are **looking for musicians and volunteers** to help put on the show. If you have a band, know a friend with a band, play acoustic, or just want to sing or play solo **SIGN UP!** Tabling will occur in the next few weeks for volunteers and performers. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets at the beginning of next semester. If you have any questions please check the SBA website <http://stmarytxsba.com/> or contact Byron Miller: [bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:bmiller2@mail.stmarytx.edu), carrel #226, 512.825.3093.

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **STATE BAR OF TEXAS INSURANCE TRUST OFFERS TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**

The **State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust** is pleased to announce the implementation of a



new Guaranteed Issue Student Group Term Life Insurance plan for all law students of record at Texas law schools effective January 1, 2009. The **availability** for this product will be the first day of classes second semester. Each student will be eligible to obtain \$50,000 of group term life insurance without having to provide proof of good health.

The coverage is guaranteed issue only if the student enrolls in the plan within 90 days of the first day of classes second semester using the appropriate form provided to the school (attached). It should be noted that students not enrolling within the 90 day special enrollment period are still eligible to apply for coverage at a later date, however, approval will then be subject to evidence of insurability.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to make this coverage option available to all law students during the initial enrollment period we are extending the offer this **one time only** to 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year law students during the 2008/2009 school year. All future “guaranteed issue” offerings will be made available only to incoming freshmen each year. Please email Bebe Gonzales, [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) for application and plan brochure.

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Public Justice, America’s Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2009 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. A \$5,000 cash award will be given to the author of the winning essay. The 2009 topic is *Pollution Preemption: Federal Preemption of State Tort Law and Environmental Protection..* Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 30, 2009**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2009. For more information please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) or <http://www.publicjustice.net/Essay%20Contest/essaycontest.htm>.

**The American Indian Law Review** (AILR) is pleased to announce its annual writing competition. Papers will be accepted on any issue concerning American Indian Law. First place will be awarded \$1,000 and publication of paper in the AILR, an official periodical of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Second place is \$500 and third place is \$250. Deadline is **January 31, 2009**.

Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law announces its 2008-2009 **Trandafir International Business** Writing

Competition. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded. Winning essay will also be published in *Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*, a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. Entry deadline is **February 1, 2009**. For rules and eligibility, please see <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp/trandafir.php>.

The 2009 **Bert W. Levit** Essay Contest, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 20, 2009**. Contest rules and information are posted online at [www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html).

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Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) announce the **Sarah Weddington** Writing Prize Call for Submissions. LSRJ is accepting submissions for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual writing prize. The theme this year is "Seeking Reproductive Justice in All Places for All People." Winning authors will receive a \$750 (1<sup>st</sup> place) or \$250 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and get published on LSRJ's website. For more information please visit [www.lsrj.org](http://www.lsrj.org). Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2009**.

The *Houston Journal of International Law* invites you to compete for the James Baker Hughes Prize, awarded to the best unpublished student-written manuscript on the subject of international economic law. Cash award is \$500. **Deadline** for submission is **March 9, 2009**.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.



# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 19

February 2, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

The annual **People's Law School** will be held at St. Mary's on **Saturday, February 21, 2009** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Law Classroom Building. The People's Law School is a **free public seminar** featuring local attorneys who are experts in their fields. This year's agenda includes presentations in the following areas: wills, social security, family law, immigration, employment, and bankruptcy law. Student volunteers are needed for this event, which is co-sponsored by the **San Antonio Bar Foundation** and **Sister Grace's Law Ministry**. Volunteer hours also qualify for pro bono credit. This is an excellent opportunity to meet local attorneys while providing a valuable service to the community. To sign up, please email [esernal@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:esernal@mail.stmarytx.edu).

## FEBRUARY CAREER SERVICES EVENTS

Please drop by the **Legal Employer Information Fair, Wednesday, February 4** from **11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.** in the **Law Classroom Building Lobby** (on the soccer field side). Representatives from different areas of the law, such as Big Firm, Corporate, Federal Government, Military, Solo Practitioner, Public Interest, State Government, the District Attorney, Small/Medium Firm, and Judicial will be available to answer questions in a no-pressure format. It's an excellent way for all students, especially 1L and Evening students, to find out about the different areas of law. Surely you will be able to find time to cruise by, meet some lawyers, get questions answered and, of course, be eligible to win prizes. This will be a drop-in affair so you do not need to be present the entire time and you do not need to dress up or bring your resume. But you never know what might happen...one student got offered a job on the spot during the Fair!

A representative from the **Department of Justice** wants all students to attend a power point presentation, “**Do Your Legal Career Justice**” on **Monday, February 9**, from **noon-1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library. You will learn about the opportunities available with the Department of Justice, the advantages of working for the government and the way to apply. Come learn about job possibilities and network, too.

On **Thursday, February 19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, a representative from the **CIA-NCS** will conduct an informational session in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library, for all students about career options.

The practice area of Bankruptcy Law is hot, hot, hot! **The Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas** wants all students to know about this thriving and active practice area. **When? Tuesday, February 24 Noon-1:15 p.m.** **Where?** Law Classroom 103. **Who?** United States Bankruptcy Judge Ronald B. King and Deborah D. Williamson with Cox Smith Matthews, Inc. The presentation will cover a general discussion of Bankruptcy practice; potential Bankruptcy careers; a judge’s perspective regarding insights on effective practice; and, best of all, your questions! **ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!**

Planning on practicing in Bexar County? Don’t miss “**Tips for Bexar County Practice–Local Rules and More**” by **Amber M. Liddell Alwais**, Former Staff Attorney, Bexar County Civil District Court Administration, (now with McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing, LLP), **Wednesday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, Law Library Alumni Room. \*Explaining different dockets \*How to get court appointments \*Decorum \*Surviving Presiding Court. This is a must program for all students. Recent grads are welcome, too. A very comprehensive and instructive handout will be distributed.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!**  
**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION**  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L’S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendoza@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgement of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgement on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### **1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

### **SARAH THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND INNSBRUCK 2009 SCHOLARSHIP**

In honor of **Sarah Thompson's** memory, the School of Law is providing **three scholarships** in the amounts of \$500, \$1,200 and \$1,800 for three law students to attend the **2009 Innsbruck Program**. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and (1) demonstrate how international legal study and travel would benefit your legal education and (2) demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the

elderly. **Deadline to enter is Wednesday, March 4, 2009.** For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **ALTERNATIVE LAW SCHOOL IMMERSION TRIPS**

We are beginning to plan the **Alternative Law School Immersion** trips to be held during 2009 Spring Break, **March 9-13**. Plans are underway for immersion trips to New Orleans, McAllen and possibly a Houston/Galveston site. Home repair, building assistance (with legal research), immigration (intake information) in McAllen, are but a few projects identified by our host agencies. The Law School will assist with providing transportation (car pooling or van) and housing. Food will be provided at work sites. Dinner and social activities are on your own. Meet with our Law Alumni in the region and learn more about recovery efforts and colonia development in the Valley. Touring and fun will be built into the schedule. To sign up or for more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### ***A CLASS APART***

#### **World Premiere Film Screening**

The **Museo Alameda** in affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution presents ***A Class Apart***, a film by Carlos Sandoval and Peter Miller. In 1954 Gus Garcia, Carlos Cadena, and a legal team of San Antonio based attorneys argued a landmark case at the United States Supreme Court. *Hernández v. Texas* was a case about field hand Pedro Hernández' murder of his employer in Edna, Texas.. From this case emerged a landmark civil rights case that would forever change the lives and legal standing of tens of millions of Americans. The film will premiere on **Monday, February 2, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at the **Museo Alameda, 101 S. Santa Rosa**. Introduction will be made by **Chief Justice Alma Lopez** followed by discussion with filmmaker Carlos Sandoval. A reception will follow the premiere. Tickets are \$100. To reserve your seat or to make a donation to support the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture and the UTSA Institute for Law and Public Affairs, please call 210.299.6318. *A Class Apart* will also air on PBS on Monday, February 23, 2009.

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# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 20

February 9, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW LECTURE A Lecture by Dr. Yuriy Nosik, Visiting Fulbright Scholar**

On **Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Law Classroom 101**, Dr. Yuriy Nosik, a visiting **Fulbright Scholar** from the **Ukraine** will present a lecture entitled: "**Intellectual Property Law in Ukraine**". The lecture will cover the evolution of the main stages of IP legislation in Ukraine, the current system of IP law, and Ukrainian efforts in the field of international protection of IP rights. The process of codification of IP legislation in Ukraine will be contrasted to the newest legislative solutions in the IP sphere of Russia. Everyone is invited.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ASK-A-LAWYER LEGAL CLINIC**

First-, second-, and third-year law student volunteers are needed for the **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** to be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** at **Avenida Guadalupe Center, in the Progreso Community Center, 1313 Guadalupe**, San Antonio, Texas, 78207. Student volunteers will aid individuals seeking information about legal issues who otherwise may not be able to afford legal services. Past cases have included, but are not limited to custody, divorce, immigration, bankruptcy, identity theft, estate planning, probate, and employment issues. This is an engaging and fun **service to community**. All students who have volunteered in the past have stated this was one of their greatest experiences in law school. You will **gain experience** speaking directly with clients facing real legal issues. You will also have an opportunity to meet attorneys and earn pro bono service hours toward your certificate. No registration is required. Just **show up between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m.** Professional dress attire is not



required. However please note that you are representing yourself as a future attorney to the community. Food and drinks will be provided. **For more information** please contact Austin Sanford at [austinsand@hotmail.com](mailto:austinsand@hotmail.com) or call David Morales, Immigration Department of Catholic Charities, 210.433.3256, ext. 124. The **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's School of Law.

### **PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL**

The annual **People's Law School** will be held at St. Mary's on **Saturday, February 21, 2009** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Law Classroom Building. The People's Law School is a **free public seminar** featuring local attorneys who are experts in their fields. This year's agenda includes presentations in the following areas: wills, social security, family law, immigration, employment, and bankruptcy law. Student volunteers are needed for this event, which is co-sponsored by the **San Antonio Bar Foundation** and **Sister Grace's Law Ministry**. Volunteer hours also qualify for pro bono credit. This is an excellent opportunity to meet local attorneys while providing a valuable service to the community. To sign up, please email [esernal@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:esernal@mail.stmarytx.edu).

### **ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. **Law Ministry** will host **Ash Wednesday Liturgy** on **February 25, 2009** from **11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A liturgy will also be held in the **Law Classroom** building for the evening program students beginning at **5:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend either service.

### **FEBRUARY CAREER SERVICES EVENTS**

A representative from the **Department of Justice** wants all students to attend a power point presentation, "**Do Your Legal Career Justice**" on **Monday, February 9**, from **noon-1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library. You will learn about the opportunities available with the Department of Justice, the advantages of working for the government and the way to apply. Come learn about job possibilities and network, too.

On **Thursday, February 19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, a representative from the **CIA-NCS** will conduct an informational session in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library, for all students about career options.

The practice area of Bankruptcy Law is hot, hot, hot! **The Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas** wants all students to know about this thriving and active practice area. **When? Tuesday, February 24 Noon-1:15 p.m. Where? Law Classroom 103. Who? United States Bankruptcy Judge Ronald B. King and Deborah D. Williamson with Cox Smith Matthews, Inc.** The presentation will cover a general discussion of Bankruptcy practice; potential

Bankruptcy careers; a judge's perspective regarding insights on effective practice; and, best of all, your questions! ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

Planning on practicing in Bexar County? Don't miss "**Tips for Bexar County Practice—Local Rules and More**" by **Amber M. Liddell Alwais**, Former Staff Attorney, Bexar County Civil District Court Administration, (now with McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing, LLP), **Wednesday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, Law Library Alumni Room. \*Explaining different dockets \*How to get court appointments \*Decorum \*Surviving Presiding Court. This is a must program for all students. Recent grads are welcome, too. A very comprehensive and instructive handout will be distributed.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!**  
**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION**  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendozal@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendozal@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**

## 1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

## SARAH THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND INNSBRUCK 2009 SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of **Sarah Thompson's** memory, the School of Law is providing **three scholarships** in the amounts of \$500, \$1,200 and \$1,800 for three law students to attend the **2009 Innsbruck Program**. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and (1) demonstrate how international legal study and travel would benefit your legal education and (2) demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. **Deadline to enter is Wednesday, March 4, 2009**. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210.436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

## ALTERNATIVE LAW SCHOOL IMMERSION TRIPS

We are beginning to plan the **Alternative Law School Immersion** trips to be held during 2009 Spring Break, **March 9-13**. Plans are underway for immersion trips to New Orleans, McAllen and possibly a Houston/Galveston site. Home repair, building assistance (with legal research), immigration (intake information) in McAllen, are but a few projects identified by our host agencies. The Law School will assist with providing transportation (car pooling or van) and housing. Food will be provided at work sites. Dinner and social activities are on your own. Meet with our Law Alumni in the region and learn more about recovery efforts and colonia

development in the Valley. Touring and fun will be built into the schedule. To sign up or for more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **JUDGES NEEDED FOR FIRST YEAR MOOT COURT**

The **Board of Advocates** is currently looking for second and third year students interested in volunteering to judge the preliminary rounds of the **2009 First Year Moot Court Competition**. The rounds start Monday, March 23 and end Thursday, March 26. If you are interested in judging first year moot court, please contact Ali Crocker at [alicrocker@gmail.com](mailto:alicrocker@gmail.com) with your name, telephone number, email address, and availability before **Friday, February 20** by 5:00 p.m.

### **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

**STATE BAR OF TEXAS INSURANCE TRUST**  
**OFFERS TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**

The **State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust** is pleased to announce the implementation of a new Guaranteed Issue Student Group Term Life Insurance plan for all law students of record at Texas law schools effective January 1, 2009. The **availability** for this product will be the first day of classes second semester. Each student will be eligible to obtain \$50,000 of group term life insurance without having to provide proof of good health.

The coverage is guaranteed issue only if the student enrolls in the plan within 90 days of the first day of classes second semester using the appropriate form provided to the school (attached). It should be noted that students not enrolling within the 90 day special enrollment period are still eligible to apply for coverage at a later date, however, approval will then be subject to evidence of insurability.

This is a very important benefit because every law student regardless of their health will have the guarantee of receiving \$50,000 of term life insurance provided they enroll during the special enrollment period. The State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust also has other plans available to law students the same as for attorney members of the Bar including health insurance and dental insurance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to make this coverage option available to all law students during the initial enrollment period we are extending the offer this **one time only** to 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year law students during the 2008/2009 school year. All future “guaranteed issue” offerings will be made available only to incoming freshmen each year. Please email Bebe Gonzales, [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) for application and plan brochure.

## **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The 2009 **Bert W. Levit** Essay Contest, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers’ Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 20, 2009**. Contest rules and information are posted online at [www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html).

The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF)** is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Program for Latino law students. The **PRBA Scholarship Award is \$2,000**. All applicants must be a first or second year student. Students working towards their LL.M. are NOT eligible for this award. Postmark deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) announce the **Sarah Weddington** Writing Prize Call for Submissions. LSRJ is accepting submissions for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual writing prize. The theme this year is “Seeking Reproductive Justice in All Places for All People.” Winning authors will receive a \$750 (1<sup>st</sup> place) or \$250 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and get published on LSRJ’s website. For more information please visit [www.lsrj.org](http://www.lsrj.org). Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2009**.

The ***Houston Journal of International Law*** invites you to compete for the James Baker Hughes Prize, awarded to the best unpublished student-written manuscript on the subject of international economic law. Cash award is \$500. **Deadline** for submission is **March 9, 2009**.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.



Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 21

February 16, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## ***ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL* LEGAL MALPRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SYMPOSIUM**

*St. Mary's Law Journal* announces its **Eighth Annual Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility Symposium**. The program will address various issues regarding the ethics in the practice of law. Speakers will be: Thomas Morgan, Oppenheim Professor of Antitrust and Trade Regulation Law, The George Washington University Law School; Eli Wald, Associate Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law; Katerina Lewinbuk, Assistant Professor of Law, South Texas College of Law; Amy Clark Meachum, Partner, McGinnis, Lockridge & Kilgore L.L.P.; Jeff Webb, Associate, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.; George Spencer, Partner, Clemens & Spencer; Kathryn Stephens, Associate, Clemens & Spencer; and Kenneth Trevett, President and CEO of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. The event will be held on **Friday, February 20, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** at the **Plaza Club**. Registration fee for STMU students is \$50.00. Registration **deadline** is **Wednesday, February 18, 2009**. To register or for more information, please contact Renee Higgins at (210) 436-3525 or email [lawjournal@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lawjournal@stmarytx.edu) or see <http://www.stmaryslawjournal.org/registration.aspx>.

## **TOWN HALL MEETING**

Please join Dean Charles Cantú for a **town hall meeting** on **Monday, February 23, 2009** at **noon** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Come and hear about recent developments at the Law School and ask questions. All students are welcome to attend.



## INNSBRUCK PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

The **Institute on World Legal Problems** will be held **July 6 – August 7, 2009** in **Innsbruck Austria**. This year's Distinguished Visiting Jurist will be **Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.** of the Supreme Court of the United States.

All interested students should plan to attend this orientation session. Information on course schedules, accommodations, scholarships, student loan updates, and other general information will be provided by **Professors Reams and Cochran**. Former participants from the student body will be present to reflect on their experiences. Lunch will be provided. The information session will be held on **Monday, March 2, 2009** from **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. This event is sponsored by Law Ministry.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ASK-A-LAWYER LEGAL CLINIC

First-, second-, and third-year law student volunteers are needed for the **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** to be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2009** from **6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** at **Avenida Guadalupe Center, in the Progreso Community Center, 1313 Guadalupe**, San Antonio, Texas, 78207. Student volunteers will aid individuals seeking information about legal issues who otherwise may not be able to afford legal services. Past cases have included, but are not limited to custody, divorce, immigration, bankruptcy, identity theft, estate planning, probate, and employment issues. This is an engaging and fun **service to community**. All students who have volunteered in the past have stated this was one of their greatest experiences in law school. You will **gain experience** speaking directly with clients facing real legal issues. You will also have an opportunity to meet attorneys and earn pro bono service hours toward your certificate. No registration is required. Just **show up between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m.** Professional dress attire is not required. However please note that you are representing yourself as a future attorney to the community. Food and drinks will be provided. **For more information** please contact Austin Sanford at [austinsand@hotmail.com](mailto:austinsand@hotmail.com) or call David Morales, Immigration Department of Catholic Charities, 210.433.3256, ext. 124. The **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's School of Law.

### PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

The annual **People's Law School** will be held at St. Mary's on **Saturday, February 21, 2009** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Law Classroom Building. The People's Law School is a **free public seminar** featuring local attorneys who are experts in their fields. This year's agenda includes presentations in the following areas: wills, social security, family law, immigration, employment, and bankruptcy law. Student volunteers are needed for this event, which is co-sponsored by the **San Antonio Bar Foundation** and **Sister Grace's Law Ministry**. Volunteer hours also qualify for pro bono credit. This is an excellent opportunity to meet local attorneys while providing a valuable service to the community. To sign up, please email [eserna1@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:eserna1@mail.stmarytx.edu).

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE  
ALMA L. LOPEZ WOMAN IN LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The **2009 Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award** was created in 2006 in recognition of Justice Alma L. Lopez' outstanding contributions to the law and dedication to community service. **Nominations for an outstanding woman** law student at St Mary's University School of Law are being sought.

Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I., D. Min., in the Raba building no later than **Tuesday, March 3, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.** The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month lunch celebration at the Law School on March 18, 2009 after the 4<sup>th</sup> Court's Oral Argument Hearing. Faculty, staff, or students may make nominations. Individuals may submit their own nomination. Included should be a letter identifying how the nominee fulfills the criteria for the leadership award. Applications are available in Sr. Grace's office or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

**FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS  
in San Antonio**

**Semesters: Summer 2009, Fall 2009, and Spring 2010  
Deadline: Noon Monday February 23, 2009**

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with five federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters. *Successful candidates typically have a strong academic record.*

***Eligibility of Full-Time and Part-Time Students:*** Students may apply for any internship that will commence in a semester after the student has completed 31 hours of course work. Thus, a first-year full-time student may apply for an internship that will take place in the summer between first and second year, or during any subsequent semester. A first-year part-time student may applying for a judicial internship that commences in spring of the student's second year or later.

**The United States Court of Appeals**

There are two different internships available with judges on the Fifth Circuit. One is a four-credit, graded internship; the other is a two-credit pass/fail internship.

The Honorable Emilio M. Garza, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, will offer internship positions to two students during each of the next three semesters (summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010).

The Honorable Edward C. Prado, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, will offer internship positions to one student during each of the next three semesters (summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010).

### The United States District Court

At the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, one or two positions each semester will be available with two judges (Honorable Xavier Rodriguez and Honorable Fred Biery) during each of the next three semesters (summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010). United States District Court interns are required to work 120 hours during the semester at the federal courthouse at Hemisfair Plaza in downtown San Antonio. Interns will earn two pass/fail credits, for which tuition must be paid.

### The United States Magistrate Court

At the United States Magistrate Court, one internship with the Honorable Pamela Mathy is available during each of the next three semesters (summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010).

### Applications

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson. Please give your application materials to Ms. Maribel Garcia on the second floor of the Raba Law Faculty Building. Questions can be directed to Professor Johnson at: [vjohnson@stmarytx.edu](mailto:vjohnson@stmarytx.edu).

An application should include:

(1) One federal court internship form, available from Ms. Maribel Garcia or on the website. (The form asks a student to indicate which judges the student would like to be considered by and which semesters the student is available to serve in an internship.)

(2) For each judge by whom a candidate would like to be considered:

- One resume, including cumulative GPA and current class rank;
- One cover letter in business-letter format (date; return address, judge's address, proper salutation (e.g., Dear Judge Garza). In terms of tone, the letter should be restrained, professional, factual, and confident.
- Please staple the cover letter to the front of the resume. Please do not use special folders or bindings; they will be removed before the applications are sent to the judges.

(3) Applicants for a U.S. Court of Appeals internship with Judge Emilio Garza should, if possible, furnish one writing sample (*e.g.*, a Legal Writing memo or brief, a copy of an exam essay, a law journal comment, etc.). Writing samples should not be included for the other courts.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. **Law Ministry** will host **Ash Wednesday Liturgy** on **February 25, 2009** at **12:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A liturgy will also be held in the **Law Classroom** building for the evening program students beginning at **5:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend either service.

## LAW LIBRARY EXTENDS REFERENCE HOURS

The **Sarita Kenedy East Law Library** has **extended** their professional reference hours. A reference librarian is **now available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.** On Friday's, a reference librarian is available from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. We believe the extended reference hours will better serve the needs of law students and other users, especially those students in the evening program.

## RESEARCH POSITION AVAILABLE WITH PROFESSOR KAUFFMAN

Professor Kauffman seeks a **research assistant** to work with him this semester and possibly next year on a **law review article on discrimination** in Texas higher education and an **amicus brief** in a U.S. Supreme Court case **involving bilingual education programs** and the powers of U.S. District Courts. He seeks a **2L or 1L**, but would prefer a 2L who has some background in education law. Please send your **resume** and a **very short letter** of interest to [akauffman@stmarytx.edu](mailto:akauffman@stmarytx.edu) or drop a copy of your resume and short letter in Prof. Kaufman's mail box.

## FEBRUARY CAREER SERVICES EVENTS

On **Thursday, February 19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, a representative from the **CIA-NCS** will conduct an informational session in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library, for all students about career options.

The practice area of Bankruptcy Law is hot, hot, hot! **The Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas** wants all students to know about this thriving and active practice area. **When? Tuesday, February 24 Noon-1:15 p.m.** **Where?** Law Classroom 103. **Who?** United States Bankruptcy Judge Ronald B. King and Deborah D. Williamson with Cox Smith Matthews, Inc. The presentation will cover a general discussion of Bankruptcy practice; potential Bankruptcy careers; a judge's perspective regarding insights on effective practice; and, best of all, your questions! **ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!**

Planning on practicing in Bexar County? Don't miss "**Tips for Bexar County Practice– Local Rules and More**" by **Amber M. Liddell Alwais**, Former Staff Attorney, Bexar County Civil District Court Administration, (now with McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing, LLP), **Wednesday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, Law Library Alumni Room. \*Explaining different dockets \*How to get court appointments \*Decorum \*Surviving Presiding Court. This is a must program for all students. Recent grads are welcome, too. A very comprehensive and instructive handout will be distributed.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!  
ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS  
INFORMATION**

(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT  
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\* School will start on **August 24**.

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In honor of **Sarah Thompson's** memory, the School of Law is providing **three scholarships** in the amounts of \$500, \$1,200 and \$1,800 for three law students to attend the **2009 Innsbruck Program**. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and (1) demonstrate how international legal study and travel would benefit your legal education and (2) demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. **Deadline to enter is Wednesday, March 4, 2009**. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **ALTERNATIVE LAW SCHOOL IMMERSION TRIPS**

We are beginning to plan the **Alternative Law School Immersion** trips to be held during 2009 Spring Break, **March 9-13**. Plans are underway for immersion trips to New Orleans, McAllen and possibly a Houston/Galveston site. Home repair, building assistance (with legal research), immigration (intake information) in McAllen, are but a few projects identified by our host agencies. The Law School will assist with providing transportation (car pooling or van) and housing. Food will be provided at work sites. Dinner and social activities are on your own. Meet with our Law Alumni in the region and learn more about recovery efforts and colonia development in the Valley. Touring and fun will be built into the schedule. To sign up or for more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **JUDGES NEEDED FOR FIRST YEAR MOOT COURT**

The **Board of Advocates** is currently looking for second and third year students interested in volunteering to judge the preliminary rounds of the **2009 First Year Moot Court Competition**. The rounds start Monday, March 23 and end Thursday, March 26. If you are interested in judging first year moot court, please contact Ali Crocker at [alicrocker@gmail.com](mailto:alicrocker@gmail.com) with your name, telephone number, email address, and availability before **Friday, February 20** by 5:00 p.m.

## INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's  
Office, Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a



law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlemail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlemail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **STATE BAR OF TEXAS INSURANCE TRUST OFFERS TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**

The **State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust** is pleased to announce the implementation of a new Guaranteed Issue Student Group Term Life Insurance plan for all law students of record at Texas law schools effective January 1, 2009. The **availability** for this product will be the first day of classes second semester. Each student will be eligible to obtain \$50,000 of group term life insurance without having to provide proof of good health.

The coverage is guaranteed issue only if the student enrolls in the plan within 90 days of the first day of classes second semester using the appropriate form provided to the school (attached). It should be noted that students not enrolling within the 90 day special enrollment period are still eligible to apply for coverage at a later date, however, approval will then be subject to evidence of insurability.

This is a very important benefit because every law student regardless of their health will have the guarantee of receiving \$50,000 of term life insurance provided they enroll during the special enrollment period. The State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust also has other plans available to law students the same as for attorney members of the Bar including health insurance and dental insurance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to make this coverage option available to all law students during the initial enrollment period we are extending the offer this **one time only** to 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year law students during the 2008/2009 school year. All future "guaranteed issue" offerings will be made available only to incoming freshmen each year. Please email Bebe Gonzales, [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) for application and plan brochure.

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The 2009 **Bert W. Levit** Essay Contest, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 20, 2009**. Contest rules and

information are posted online at [www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html).

The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund** (PRLDEF) is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Program for Latino law students. The **PRBA Scholarship Award is \$2,000**. All applicants must be a first or second year student. Students working towards their LL.M. are NOT eligible for this award. Postmark deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) announce the **Sarah Weddington** Writing Prize Call for Submissions. LSRJ is accepting submissions for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual writing prize. The theme this year is "Seeking Reproductive Justice in All Places for All People." Winning authors will receive a \$750 (1<sup>st</sup> place) or \$250 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and get published on LSRJ's website. For more information please visit [www.lsrj.org](http://www.lsrj.org). Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2009**.

The *Houston Journal of International Law* invites you to compete for the James Baker Hughes Prize, awarded to the best unpublished student-written manuscript on the subject of international economic law. Cash award is \$500. **Deadline** for submission is **March 9, 2009**.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be

awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 22

February 23, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Please join Dean Charles Cantú for a **town hall meeting** on **Monday, February 23, 2009** at **noon** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Come and hear about recent developments at the Law School and ask questions. All students are welcome to attend.

## MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Come on out and help Sister Grace celebrate **Mardis Gras** on **Tuesday, February 24, 2009**. Festivities begin at **4:30 p.m** with food, fun and music in the **Law School Plaza**.

## ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. **Law Ministry** will host **Ash Wednesday Liturgy** on **February 25, 2009** at **12:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A liturgy will also be held in the **Law Classroom** building for the evening program students beginning at **5:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend either service.

## NEW ORLEANS & McALLEN IMMERSION TRIPS

There will be a meeting to plan the **Alternative Law School Immersion** trips to New Orleans, Louisiana and McAllen, Texas during 2009 Spring Break. If you are interested in the **New Orleans immersion trip**, please plan to attend a meeting on **Tuesday, February 24, 2009** at **3:45 p.m.** in the **Atrium Room** of the Law Administration Building. For the **McAllen immersion trip**, we will also meet on Tuesday, February 24 at **3:45 p.m. in the Raba Foyer**. Applications for the trip will be available at both meetings. Immersions offer students the opportunity to experience a different community or culture and to better understand the social issues that affect the population or community with which they are working. This event is

sponsored by Law Ministry. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210.436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **INNSBRUCK PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION**

The **Institute on World Legal Problems** will be held **July 6 – August 7, 2009** in **Innsbruck Austria**. This year's Distinguished Visiting Jurist will be **Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.** of the Supreme Court of the United States.

All interested students should plan to attend this orientation session. Information on course schedules, accommodations, scholarships, student loan updates, and other general information will be provided by **Professors Reams and Cochran**. Former participants from the student body will be present to reflect on their experiences. Lunch will be provided. The information session will be held on **Monday, March 2, 2009** from **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

### **CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY EXPERIENCES, CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND MORAL DILEMMAS OF SPYING**

**DON'T MISS THIS FASCINATING PRESENTATION!**

**COME HEAR JAMES M. OLSON, AUTHOR OF  
*FAIR PLAY: THE MORAL DILEMMAS OF SPYING***

**MARCH 2, 2009, NOON-1:00 PM  
Law Library Alumni Room**

Mr. Olson, J.D., is on the faculty of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He is highly decorated for his former CIA service, mostly in foreign (USSR, Austria, Mexico) clandestine operations. He also served as Chief of Counterintelligence at CIA Headquarters and taught at the Joint Military Intelligence College in Washington, DC. He will speak on his experiences in the CIA and the ethical dilemmas of spying, especially with regard to the war on terror. He has been instrumental in encouraging several students to pursue employment with the CIA. He will also discuss career opportunities so if you are interested, please take advantage of this unique opportunity. This presentation is in thanks to the efforts of 3L Paula DeWitte and sponsored by the Student Bar Association.

### **RESEARCH POSITION AVAILABLE WITH PROFESSOR KAUFFMAN**

Professor Kauffman seeks a **research assistant** to work with him this semester and possibly next year on a **law review article on discrimination** in Texas higher education and an **amicus brief** in a U.S. Supreme Court case **involving bilingual education programs** and the

powers of U.S. District Courts. He seeks a **2L or 1L**, but would prefer a 2L who has some background in education law. Please send your **resume** and a **very short letter** of interest to [akauffman@stmarytx.edu](mailto:akauffman@stmarytx.edu) or drop a copy of your resume and short letter in Prof. Kaufman's mail box.

### **FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS TO HEAR CASES ON CAMPUS**

Mark your calendars! The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear oral arguments on three cases in the Law Classroom Building courtroom. The court will convene on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** and conclude at 12:00 noon. A **reception will follow** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. More information to follow at a later date.

### **FIESTA FAREWELL Honoring the Class of 2009**

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as "Almost Alumni" on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

### **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE ALMA L. LOPEZ WOMAN IN LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The **2009 Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award** was created in 2006 in recognition of Justice Alma L. Lopez' outstanding contributions to the law and dedication to community service. **Nominations for an outstanding woman** law student at St Mary's University School of Law are being sought. Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I., D. Min., in the Raba building no later than **Tuesday, March 3, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.** The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month lunch celebration at the Law School on March 18, 2009 after the 4<sup>th</sup> Court's Oral Argument Hearing. Faculty, staff, or students may make nominations. Individuals may submit their own nomination. Included should be a letter identifying how the nominee fulfills the criteria for the leadership award. Applications are available in Sr. Grace's office or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

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The **Sarita Kenedy East Law Library** has **extended** their professional reference hours. A reference librarian **is now available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.** On Friday's, a reference librarian is available from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. We believe the extended reference hours will better serve the needs of law students and other users, especially those students in the evening program.

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The practice area of Bankruptcy Law is hot, hot, hot! **The Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas** wants all students to know about this thriving and active practice area. **When? Tuesday, February 24 Noon-1:15 p.m.** **Where?** Law Classroom 103. **Who?** United States Bankruptcy Judge Ronald B. King and Deborah D. Williamson with Cox Smith Matthews, Inc. The presentation will cover a general discussion of Bankruptcy practice; potential Bankruptcy careers; a judge's perspective regarding insights on effective practice; and, best of all, your questions! ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

Planning on practicing in Bexar County? Don't miss "**Tips for Bexar County Practice—Local Rules and More**" by **Amber M. Liddell Alwais**, Former Staff Attorney, Bexar County Civil District Court Administration, (now with McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing, LLP), **Wednesday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, Law Library Alumni Room. \*Explaining different dockets \*How to get court appointments \*Decorum \*Surviving Presiding Court. This is a must program for all students. Recent grads are welcome, too. A very comprehensive and instructive handout will be distributed.

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**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION**  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

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## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

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sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **THE MARIANIST ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ISSUE TEAM**

The **Marianist Anti-Death Penalty Issue Team** invites you to conversation and collaboration to abolish the death penalty on **Saturday, February 28, 2009, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at the home of Jim and Rosalyn Collier, **3114 Letitia**, San Antonio, Texas 78217. Meet the authors of *Back from the Dead* by Joan Cheever, J.D., '83 and *Detour to Death Row* by David Atwood. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sister Grace at (210) 436.3063 or [gwall@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwall@stmarytx.edu).

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund** (PRLDEF) is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Program for Latino law students. The **PRBA Scholarship Award is \$2,000**. All applicants must be a first or second year student. Students working towards their LL.M. are NOT eligible for this award. Postmark deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

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The *Houston Journal of International Law* invites you to compete for the James Baker Hughes Prize, awarded to the best unpublished student-written manuscript on the subject of international economic law. Cash award is \$500. **Deadline** for submission is **March 9, 2009**.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 23

March 2, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## INNSBRUCK PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

The **Institute on World Legal Problems** will be held **July 6 – August 7, 2009** in **Innsbruck Austria**. This year's Distinguished Visiting Jurist will be **Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.** of the Supreme Court of the United States. All interested students should plan to attend this orientation session. Information on course schedules, accommodations, scholarships, student loan updates, and other general information will be provided by **Professors Reams and Cochran**. Former participants from the student body will be present to reflect on their experiences. Lunch will be provided. The information session will be held on **Monday, March 2, 2009** from **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

## FALL REGISTRATION MEETINGS

On Tuesday, **March 3, 2009** from **5:00–5:50 p.m.** in **LC104**, Associate Deans Michael Ariens and Victoria Mather will hold a meeting with **evening students** to discuss **registration** for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010. Students are required to attend this meeting prior to registration.

For **day students**, meetings will be held on **Wednesday, March 4, 2009** at **10:00 a.m.** and at **11:00 a.m.** in **LC104**. Students are required to attend one of these meetings prior to registration. There will be another meeting scheduled after Spring Break.

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
EXPERIENCES, CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND MORAL DILEMMAS OF SPYING  
COME HEAR JAMES M. OLSON, AUTHOR OF  
FAIR PLAY: THE MORAL DILEMMAS OF SPYING  
MARCH 2, 2009, NOON-1:00 PM  
[Note New Meeting Location – LC101]**

Mr. Olson, J.D., is on the faculty of the Bush Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He is highly decorated for his former CIA service, mostly in foreign (USSR, Austria, Mexico) clandestine operations. He also served as Chief of Counterintelligence at CIA Headquarters and taught at the Joint Military Intelligence College in Washington, DC. He will speak on his experiences in the CIA and the ethical dilemmas of spying, especially with regard to the war on terror. He has been instrumental in encouraging several students to pursue employment with the CIA. He will also discuss career opportunities. If you are interested, please take advantage of this unique opportunity. This presentation is in thanks to the efforts of 3L Paula DeWitte and sponsored by the Student Bar Association.

**ALMA L. LOPEZ WOMAN IN LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD  
NOMINATIONS SOUGHT - DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

The **2009 Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award** was created in 2006 in recognition of Justice Alma L. Lopez' outstanding contributions to the law and dedication to community service. **Nominations for an outstanding woman** law student at St Mary's University School of Law are being sought. Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I., D. Min., in the Raba building no later than **Tuesday, March 3, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.** The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month lunch celebration at the Law School on March 18, 2009 after the 4<sup>th</sup> Court's Oral Argument Hearing. Faculty, staff, or students may make nominations. Individuals may submit their own nomination. Included should be a letter identifying how the nominee fulfills the criteria for the leadership award. Applications are available in Sr. Grace's office or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

**MASS & LUNCHEON  
HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE CATHERINE M. STONE**

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library as we honor **Chief Justice Catherine M. Stone** and ask a blessing on her work as the newly installed Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals. A lunch will follow the Mass. **Everyone** is invited to attend.

**SARAH THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND  
INNSBRUCK 2009 SCHOLARSHIP**

In honor of **Sarah Thompson's** memory, the School of Law is providing **three scholarships** in the amounts of \$500, \$1,200 and \$1,800 for three law students to attend the **2009 Innsbruck Program**. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and (1) demonstrate how international legal study and travel would benefit your legal education and (2) demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the



elderly. **Deadline to enter is Wednesday, March 4, 2009.** For more information, please contact Sr. Grace Walle at 210. 436.3603 or [gwalle@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwalle@stmarytx.edu).

### **ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS “ANONYMOUS DONOR FUND” BAR LOAN PROGRAM**

The **Anonymous Donor Fund**, which was created by a \$1.75 million gift to the law school in 1999, is used in part to endow a Bar Loan Fund for St. Mary’s University law students. Each year, a portion of the earnings from this endowment is available in the form of loans to support students preparing to take the **July** Texas Bar Exam. **To qualify**, a student must: (1) reside in South Texas (defined as the area from San Antonio south) or indicate an interest in practicing law in South Texas; (2) have applied for and been denied a private bar study loan through, Sallie Mae’s Law Loans, or other recognized lenders of Bar Study Loans and (3) demonstrate financial need related to preparing for and taking the Texas Bar Examination. The amount of the loan awarded to each student is dependent on the number of eligible students who apply for the loan. In prior years, amounts have ranged from \$2,200 to \$3,000. Funds are sent directly to BAR/BRI on behalf of the students. Applications may be obtained upon request at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu) or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Law School Financial Aid office is **4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009.** Due to the limited funds available, **no exceptions** will be made.

### **FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS TO HEAR CASES ON CAMPUS**

Mark your calendar! The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear oral arguments on three cases in the Law Classroom Building courtroom. The court will convene on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** and conclude at 11:30 a.m. A **reception will follow** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

### **ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS**

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of **oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order – which is open only to third-year law students, provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten **new members** each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application form** from Professor Dave Schlueter, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the **Barristers’ Ball on Friday, April 17, 2009.** Please note that seeking or obtaining advice from any faculty member (full-time, visiting, or adjunct) other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009.**

**FIESTA FAREWELL**  
**Honoring the Class of 2009**

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

**LAW LIBRARY EXTENDS REFERENCE HOURS**

The **Sarita Kenedy East Law Library** has **extended** their professional reference hours. A reference librarian **is now available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.** On Friday’s, a reference librarian is available from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. We believe the extended reference hours will better serve the needs of law students and other users, especially those students in the evening program.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!**  
**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION**  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L’S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendoza1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza1@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**

### **1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school **scholarships** and bar study **grants** for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 31, 2009**, no later than 5:00 p.m., by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 4, 2009 at the Plaza San Antonio. The honorees are: The **Honorable Chief Justice Catherine Stone** from the Fourth Court of Appeals and The **Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti**. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to: Professor Mike Martinez, Jr. at [mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu).



The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Editorial Board for Volume 40 is pleased to announce the Editorial Board for Volume 41:

### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Christopher M. West  
*Editor in Chief*

Sara Berkeley  
*Executive Editor*

S. Collanne Bramblett  
*Symposium Editor*

Ashley R. Presson  
*Research/Articles Editor*

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Laura M. Clark  
Christopher L. Gordon  
Margaret A. McEntire  
*Comment Editors*

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Lindsey L. Medenwaldt  
*Articles Editor*

Congratulations to the *Senior Associate Editors* and *Associate Editors* for Volume 41:

Rachel Bernstein  
Alexander D. Burch  
Ryan V. Cox  
Lindsey S. Drake  
Jonathan D. Fischer  
K. Marie Granger

Bonnie K. Kirkland  
Mark W. Laneman  
Jahannah C. Lemay  
Nathan Morey  
Andrew H. Neal  
Rebecca D. Ott

## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

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sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

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**Nightlight Christian Adoptions** announce their second annual 2009 Embryo Law Essay Competition. The challenge will be to write a scholarly position paper in response to a problem presented regarding embryo donation/adoption. First place will be awarded \$2,500, second place \$1,500 and third place - \$1,000. To register or for more information please visit [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Deadline to enter is **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) announce the **Sarah Weddington** Writing Prize Call for Submissions. LSRJ is accepting submissions for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual writing prize. The theme this year is "Seeking Reproductive Justice in All Places for All People." Winning authors will receive a \$750 (1<sup>st</sup> place) or \$250 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and get published on LSRJ's website. For more information please visit [www.lsrj.org](http://www.lsrj.org). Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2009**.

The *Houston Journal of International Law* invites you to compete for the James Baker Hughes Prize, awarded to the best unpublished student-written manuscript on the subject of international economic law. Cash award is \$500. **Deadline** for submission is **March 9, 2009**.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship



in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. Students are encouraged to present a a) public policy issue, b) critique of a leading case or doctrine, c) comment on a statute or the need for a statutory modification, d) comment on a common law doctrine. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 24

March 9, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## FIRST YEAR REGISTRATION MEETING

Meetings for **first year students** to discuss registration, course selection, and information about the bar exam will be held on **Friday, March 20, 2009 at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 102**. First year students (who have not already been to a registration meeting) should attend one of these meetings.

## SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

*The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* invites all current 1Ls and 2Ls to apply to **become staff writers** for 2009-2010. **Applications** will be available for pick up in *The Scholar* office, LL217 beginning March 17– 23, 2009 from 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. *The Scholar* will have an informational session for all interested students on **March 17th in LC101, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

## KUDOS

**Kudos** to Professor **Colin Marks**. On February 27, 2009, **Governor Steven Beshear** of the **Commonwealth of Kentucky** commissioned Professor Colin Marks a **Kentucky Colonel** in recognition of his **contributions** to legal education.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emiliano Infante Segrera Innsbruck Program Scholarship** was established to honor the memory of Mr. Segrera by his son, Emil R. Infante, Esq., a 2000 graduate of the Law School. The **scholarship provides funds** up to approximately **\$4,500** to assist one or more law

students to participate in the **Innsbruck Program**. Applicants are selected on the basis of need and demonstrated potential to benefit from an international law study experience. If you wish to apply, prepare a short essay containing your **name and contact information** which describes how you would benefit from participation in the program, exactly how much money you are requesting, your financial need, and the way in which you will use those funds. Please be specific. Submit your essay with the required information by **April 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** in electronic form to Prof. Gerald Reamey at [greamey@stmarytx.edu](mailto:greamey@stmarytx.edu).

**FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS  
TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS ON CAMPUS**

The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear **oral arguments** on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009**. Two cases will be heard beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The panel to hear the cases include Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Justice Phylis Speedlin and Justice Marialyn Barnard. Lunch will follow at **12:00 noon** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. In honor of **Women's History Month**, the Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award will be presented at 12:30 p.m. Below is a brief synopsis of the two cases.

*Milestone Potranco Development, Ltd. v. City of San Antonio – No. 04-07-00479-CV*

This appeal arises from a declaratory judgment in favor of appellee. The sole issue on appeal is whether the City of San Antonio has the authority to enforce its Tree Preservation Ordinance and Streetscape Planting Standards on appellant's property that is located outside the boundaries of the City of San Antonio but within its extraterritorial jurisdiction. On appeal, appellant argues the statutes relied on by the City for authority to enforce the Tree Preservation Ordinance and Streetscape Planting Standards do not expressly authorize such regulation.

*Perkins v. City of San Antonio - No. 04-08-00341-CV*

On December 10, 2007, the Dangerous Structure Determination Board of the City of San Antonio ordered Seymour G. Perkins to demolish the main structure (a house) located at 600 Hackberry Street because the Board determined that the house was a public nuisance in need of abatement. Perkins filed a petition in district court requesting injunctive relief which the trial court construed as a request for judicial review of the Board's order. The primary complaints raised by Perkins are: (1) the trial court deprived him of his right to present evidence at the hearing conducted by the trial court contrary to the substantial evidence rule and in violation of his due process rights; (2) the Board's order is void on its face; (3) the trial court's hearing was held without proper notice; (4) the trial court's failure to properly review the record deprived Perkins of his due process rights; (5) Perkins was denied due process by the Board's failure to appoint him an attorney or, at least, advise him of his right to an attorney; (6) the trial court's bias deprived him of due process; and (7) the Board's order is no longer effective.

## FORENSICS COACH

The **Department of English & Communication Studies** is looking for a graduate student to serve as **coach** for academic year 2009–10. St. Mary's University has a tradition of strong teams. It would be the equivalent of teaching a four-credit course and would pay about \$4000 per semester. The job includes periodic travel on weekends, Thursday afternoon to Sunday. If you would like to apply, please send a **résumé** and a statement of why you would like to be the coach and why you consider yourself qualified to Dr. Kathleen Maloney, Acting Assistant Chair, Box 35, or [kmaloney@stmarytx.edu](mailto:kmaloney@stmarytx.edu). Please forward specific questions to the current coach, Jennifer Butler, [jbutler@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jbutler@stmarytx.edu).

### 2009 NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION Witness Sign-Up Form

The championship rounds of the **2009 Annual National Trial Competition (NTC)**, which is the largest and most prestigious **mock trial competition** in the country, will be hosted this year at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio on **Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, 2009**. The competition is sponsored by the *American College of Trial Lawyers* and the *Texas Young Lawyers Association*.

**NTC and the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association needs your assistance as a witness.** The witnesses in the competition are assigned a particular role as either a plaintiff's or defense witness for the trial. Before the competition, we will send you (preferably by email) additional details about the competition, including a copy of your character's deposition. During the trial, witnesses will use the information in their deposition to testify in response to questions from the attorneys.

The rounds will be held at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio and should last **approximately three hours**, so please be prepared to block off the full morning or afternoon. Self-study CLE credit of up to five hours will be available for all attorney participants. [You do not need to be an attorney to participate as a witness.]

Thursday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Thursday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Alfonso Cabañas (<mailto:licabanas@hotmail.com>)

Alyssa J. Long (<mailto:alysajanelong@yahoo.com>) Directors, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Vice-Chairs, National Trial Competition

## BRIDGES TO LIFE

Training for **Bridges to Life** (BTL) will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** in **LC104, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** BTL is a faith-based organization with a primary mission to reduce crime by reducing the recidivism rate of released inmates. BTL **brings together** victims and inmates – face to face – to help the inmates understand how crime affects others and to empower crime victims by telling their “stories” of victimization. BTL is supported by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and currently has over 200 volunteers involved in 24 prisons across the state of Texas. If you would like to be a **volunteer facilitator** for a 14-week project this summer or next fall, please attend this training. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Laneman at 210.264.6339, [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com) or visit the BTL website: <http://bridgestolife.org>

### ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS “ANONYMOUS DONOR FUND” BAR LOAN PROGRAM

The **Anonymous Donor Fund**, which was created by a \$1.75 million gift to the law school in 1999, is used in part to endow a Bar Loan Fund for St. Mary’s University law students. Each year, a portion of the earnings from this endowment is available in the form of loans to support students preparing to take the **July** Texas Bar Exam. **To qualify**, a student must: (1) reside in South Texas (defined as the area from San Antonio south) or indicate an interest in practicing law in South Texas; (2) have applied for and been denied a private bar study loan through, Sallie Mae’s Law Loans, or other recognized lenders of Bar Study Loans and (3) demonstrate financial need related to preparing for and taking the Texas Bar Examination. The amount of the loan awarded to each student is dependent on the number of eligible students who apply for the loan. In prior years, amounts have ranged from \$2,200 to \$3,000. Funds are sent directly to BAR/BRI on behalf of the students. Applications may be obtained upon request at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu) or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Law School Financial Aid office is **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009**. Due to the limited funds available, **no exceptions** will be made.

### OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

#### Quick Reference Timeline

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available  
March 16<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Forms available  
March 17<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. – Anonymous Donor Bar Loan Application due  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. – Endowed Scholarship Application due  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – Priority date for completion of 2009-2010 FAFSA  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

## ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of **oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order – which is open only to third-year law students, provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten **new members** each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application form** from Professor Dave Schlueter, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the **Barristers' Ball on Friday, April 17, 2009**. Please note that seeking or obtaining advice from any faculty member (full-time, visiting, or adjunct) other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009**.

## KAPLAN PMBR

**BIG NEWS!** We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR** is **guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.**\* Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\*Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

### **FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE Honoring the Class of 2009**

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

### **FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES! ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION (EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)**

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendoza1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza1@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume



Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### 1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school **scholarships** and bar study **grants** for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 31, 2009**, no later than 5:00 p.m., by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 4,

2009 at the Plaza San Antonio. The honorees are: The **Honorable Chief Justice Catherine Stone** from the Fourth Court of Appeals and The **Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti**. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to: Professor Mike Martinez, Jr. at [mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu).

## **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP**

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

## **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and

make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

**NEW** – St. Mary's University School of Law is a member of the **Energy & Mineral**

**Law Foundation (E&MLF).** As a benefit, students studying energy, environmental, natural resource and mineral law are eligible to apply for E&MLF scholarship assistance. Applications are now being accepted through **April 1, 2009**. For more information please visit [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

**NEW – Federal Bar Association - Southern District of Texas Chapter** is now accepting **Blask Fellowship Grant** applications for summer federal interns. The Blask Fellowships honor the memory of Magistrate Judge Ronnie Blask, an exceptionally-spirited lawyer, gentleman, and scholar who once served as President of the Southern District of Texas Chapter. Grants up to \$3,000 are available to a limited number of law students who serve as interns for federal courts or agencies located within the Southern District of Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. For eligibility information and application process, please email [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu). Deadline to apply is **Friday, April 3, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, “The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community” open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers.** The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers’ Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

**NEW** – The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

**NEW** – The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

**NEW** – The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 25

March 16, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## FIRST YEAR REGISTRATION MEETING

Meetings for **first year students** to discuss registration, course selection, and information about the bar exam will be held on **Friday, March 20, 2009 at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. in Law Classroom 102**. First year students (who have not already been to a registration meeting) should attend one of these meetings.

## SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

*The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* invites all current 1Ls and 2Ls to apply to **become staff writers** for 2009-2010. **Applications** will be available for pick up in *The Scholar* office, LL217 beginning March 17– 23, 2009 from 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. *The Scholar* will have an informational session for all interested students on **March 17th in LC101, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

## “PUTTIN’ ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE”

On **April 9, 2009 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, **The Student Bar Association** proudly present “Puttin’ on the Writs – A Law Revue” to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary’s students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. If you would like to showcase your talent, for more information, or if you have any questions, please email Sarah M. Ellison at [sarahmellison@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmellison@gmail.com) or Diana Cavazos at [dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu](mailto:dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu). All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary’s Center for Legal and Social Justice**.



**ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS - Deadline to apply is March 17, 2009**  
**“ANONYMOUS DONOR FUND” BAR LOAN PROGRAM**

The **Anonymous Donor Fund**, which was created by a \$1.75 million gift to the law school in 1999, is used in part to endow a Bar Loan Fund for St. Mary’s University law students. Each year, a portion of the earnings from this endowment is available in the form of loans to support students preparing to take the **July** Texas Bar Exam. **To qualify**, a student must: (1) reside in South Texas (defined as the area from San Antonio south) or indicate an interest in practicing law in South Texas; (2) have applied for and been denied a private bar study loan through, Sallie Mae’s Law Loans, or other recognized lenders of Bar Study Loans and (3) demonstrate financial need related to preparing for and taking the Texas Bar Examination. The amount of the loan awarded to each student is dependent on the number of eligible students who apply for the loan. In prior years, amounts have ranged from \$2,200 to \$3,000. Funds are sent directly to BAR/BRI on behalf of the students. Applications may be obtained upon request at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu) or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Law School Financial Aid office is **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009**. Due to the limited funds available, **no exceptions** will be made.

**FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS**  
**TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS ON CAMPUS**

The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear **oral arguments on Wednesday, March 18, 2009**. Two cases will be heard beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The panel to hear the cases include Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Justice Phylis Speedlin and Justice Marialyn Barnard. Lunch will follow at **12:00 noon** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. In honor of **Women’s History Month**, the Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award will be presented at 12:30 p.m. Below is a brief synopsis of the two cases.

*Milestone Potranco Development, Ltd. v. City of San Antonio – No. 04-07-00479-CV*

This appeal arises from a declaratory judgment in favor of appellee. The sole issue on appeal is whether the City of San Antonio has the authority to enforce its Tree Preservation Ordinance and Streetscape Planting Standards on appellant's property that is located outside the boundaries of the City of San Antonio but within its extraterritorial jurisdiction. On appeal, appellant argues the statutes relied on by the City for authority to enforce the Tree Preservation Ordinance and Streetscape Planting Standards do not expressly authorize such regulation.

*Perkins v. City of San Antonio - No. 04-08-00341-CV*

On December 10, 2007, the Dangerous Structure Determination Board of the City of San Antonio ordered Seymour G. Perkins to demolish the main structure (a house) located at 600 Hackberry Street because the Board determined that the house was a public nuisance in need of abatement. Perkins filed a petition in district court requesting injunctive relief which the trial court construed as a request for judicial review of the Board’s order. The primary complaints



raised by Perkins are: (1) the trial court deprived him of his right to present evidence at the hearing conducted by the trial court contrary to the substantial evidence rule and in violation of his due process rights; (2) the Board's order is void on its face; (3) the trial court's hearing was held without proper notice; (4) the trial court's failure to properly review the record deprived Perkins of his due process rights; (5) Perkins was denied due process by the Board's failure to appoint him an attorney or, at least, advise him of his right to an attorney; (6) the trial court's bias deprived him of due process; and (7) the Board's order is no longer effective.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emiliano Infante Segrera Innsbruck Program Scholarship** was established to honor the memory of Mr. Segrera by his son, Emil R. Infante, Esq., a 2000 graduate of the Law School. The **scholarship provides funds** up to approximately **\$4,500** to assist one or more law students to participate in the **Innsbruck Program**. Applicants are selected on the basis of need and demonstrated potential to benefit from an international law study experience. If you wish to apply, prepare a short essay containing your **name and contact information** which describes how you would benefit from participation in the program, exactly how much money you are requesting, your financial need, and the way in which you will use those funds. Please be specific. Submit your essay with the required information by **April 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** in electronic form to Prof. Gerald Reamey at [greamey@stmarytx.edu](mailto:greamey@stmarytx.edu).

### FORENSICS COACH

The **Department of English & Communication Studies** is looking for a graduate student to serve as **coach** for academic year 2009–10. St. Mary's University has a tradition of strong teams. It would be the equivalent of teaching a four-credit course and would pay about \$4000 per semester. The job includes periodic travel on weekends, Thursday afternoon to Sunday. If you would like to apply, please send a **résumé** and a statement of why you would like to be the coach and why you consider yourself qualified to Dr. Kathleen Maloney, Acting Assistant Chair, Box 35, or [kmaloney@stmarytx.edu](mailto:kmaloney@stmarytx.edu). Please forward specific questions to the current coach, Jennifer Butler, [jbutler@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jbutler@stmarytx.edu).

### 2009 NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION

#### Witness Sign-Up Form

The championship rounds of the **2009 Annual National Trial Competition (NTC)**, which is the largest and most prestigious **mock trial competition** in the country, will be hosted this year at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio on **Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, 2009**. The competition is sponsored by the *American College of Trial Lawyers* and the *Texas Young Lawyers Association*.

**NTC and the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association needs your assistance as a witness.** The witnesses in the competition are assigned a particular role as either a plaintiff's or

defense witness for the trial. Before the competition, we will send you (preferably by email) additional details about the competition, including a copy of your character's deposition. During the trial, witnesses will use the information in their deposition to testify in response to questions from the attorneys.

The rounds will be held at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio and should last **approximately three hours**, so please be prepared to block off the full morning or afternoon. Self-study CLE credit of up to five hours will be available for all attorney participants. [You do not need to be an attorney to participate as a witness.]

Thursday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Thursday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Alfonso Cabañas (<mailto:licabanas@hotmail.com>)

Alyssa J. Long (<mailto:alyssajanelong@yahoo.com>) Directors, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Vice-Chairs, National Trial Competition

## **BRIDGES TO LIFE**

Training for **Bridges to Life** (BTL) will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** in **LC104, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** BTL is a faith-based organization with a primary mission to reduce crime by reducing the recidivism rate of released inmates. BTL **brings together** victims and inmates – face to face – to help the inmates understand how crime affects others and to empower crime victims by telling their “stories” of victimization. BTL is supported by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and currently has over 200 volunteers involved in 24 prisons across the state of Texas. If you would like to be a **volunteer facilitator** for a 14-week project this summer or next fall, please attend this training. Food will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Laneman at 210.264.6339, [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com) or visit the BTL website: <http://bridgestolife.org>

## **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Quick Reference Timeline**

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Forms available

March 17<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. – Anonymous Donor Bar Loan Application due

March 24<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. – Endowed Scholarship Application due

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Priority date for completion of 2009-2010 FAFSA

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

## **ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS**

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of **oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order – which is open only to third-year law students, provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten **new members** each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application form** from Professor Dave Schlueter, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the **Barristers' Ball on Friday, April 17, 2009**. Please note that seeking or obtaining advice from any faculty member (full-time, visiting, or adjunct) other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009**.

## KAPLAN PMBR

**BIG NEWS!** We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR** is **guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.**\* Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\*Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

### **FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE Honoring the Class of 2009**

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

### **FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES! ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION (EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)**

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendoza1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza1@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume

Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### **1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school **scholarships** and bar study **grants** for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 31, 2009**, no later than 5:00 p.m., by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 4,

2009 at the Plaza San Antonio. The honorees are: The **Honorable Chief Justice Catherine Stone** from the Fourth Court of Appeals and The **Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti**. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to: Professor Mike Martinez, Jr. at [mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu).

## **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP**

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

## **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and

make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

St. Mary's University School of Law is a member of the **Energy & Mineral Law**



**Foundation (E&MLF).** As a benefit, students studying energy, environmental, natural resource and mineral law are eligible to apply for E&MLF scholarship assistance. Applications are now being accepted through **April 1, 2009**. For more information please visit [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

**Federal Bar Association - Southern District of Texas Chapter** is now accepting **Blask Fellowship Grant** applications for summer federal interns. The Blask Fellowships honor the memory of Magistrate Judge Ronnie Blask, an exceptionally-spirited lawyer, gentleman, and scholar who once served as President of the Southern District of Texas Chapter. Grants up to \$3,000 are available to a limited number of law students who serve as interns for federal courts or agencies located within the Southern District of Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. For eligibility information and application process, please email [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu). Deadline to apply is **Friday, April 3, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

**NEW** – The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition** Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 26

March 23, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## MOOT COURT TEAM WINS!

This past weekend **two moot court teams** from St. Mary's competed in the **American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regional Tournament**, at St. Louis. The ABA NAAC Tournament is the largest and arguably the **most prestigious national moot court competition** in the country, with nearly 200 teams from law schools in practically every state competing for the right to qualify for the National Finals in Chicago, Illinois.

The two teams from St. Mary's were comprised of the following students: Team "A" : **Emily Jeffcott** (3L), **Carolyn Skogman** (2L) and **Sarah Blackstone** (2L) and Team "B": **Marion Reilly** (2L), **Lindsey Medenwaldt** (2L) and **Uzma Zafarullah** (2L). This year, *both* St. Mary's Teams were 2-0 following the first two preliminary rounds — a feat accomplished by only one other school at the St. Louis Regional. The team of *Reilly, Medenwaldt and Zafarullah* reached the *semi-finals* of the tournament, and *Marion Reilly's brief* was recognized as the *Third Best Brief* at the competition. **The team of Jeffcott, Skogman and Blackstone won their semi-final and final rounds, and were named Regional Champions**, qualifying St. Mary's University School of Law for the National Finals in April. Emily **Jeffcott** was individually recognized as one of the *ten best advocates* at the competition, besting some 75 participants along the way. It should also be noted the winning St. Mary's team *did not drop a single round* in its quest for the championship, and that Emily *Jeffcott* was recognized as the *best oral advocate in both the semi-final and final rounds*.

This marks St. Mary's sixth Regional Championship in the last eight years of participation at this prestigious tournament. **Please join us in congratulating the teams, their coach, Mr. Ricky Poole, and his assistant coaches.** We wish them the best at the National Finals in Chicago!

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONSTITUTION THROUGH THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

Please join us for “**Understanding the Constitution Through the Federalist Papers**” with Professor John Baker of Louisiana State University on **Monday, March 23, 2009** at **1:00 p.m.**, the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

### CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION Open to First, Second, Third-Year and Evening Law Students!

The family of **James Derrick, III** (Jimi), established a memorial **Constitutional Law Contest** as a tribute to their son. Jimi died in 2002, when he was a second-year law student at St. Mary’s. Jimi enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues, and in remembrance of their son’s interest, the Derrick family has provided **financial assistance** to help a St. Mary’s law student who wants to sharpen his/her own legal, analytical and advocacy skills. St. Mary’s Law School joins with the family to continue Jimi’s memory.

The **prize money** for this year’s competition is **\$1,000** for the winner and **\$700** for the runner-up. The competition is in a moot court format thanks to the organizational work of **Board of Advocates** members, **Kat Thomas** and **Ashley Patton**. Our Constitutional Law professors were consulted and the final debate topic was outlined by Professor Jeffrey F. Addicott. **This year's issue involves the constitutional legality of detaining U.S. citizens determined to be enemy combatants.** \*Research will be provided. Students will not be required to research materials on the particular topic prior to the competition. Students will also not be required to write any briefs on the topic.\*

1. Sign up will begin **Monday, March 23rd** through **Thursday, April 2nd**. Please sign up at the **Board of Advocates table** located in the Law Classroom Building. **NO PARTNERS NEEDED. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS ONLY!!!**
2. Packet release: Monday, March 30th. Only the materials contained in the packet will be the information necessary for the debate.
3. Pairings Release: Thursday, April 2nd
4. Competitors Meeting: Thursday, April 2nd
5. Competition Date: Saturday, April 4th

For questions or more information, please contact Kat Thomas at [klthomas3@gmail.com](mailto:klthomas3@gmail.com) or Ashley Patton at [a\\_patton02@yahoo.com](mailto:a_patton02@yahoo.com). **Additional cash prizes** will be awarded for the brief/essay writing competition over the same topic. Look for details in future publications of the *Witan*. If you are interested in the writing competition, please contact Sister Grace at [gwall@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwall@stmarytx.edu).

## SOLO PRACTICE PANEL PRESENTATION

On **Saturday, March 28, 2009** from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, in **Law Classroom 101**, the State Bar of Texas will lead a panel of solo practitioners in "**Planning to Conquer the Real World of Private Practice.**" All attendees will receive valuable materials and suggestions. This is a must presentation to attend if you are a recent grad with a solo practice or if you are a student contemplating solo practice. Attorneys and 3L students can earn CLE credit.

### \*\*\*\*New This Year\*\*\*\*

Attend this seminar and become eligible for the **new mentoring program** the Office of Career Services is establishing for brand new solo practitioners. You must **register in advance** for this program by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2009. Please email Alicia Mendoza at [amendoza1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza1@stmarytx.edu) and indicate if you are a student or alum. The entire **presentation is free to students**, \$55 for alums, and payable at the door to State Bar of Texas. Breakfast and lunch is free! Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate any walk-ins so be sure to pre-register.

## GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

**Class of 2009 graduates** who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 121. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The price for **each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with either **cash or check**. No credit or debit cards will be accepted, and **no change will be made**. Purchase can be made anytime between now and **Friday, May 15, 2009**. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

## ALL 1L & EVENING STUDENTS JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Explore your **judicial clerkship future**. You are invited to attend a special presentation by Professors Klein and Marks on **Monday, April 6, 2009**, from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Stop in to learn about the types of **pre- and post-graduation judicial clerkships**, their importance and their benefits. Valuable handouts will be distributed. Please **RSVP** to Amber Theis at [atheis@stmarytx.edu](mailto:atheis@stmarytx.edu).

## JUDICIAL PANEL

**All students** are invited to attend a **judicial panel** on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Chief U.S. Bankruptcy **Judge Ronald B. King** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, **J. Caleb Rackley**, former clerk at the Texas Supreme Court and others will be on the panel. Now is the time to begin preparations for pre-and post-graduation judicial clerkships. This panel will

discuss the coveted positions, which can be incredible springboards to **post-clerkship employment opportunities**. The competition can be fierce so make sure you have an edge on other applicants by attending this presentation. A free dinner will be served.

### **THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

The **National Conference on Restorative Justice** will be held on **May 13-15, 2009** at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Downtown Campus. The conference is a joint venture involving leaders from around the world in the restorative justice field. St. Mary's University School of Law is a financial co-sponsor of the conference. For more information please go to [www.restorativejusticenow.org](http://www.restorativejusticenow.org). The St. Mary's Restorative Justice Initiative will pay the cost of attendance for 5 interns. If you are interested in attending the conference as an intern, please contact [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com).

### **ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE**

The **Office of Academic Excellence** is seeking second- and third-year law students to serve as **Academic Scholars** (Scholars) for first-year courses during the 2009-2010 school year. Prospective Scholars should be conscientious, possess a personal standard of academic excellence, work well with students from diverse educational backgrounds, communicate effectively, and exhibit a positive desire to teach and learn.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Be a currently enrolled St. Mary's law student.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
3. Demonstrate excellent comprehension of the course materials.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching methods.

### **PAY**

Scholars are expected to attend each class session, hold weekly Discussion Groups and be available for one-on-one tutoring should the need arise. Scholars will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester.

Dinner Orientation meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, Thursday, August 27, and Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.



FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE IN THE RABA FACULTY BUILDING, ROOM 106-E,  
OR CALL PROFESSOR SHARON BRECKENRIDGE THOMAS  
AT 210-436-3541

**\*\* APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009. \*\***

### **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Be prepared for life's curves. Attend an informational session on **Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room** to learn more about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace @ Work ([fpw.daveramsey.com](http://fpw.daveramsey.com)). Class begins May 19, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more questions or more details email Lindsey Drake at [linseysdrake@gmail.com](mailto:linseysdrake@gmail.com).

### **"PUTTIN' ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE"**

On **April 9, 2009** from **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, **The Student Bar Association** proudly present "Puttin' on the Writs – A Law Revue" to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary's students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. If you would like to showcase your talent, for more information, or if you have any questions, please email Sarah M. Ellison at [sarahmellison@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmellison@gmail.com) or Diana Cavazos at [dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu](mailto:dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu). All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice**.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK**

The **Emiliano Infante Segrera Innsbruck Program Scholarship** was established to honor the memory of Mr. Segrera by his son, Emil R. Infante, Esq., a 2000 graduate of the Law School. The **scholarship provides funds** up to approximately **\$4,500** to assist one or more law students to participate in the **Innsbruck Program**. Applicants are selected on the basis of need and demonstrated potential to benefit from an international law study experience. If you wish to apply, prepare a short essay containing your **name and contact information** which describes how you would benefit from participation in the program, exactly how much money you are requesting, your financial need, and the way in which you will use those funds. Please be specific. Submit your essay with the required information by **April 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** in electronic form to Prof. Gerald Reamey at [greamey@stmarytx.edu](mailto:greamey@stmarytx.edu).

### **FORENSICS COACH**

The **Department of English & Communication Studies** is looking for a graduate student to serve as **coach** for academic year 2009–10. St. Mary's University has a tradition of strong teams. It would be the equivalent of teaching a four-credit course and would pay about

\$4000 per semester. The job includes periodic travel on weekends, Thursday afternoon to Sunday. If you would like to apply, please send a **résumé** and a statement of why you would like to be the coach and why you consider yourself qualified to Dr. Kathleen Maloney, Acting Assistant Chair, Box 35, or [kmaloney@stmarytx.edu](mailto:kmaloney@stmarytx.edu). Please forward specific questions to the current coach, Jennifer Butler, [jbutler@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jbutler@stmarytx.edu).

## **2009 NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION Witness Sign-Up Form**

The championship rounds of the **2009 Annual National Trial Competition (NTC)**, which is the largest and most prestigious **mock trial competition** in the country, will be hosted this year at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio on **Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, 2009**. The competition is sponsored by the *American College of Trial Lawyers* and the *Texas Young Lawyers Association*.

**NTC and the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association needs your assistance as a witness.** The witnesses in the competition are assigned a particular role as either a plaintiff's or defense witness for the trial. Before the competition, we will send you (preferably by email) additional details about the competition, including a copy of your character's deposition. During the trial, witnesses will use the information in their deposition to testify in response to questions from the attorneys.

The rounds will be held at the **Bexar County Courthouse** in San Antonio and should last **approximately three hours**, so please be prepared to block off the full morning or afternoon. Self-study CLE credit of up to five hours will be available for all attorney participants. [You do not need to be an attorney to participate as a witness.]

Thursday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Thursday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday AM Round 8:00 AM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Friday PM Round 1:00 PM - Witness [&Click here](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Alfonso Cabañas (<mailto:licabanas@hotmail.com>)

Alyssa J. Long (<mailto:alyssajanelong@yahoo.com>) Directors, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Vice-Chairs, National Trial Competition

## **BRIDGES TO LIFE**

Training for **Bridges to Life (BTL)** will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** in **LC104, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** BTL is a faith-based organization with a primary mission to reduce crime by reducing the recidivism rate of released inmates. BTL **brings together** victims and inmates – face to face – to help the inmates understand how crime affects others and to empower crime victims by telling their “stories” of victimization. BTL is supported by the Texas

Department of Criminal Justice and currently has over 200 volunteers involved in 24 prisons across the state of Texas. If you would like to be a **volunteer facilitator** for a 14-week project this summer or next fall, please attend this training. Food will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Laneman at 210.264.6339, [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com) or visit the BTL website: <http://bridgestolife.org>

## **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Quick Reference Timeline**

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – Priority date for completion of 2009-2010 FAFSA  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

## **ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS**

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of **oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order – which is open only to

third-year law students, provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten **new members** each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application form** from Professor Dave Schlueter, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the **Barristers' Ball on Friday, April 17, 2009**. Please note that seeking or obtaining advice from any faculty member (full-time, visiting, or adjunct) other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009**.

### **KAPLAN PMBR**

**BIG NEWS!** We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR is guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.\*** Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\*Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

### **FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE Honoring the Class of 2009**

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!  
ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)**

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have

already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendozal@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendozal@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### **1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school **scholarships** and bar study **grants** for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 31, 2009**, no later than 5:00 p.m., by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 4, 2009 at the Plaza San Antonio. The honorees are: The **Honorable Chief Justice Catherine Stone** from the Fourth Court of Appeals and The **Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti**. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to: Professor Mike Martinez, Jr. at [mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu).

## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

## INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono



capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**



## WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

Entries for The Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition** are now being accepted. The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded. For entry criteria, please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Entries must be received by **March 30, 2009**.

St. Mary's University School of Law is a member of the **Energy & Mineral Law Foundation** (E&MLF). As a benefit, students studying energy, environmental, natural resource and mineral law are eligible to apply for E&MLF scholarship assistance. Applications are now being accepted through **April 1, 2009**. For more information please visit [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.

**Federal Bar Association - Southern District of Texas Chapter** is now accepting **Blask Fellowship Grant** applications for summer federal interns. The Blask Fellowships honor the memory of Magistrate Judge Ronnie Blask, an exceptionally-spirited lawyer, gentleman, and scholar who once served as President of the Southern District of Texas Chapter. Grants up to \$3,000 are available to a limited number of law students who serve as interns for federal courts or agencies located within the Southern District of Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. For eligibility information and application process, please email [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu). Deadline to apply is **Friday, April 3, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the

general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 27

March 30, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## BLSA TEAM ARE FINALISTS

The **St. Mary's BLSA** team were finalists at the mock trial competition hosted by the **National Black Law Students Association**, held in Irvine, California. The competition was sponsored by the Navy JAG and DLA Piper, an international law firm. The team was composed of **Lysette Rios** and **Bridgett Clay** for the defense, and **Nicole Hines-Glover** and **Christian Johnson** for the prosecution. The team was coached by **Mr. Daryl Harris** and **Mr. Ken Bell**. In order to advance to the national finals, the team **won the Rocky Mountain Regional tournament** several weeks ago. The national finals consisted of the top three teams from six regions (with approximately 12 or more teams in each region). St. Mary's made it into the finals after beating Jones-Faulkner School of Law (Alabama), St Johns, Harvard, and the University of Virginia (UVA). UVA and **St. Mary's** met again in the finals and UVA was determined the winner by a split panel of judges. Please join us in **congratulating the coaches and the team** on a great showing!

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school **scholarships** and bar study **grants** for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 31, 2009**, no later than 5:00 p.m., by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 4, 2009 at the Plaza San Antonio. The honorees are: The **Honorable Chief Justice Catherine Stone** from the Fourth Court of Appeals and The **Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti**. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to: Professor Mike Martinez, Jr. at [mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emiliano Infante Segrera Innsbruck Program Scholarship** was established to honor the memory of Mr. Segrera by his son, Emil R. Infante, Esq., a 2000 graduate of the Law School. The **scholarship provides funds** up to approximately **\$4,500** to assist one or more law students to participate in the **Innsbruck Program**. Applicants are selected on the basis of need and demonstrated potential to benefit from an international law study experience. If you wish to apply, prepare a short essay containing your **name and contact information** which describes how you would benefit from participation in the program, exactly how much money you are requesting, your financial need, and the way in which you will use those funds. Please be specific. Submit your essay with the required information by **April 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** in electronic form to Prof. Gerald Reamey at [greamey@stmarytx.edu](mailto:greamey@stmarytx.edu).

### **ECONOMIC LIBERTY: WHY *LOCHNER* v. *NEW YORK* WAS RIGHTLY DECIDED With Timothy Sandefur of the Pacific Legal Foundation**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009  
12:00 Noon  
Law Administration Atrium**

Mr. Sandefur is the lead attorney in the **Economic Liberty Project**. He works to protect businesses against abusive government regulation. He also works to prevent the abuse of eminent domain, having litigated important eminent domain cases and having filed briefs in many significant eminent domain cases, including *Kelo v. New London*. He is the author of *Cornerstone of Liberty: Property Rights in 21st Century America*.

### ***ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL* WANTS YOU!**

*St. Mary's Law Journal* is holding informational meetings from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** in the **Alumni Room**. Two practicing attorneys (and *Journal* alumni) will offer a law firm perspective on the practical benefits of membership on the *Journal*. Food will be served.

*St. Mary's Law Journal* is **nationally ranked** as the 13<sup>th</sup> most cited law journal in the nation out of 1,525 journals. We need talented 1Ls and 2L evening students to help us carry on this **tradition of excellence**. If you have an eye for detail, love to write, are good at research, or are just curious, stop by the Alumni room between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or between 5:00 pm. and 6:00 p.m., grab some food, and hear one of the informative presentations starting on the hour. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

## **ASK-A-LAWYER LEGAL CLINIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

First-, second-, and third-year law student volunteers are needed for the **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** to be held on **Thursday, April 2, 2009** from **6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** at the **Guadalupe Community Center, 1801 W. Durango Blvd.**, San Antonio, Texas, 78207. Student volunteers will aid individuals seeking information about legal issues who otherwise may not be able to afford legal services. Past cases have included, but are not limited to custody, divorce, immigration, bankruptcy, identity theft, estate planning, probate, and employment issues. This is an engaging and fun **service to community**. All students who have volunteered in the past have stated this was one of their greatest experiences in law school. You will **gain experience** speaking directly with clients facing real legal issues. You will also have an opportunity to meet attorneys and earn pro bono service hours toward your certificate. No registration is required. Just **show up between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m.** Professional dress attire is not required. However please note that you are representing yourself as a future attorney to the community. Food and drinks will be provided. **For more information** please contact Austin Sanford at [austinsand@hotmail.com](mailto:austinsand@hotmail.com) or call David Morales, Immigration Department of Catholic Charities, 210.433.3256, ext. 124. The **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic** is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's School of Law.

### **TRYOUTS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP)**

The application procedures for the **EAP Mock Trial** teams will begin shortly. This is a wonderful opportunity to master your advocacy skills and represent St. Mary's at regional and national competitions.

If you are interested in being considered for next year's mock trial teams, please fill out an application — which can be picked up in from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) — and turn it back in to him not later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9th**. When you turn in your application, you should sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted on April 14-16.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process will be announced at the **Barristers' Ball** on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Those students will be required to attend a Mock Trial Academy, to be held shortly after the fall semester begins. That academy will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the academy, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams and alternates.

### **TRIAL ADVOCACY – WAITING LIST**

There is a **waiting list** for the **Fall 2009 semester Trial Advocacy** class. It is posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, LFB 270. If you wish to be considered for any openings in that course, it is critical that you **sign that waiting list** at your earliest convenience. If there is

sufficient interest, we will consider adding another section for the fall semester. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Schlueter.

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION  
Open to First, Second, Third-Year and Evening Law Students!**

The family of **James Derrick, III** (Jimi), established a memorial **Constitutional Law Contest** as a tribute to their son. Jimi died in 2002, when he was a second-year law student at St. Mary's. Jimi enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues, and in remembrance of their son's interest, the Derrick family has provided **financial assistance** to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen his/her own legal, analytical and advocacy skills. St. Mary's Law School joins with the family to continue Jimi's memory.

The **prize money** for this year's competition is **\$1,000** for the winner and **\$700** for the runner-up. The competition is in a moot court format thanks to the organizational work of **Board of Advocates** members, **Kat Thomas** and **Ashley Patton**. Our Constitutional Law professors were consulted and the final debate topic was outlined by Professor Jeffrey F. Addicott. **This year's issue involves the constitutional legality of detaining U.S. citizens determined to be enemy combatants.** \*Research will be provided. Students will not be required to research materials on the particular topic prior to the competition. Students will also not be required to write any briefs on the topic.\*

1. Sign up will begin **Monday, March 23rd** through **Thursday, April 2nd**. Please sign up at the **Board of Advocates table** located in the Law Classroom Building. **NO PARTNERS NEEDED. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS ONLY!!!**
2. Packet release: **Monday, March 30th**. Only the materials contained in the packet will be the information necessary for the debate.
3. Pairings Release: Thursday, April 2nd
4. Competitors Meeting: Thursday, April 2nd
5. Competition Date: Saturday, April 4th

For questions or more information, please contact Kat Thomas at [klthomas3@gmail.com](mailto:klthomas3@gmail.com) or Ashley Patton at [a\\_patton02@yahoo.com](mailto:a_patton02@yahoo.com). **Additional cash prizes** will be awarded for the brief/essay writing competition over the same topic. Look for details in future publications of the *Witan*. If you are interested in the writing competition, please contact Sister Grace at [gwall@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gwall@stmarytx.edu).



## ALL 1L & EVENING STUDENTS JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Explore your **judicial clerkship future**. You are invited to attend a special presentation by Professors Klein and Marks on **Monday, April 6, 2009**, from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Stop in to learn about the types of **pre- and post-graduation judicial clerkships**, their importance and their benefits. Valuable handouts will be distributed. Please **RSVP** to Amber Theis at [atheis@stmarytx.edu](mailto:atheis@stmarytx.edu).

### JUDICIAL PANEL

**All students** are invited to attend a **judicial panel** on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Chief U.S. Bankruptcy **Judge Ronald B. King** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, **J. Caleb Rackley**, former clerk at the Texas Supreme Court and others will be on the panel. Now is the time to begin preparations for pre-and post-graduation judicial clerkships. This panel will discuss the coveted positions, which can be incredible springboards to **post-clerkship employment opportunities**. The competition can be fierce so make sure you have an edge on other applicants by attending this presentation. A free dinner will be served.

### “PUTTIN’ ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE”

On **Thursday, April 9, 2009**, The Student Bar Association proudly presents **“Puttin’ on the Writs – A Law Revue”** to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212 beginning at **8:00 p.m.** The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary’s students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. If you would like to showcase your talent, for more information, or if you have any questions, please email Sarah M. Ellison at [sarahmellison@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmellison@gmail.com) or Diana Cavazos at [dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu](mailto:dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu). All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary’s Center for Legal and Social Justice**.

### THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The **National Conference on Restorative Justice** will be held on **May 13-15, 2009** at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Downtown Campus. The conference is a joint venture involving leaders from around the world in the restorative justice field. St. Mary’s University School of Law is a financial co-sponsor of the conference. For more information please go to [www.restorativejusticenow.org](http://www.restorativejusticenow.org). The St. Mary’s Restorative Justice Initiative will pay the cost of attendance for 5 interns. If you are interested in attending the conference as an intern, please contact [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com).

## ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The **Office of Academic Excellence** is seeking second- and third-year law students to serve as **Academic Scholars** (Scholars) for first-year courses during the 2009-2010 school year. Prospective Scholars should be conscientious, possess a personal standard of academic excellence, work well with students from diverse educational backgrounds, communicate effectively, and exhibit a positive desire to teach and learn.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Be a currently enrolled St. Mary's law student.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
3. Demonstrate excellent comprehension of the course materials.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching methods.

### PAY

Scholars are expected to attend each class session, hold weekly Discussion Groups and be available for one-on-one tutoring should the need arise. Scholars will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester.

Dinner Orientation meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, Thursday, August 27, and Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.

FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE IN THE RABA FACULTY BUILDING, ROOM 106-E,  
OR CALL PROFESSOR SHARON BRECKENRIDGE THOMAS  
AT 210-436-3541

**\*\* APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009. \*\***

### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Be prepared for life's curves. Attend an informational session on **Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room** to learn more about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace @ Work ([fpw.daveramsey.com](http://fpw.daveramsey.com)). Class begins May 19, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more questions or more details email Lindsey Drake at [linseysdrake@gmail.com](mailto:linseysdrake@gmail.com).

## FORENSICS COACH

The **Department of English & Communication Studies** is looking for a graduate student to serve as **coach** for academic year 2009–10. St. Mary's University has a tradition of strong teams. It would be the equivalent of teaching a four-credit course and would pay about \$4000 per semester. The job includes periodic travel on weekends, Thursday afternoon to Sunday. If you would like to apply, please send a **résumé** and a statement of why you would like to be the coach and why you consider yourself qualified to Dr. Kathleen Maloney, Acting Assistant Chair, Box 35, or [kmaloney@stmarytx.edu](mailto:kmaloney@stmarytx.edu). Please forward specific questions to the current coach, Jennifer Butler, [jbutler@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jbutler@stmarytx.edu).

### OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Quick Reference Timeline

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – Priority date for completion of 2009-2010 FAFSA  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as

the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

## KAPLAN PMBR

**BIG NEWS!** We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR is guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.\*** Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\*Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

## FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE Honoring the Class of 2009

**Mark your calendar** to join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 11:45 a.m.**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school and the fiesta celebration immediately preceding the class photo. Everyone is invited.

## FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES! ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION (EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendoza1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendoza1@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an

acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### **1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

### **GRADUATION HONOR CORDS**

**Class of 2009 graduates** who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 121. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The price for **each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with either **cash or check**. No credit or debit cards will be accepted, and **no change will be made**. Purchase can be made anytime between now and **Friday, May 15, 2009**. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

### INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex,

national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

St. Mary's University School of Law is a member of the **Energy & Mineral Law Foundation** (E&MLF). As a benefit, students studying energy, environmental, natural resource and mineral law are eligible to apply for E&MLF scholarship assistance. Applications are now being accepted through **April 1, 2009**. For more information please visit [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship**. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **April 1, 2009**.



**Federal Bar Association - Southern District of Texas Chapter** is now accepting **Blask Fellowship Grant** applications for summer federal interns. The Blask Fellowships honor the memory of Magistrate Judge Ronnie Blask, an exceptionally-spirited lawyer, gentleman, and scholar who once served as President of the Southern District of Texas Chapter. Grants up to \$3,000 are available to a limited number of law students who serve as interns for federal courts or agencies located within the Southern District of Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. For eligibility information and application process, please email [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu). Deadline to apply is **Friday, April 3, 2009**.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition** Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues

and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 28

April 6, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations** to the recipients of the Sarah Thompson Essay Scholarship. The top 2 recipients are **Ashley Reeve** and **Rhonda Boyles**. Receiving honorable mention are **Elizabeth Hernandez** and **Trevor Hall**.

## FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE

**Reminder: Easter Monday, April 13, 2009**

Join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 12:00 noon**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school preceding the class photo. A fiesta lunch will be served. Service awards to follow. Everyone is invited.

## ALL 1L & EVENING STUDENTS JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Explore your **judicial clerkship future**. You are invited to attend a special presentation by Professors Klein and Marks on **Monday, April 6, 2009**, from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Stop in to learn about the types of **pre- and post-graduation judicial clerkships**, their importance and their benefits. Valuable handouts will be distributed. Please **RSVP** to Amber Theis at [atheis@stmarytx.edu](mailto:atheis@stmarytx.edu).

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE MEETING

The last meeting of the year for the **Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI)** will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009** at **12:00 noon** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law

Library. We will be discussing the National Restorative Justice Conference internships, Bridges to Life graduation, and a vision of what RJJ will become at St. Mary's in the near future. Food will be provided. Please email [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com) with any questions.

### JUDICIAL PANEL

**All students** are invited to attend a **judicial panel** on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Chief U.S. Bankruptcy **Judge Ronald B. King** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, **J. Caleb Rackley**, former clerk at the Texas Supreme Court and others will be on the panel. Now is the time to begin preparations for pre-and post-graduation judicial clerkships. This panel will discuss the coveted positions, which can be incredible springboards to **post-clerkship employment opportunities**. The competition can be fierce so make sure you have an edge on other applicants by attending this presentation. A free dinner will be served.

### TRYOUTS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP)

The application procedures for the **EAP Mock Trial** teams will begin shortly. This is a wonderful opportunity to master your advocacy skills and represent St. Mary's at regional and national competitions.

If you are interested in being considered for next year's mock trial teams, please fill out an application — which can be picked up in from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) — and turn it back in to him not later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9th**. When you turn in your application, you should sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted on April 14-16.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process will be announced at the **Barristers' Ball** on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Those students will be required to attend a Mock Trial Academy, to be held shortly after the fall semester begins. That academy will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the academy, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams and alternates.

### “PUTTIN’ ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE”

On **Thursday, April 9, 2009**, The Student Bar Association proudly presents **“Puttin’ on the Writs – A Law Revue”** to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212 **beginning at 8:00 p.m.** The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary's students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. If you would like to showcase your talent, for more information, or if you have any questions, please email Sarah M. Ellison at [sarahmellison@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmellison@gmail.com) or Diana Cavazos at [dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu](mailto:dcavazos@alum.trinity.edu). All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice**.

## EAP MOOT COURT TEAM TRYOUTS

The St. Mary's University School of Law **EAP Moot Court Team** will hold **open tryouts for first year law students** beginning Thursday, April 9th and Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th through Wednesday, April 15th. **Sign-up sheets to tryout are located on TWEN**, under the course name "EAP Moot Court."

The EAP Moot Court Team represents St. Mary's at state, regional, and national moot court competitions throughout the country. St. Mary's teams have competed in every major city in Texas, and numerous cities outside the state, including New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., New Orleans, Atlanta, Albuquerque, and San Diego. This year, St. Mary's competed in Toronto, Canada.

If you would like to have the opportunity to **add your name to the distinguished list** of St. Mary's advocates that have brought recognition to themselves and to this law school, and if you are interested in representing St. Mary's nationally and competing against the best advocates from the best law schools in the country, please **bring a resume** and be prepared to **present a 10-minute oral argument** from the First Year Moot Court problem. There will be a short interview following your presentation. If you are interested in joining the EAP Moot Court Program as a brief writer, please bring a resume and a writing sample to the tryouts. Please note: you may try out as an oral advocate, brief writer, or both. Those that wish to be considered only for a brief writing position need not present an oral argument but do need to reserve a time slot so that you can be interviewed.

Candidates will be emailed Wednesday, April 8th (for Thursday and Friday try-outs), or Sunday, April 12th (for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday try-outs) with the try-out location and any last minute information. All candidates should come to the try-outs in dress appropriate for an appellate argument. You may be videotaped.

Questions? Contact Ricky J. Poole, EAP Moot Court Team Coach at 210.525.7988 or [rpoole@alamocityattorney.com](mailto:rpoole@alamocityattorney.com).

## MAYORAL CANDIDATES' FORUM

**Sponsored by the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio**

Please join the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio for the **Mayoral Candidates' Forum** on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Light refreshments will be served.

## TRIAL ADVOCACY – NEW SECTION ADDED

Due to the demand for slots in **Trial Advocacy** a fifth section for this course has been added to the Fall 2009 schedule. Judge John Bull will teach a small section on Thursdays, from

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Courthouse. If you are not able to register for any of the five sections for Trial Advocacy, you may add your name to the waiting list posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, LFB 270. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Schlueter.

**BOOK DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN'S SHELTER AND GUADALUPE HOME**

The Scholar: *St. Mary's Law Review* on Minority Issues is collecting books for children ages 0-12. Collection bins will be available in the Law Classroom Building, Raba, and the Scholar Office, LL127 **through Wednesday, April 22, 2009**. The books collected will be donated to the **Guadalupe Home** which provides transitional housing for pregnant women and small children, and the **Children's Shelter**, which provides temporary housing to children removed from their homes. The Children's Shelter also operates a residential treatment home. Please contact [lawscholar@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lawscholar@stmarytx.edu) or 210.431.4229 for questions.

The **Evening Student Bar Association** (ESBA) has joined forces with the *Scholar* to promote the book drive for books for babies at Guadalupe Home. The Evening students are sponsoring pre-teen books for at risk pre-teens at the Children's Shelter. The bins for book donations will be available **through April 18, 2009** in the Law Administration Building, Law Library and Sister Grace's office. The ESBA appreciates any donations. If you don't have books to donate, **monetary donations** will be accepted in one of your classes, so look for us.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Be prepared for life's curves. Attend an informational session on **Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room** to learn more about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace @ Work ([fpw.daveramsey.com](http://fpw.daveramsey.com)). Class begins May 19, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more questions or more details email Lindsey Drake at [linseysdrake@gmail.com](mailto:linseysdrake@gmail.com).

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW WRITING COMPETITION**

The family of **James Derrick, III** (Jimi), established a memorial **Constitutional Law Contest** as a tribute to their son. Jimi died in 2002, when he was a second-year law student at St. Mary's. Jimi enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues, and in remembrance of their son's interest they are sponsoring a writing competition. Students are to write on the issue of **"whether the President has the authority to seize and detain U.S. citizens on U.S. soil based solely on their status as enemy combatants."** The **winner** will be **awarded \$500**. The brief or essay need only be about 5 pages and is **due by April 17, 2009** in Sister Grace's office no later than 5:00 p.m. For **more information**, students can look to the BOA's TWEN site under the James Derrick Competition heading.

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The **National Conference on Restorative Justice** will be held on **May 13-15, 2009** at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Downtown Campus. The conference is a joint venture involving leaders from around the world in the restorative justice field. St. Mary's University School of Law is a financial co-sponsor of the conference. For more information please go to [www.restorativejusticenow.org](http://www.restorativejusticenow.org). The St. Mary's Restorative Justice Initiative will pay the cost of attendance for 5 interns. If you are interested in attending the conference as an intern, please contact [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com).

### ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The **Office of Academic Excellence** is seeking second- and third-year law students to serve as **Academic Scholars** (Scholars) for first-year courses during the 2009-2010 school year. Prospective Scholars should be conscientious, possess a personal standard of academic excellence, work well with students from diverse educational backgrounds, communicate effectively, and exhibit a positive desire to teach and learn.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Be a currently enrolled St. Mary's law student.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
3. Demonstrate excellent comprehension of the course materials.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching methods.

### PAY

Scholars are expected to attend each class session, hold weekly Discussion Groups and be available for one-on-one tutoring should the need arise. Scholars will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester.

Dinner Orientation meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, Thursday, August 27, and Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.

FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE RABA FACULTY BUILDING, ROOM 106-E,  
OR CALL PROFESSOR SHARON BRECKENRIDGE THOMAS  
AT 210-436-3541

**\*\* APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009. \*\***



## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Quick Reference Timeline

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

### KAPLAN PMBR

**BIG NEWS!** We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR** is **guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.\*** Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers**

**must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>.** For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\* Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

### **FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!**

**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION (EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)**

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

\* **July 1:** participating employers should be set.

\* Starting **July 1** you may submit your materials to the box outside of Career Services or you may email them to Alicia Mendoza, [amendozal@stmarytx.edu](mailto:amendozal@stmarytx.edu) and she will email you an acknowledgment of receipt and ask for you to complete and return an attached Resume Transmittal form (RTF). Once she has received the completed RTF, she will submit your documents for you. Make sure you send to her EVERYTHING each employer is requesting.

\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

\* **Noon, August 12** is the firm deadline to submit hard copies if you did not submit them by email. You may mail hard copies to us and we will put the items in the bins for you but we must have RECEIVED them by August 11 in order to make this August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

## 1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

And remember, **OCI is not just for the top students**. Last Fall, 64% of the OCI employers asked for no rank or a rank of Top 30% or Top 50%. Did you know that 92% of all the 142 students (who had ranks ranging from the Top 1% to the Top 93%) who submitted resumes for OCI were granted at least 1 interview? Yes, even the person in the Top 93% got an interview. So don't count yourself out of this opportunity to conveniently interview with employers.

## GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

**Class of 2009 graduates** who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 121. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The price for **each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with either **cash or check**. No credit or debit cards will be accepted, and **no change will be made**. Purchase can be made anytime between now and **Friday, May 15, 2009**. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00**

**noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.** Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

## **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office started work in August 2005 and is funded through the Texas Taskforce on Indigent Defense. Its mission is to provide zealous representation for indigent appellants convicted of criminal acts by ensuring them consistent, accountable, highly qualified professional representation throughout the appellate process.

The office is staffed by four attorneys, all of whom carry a full caseload, and an office assistant. The assigned cases include death penalty and non-capital life sentence cases. It is hoped to expand the activities of the office to include appellate cases from surrounding counties, creating a regional office. Our long term goals include utilizing members of the bar in pro bono capacities and providing mentoring and supervision for those attorneys who wish to help but do not have appellate experience.

**Applications are being accepted** for internship positions from second and third year law students with a genuine interest in representing indigent defendants on appeal. Interns will be given a number of different assignments which may include reviewing records, legal research and writing, and opportunities for client contact and to attend oral argument at the Fourth Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. We are a small, friendly and informal office, and make every effort to ensure that our interns have a varied and interesting experience, in return for which we expect a high level of professionalism. A **minimum commitment of 15-20 hours per week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers.

Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 2009 writing competition for law students. The scope of permissible topics is broad, *i.e.* any aspect of public or private labor or employment law. All law students are eligible to participate. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. For competition rules please visit [www.laborandemploymentcollege.org](http://www.laborandemploymentcollege.org). Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and entry forms are available at [www.actec.org](http://www.actec.org). Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively.

Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

**NEW** - The University of Leicester presents the 2009 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is £250. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2009**.



# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 29

April 13, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## **FIESTA FAREWELL – GRADUATION PICTURE Monday, April 13, 2009**

Join us as we bid **farewell** to the **Class of 2009** and welcome them as “Almost Alumni” on **Monday, April 13, 12:00 noon**, at the **Law School Plaza**. Come and celebrate the almost-end of law school preceding the class photo. A fiesta lunch will be served. Service awards to follow. Everyone is invited.

## **MOOT COURT TEAM SHINES IN CHICAGO!**

Adjunct Professor Ricky Poole has reported that this past week, **Emily Jeffcott (3L)**, **Carolyn Skogman (2L)**, and **Sarah Blackstone (2L)** competed in the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition National Finals, held in Chicago. The team reached the "sweet sixteen" at the competition, breaking into the elimination rounds as the 8th best team in the tournament. Along the way, St. Mary's beat Loyola Chicago, currently ranked as having the best moot court program in the country. As a result of their collective efforts and fresh off of their regional win, **Emily, Carolyn and Sarah brought St. Mary's additional national prestige as one of the Top-12 moot court teams** out of an initial field of nearly 200 teams from more than one hundred law schools located in every region across the United States. Of **special note** are the individual accomplishments of Emily Jeffcott. Besides being the brief writer for the team, Emily was also recognized for her oral advocacy skills. Out of an initial field of more than 400 eligible law students, Emily received the distinction of being the Third Best Advocate in the country! Please join us in recognizing and applauding their success.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Ky Jurgensen (3L)**, winner and **Ashley Bower (2L)**, runner up to the **Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition** held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 in honor of James Derrick, III. A special **thank you** goes to all alumni judges and the Honorable **Xavier Rodriguez**, Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas who judged the final round. We also give recognition and thanks to **Board of Advocates** members Ashley Patton, Kat Thomas and Kelly Pittl for their efforts in coordinating this year's competition.

## MAYORAL CANDIDATES' FORUM

**Sponsored by the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio**

Please join the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio for the **Mayoral Candidates' Forum** on **Monday, April 13, 2009, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** in the **Law Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Light refreshments will be served.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Be prepared for life's curves. Attend an informational session on **Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room** to learn more about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace @ Work ([fpw.daveramsey.com](http://fpw.daveramsey.com)). Class begins May 19, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more questions or more details email Lindsey Drake at [linseysdrake@gmail.com](mailto:linseysdrake@gmail.com).

## MEETING & A MOVIE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

The last meeting for the Spring semester for the **Environmental Law Association (ELA)** will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. We will be watching a short movie called "Who Killed the Electric Car?" and discussing the Fall semester panel of Environmental Lawyers, who will discuss a current issue and future job opportunities in the legal industry. Please email [kurtknepper@yahoo.com](mailto:kurtknepper@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## EAP MOOT COURT TEAM TRYOUTS

The St. Mary's University School of Law **EAP Moot Court Team** will hold **open tryouts for first year law students** through Wednesday, April 15th. **Sign-up sheets to tryout are located on TWEN**, under the course name "EAP Moot Court."

The EAP Moot Court Team represents St. Mary's at state, regional, and national moot court competitions throughout the country. St. Mary's teams have competed in every major city in Texas, and numerous cities outside the state, including New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., New Orleans, Atlanta, Albuquerque, and San Diego. This year, St. Mary's competed in Toronto,

Canada.

If you would like to have the opportunity to **add your name to the distinguished list** of St. Mary's advocates that have brought recognition to themselves and to this law school, and if you are interested in representing St. Mary's nationally and competing against the best advocates from the best law schools in the country, please **bring a resume** and be prepared to **present a 10-minute oral argument** from the First Year Moot Court problem. There will be a short interview following your presentation. If you are interested in joining the EAP Moot Court Program as a brief writer, please bring a resume and a writing sample to the tryouts. Please note: you may try out as an oral advocate, brief writer, or both. Those that wish to be considered only for a brief writing position need not present an oral argument but do need to reserve a time slot so that you can be interviewed.

Candidates will be emailed with the try-out location and any last minute information. All candidates should come to the try-outs in dress appropriate for an appellate argument. You may be videotaped. Questions? Contact Ricky J. Poole, EAP Moot Court Team Coach at 210.525.7988 or [rpoole@alamocityattorney.com](mailto:rpoole@alamocityattorney.com).

**LOCK IN YOUR RATES – KAPLAN PMBR  
Deadline This Week!**

We are thrilled to announce that effective immediately **Kaplan PMBR is guaranteeing all students will pass the bar or will refund your money back.**\* Any student enrolled in the **MBE Combination Course** is guaranteed to pass the July bar regardless of what other state-specific prep they choose. Also, students who enroll before April 17, 2009 and are members of either the **ABA** or **BLSA** can save money off the price of their course. Add that to the \$300 St. Mary's discount and you save up to \$400! Don't forget: The **deadline** to lock in your rates for Kaplan PMBR is **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Prices will go up after April 17. Place your deposit now to lock in the best rate. 1Ls-2Ls = \$100 and 3Ls = \$200. **ALL July bar takers must be paid in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. For questions, contact any of the PMBR representatives listed below, email head representative Kennedy Granger at [mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mgranger@mail.stmarytx.edu) or stop by the law classroom building: Kennedy Granger, Gema Lopez, Andrea Aguilar, Nicole Hines-Glover, Bridgett Clay, Lysette Rios, Betty Lam or Nicole Littles. The Table Schedule is as follows: Monday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Tuesday 1:00–3:00 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00–11:00 a.m., Thursday 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Friday 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\*Pass the bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review or MBE Combination course to quality. Other restrictions apply. Visit [www.kaplanpmb.com](http://www.kaplanpmb.com) for complete eligibility requirements.

## TRIAL ADVOCACY – NEW SECTION ADDED

Due to the demand for slots in **Trial Advocacy** a fifth section for this course has been added to the Fall 2009 schedule. Judge John Bull will teach a small section on Thursdays, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Courthouse. If you are not able to register for any of the five sections for Trial Advocacy, you may add your name to the waiting list posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, LFB 270. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Schlueter.

## ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING

**Everything you wanted to know about on-campus interviewing...but were afraid to ask!**

Join us on **Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. You can't afford to try to go through OCI without this information, so be sure to attend!

## BOOK DRIVE

**TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN'S SHELTER AND GUADALUPE HOME**

The Scholar: *St. Mary's Law Review* on Minority Issues is collecting books for children ages 0-12. Collection bins will be available in the Law Classroom Building, Raba, and the Scholar Office, LL127 **through Wednesday, April 22, 2009**. The books collected will be donated to the **Guadalupe Home** which provides transitional housing for pregnant women and small children, and the **Children's Shelter**, which provides temporary housing to children removed from their homes. The Children's Shelter also operates a residential treatment home. Please contact [lawscholar@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lawscholar@stmarytx.edu) or 210.431.4229 for questions.

The **Evening Student Bar Association** (ESBA) has joined forces with the *Scholar* to promote the book drive for books for babies at Guadalupe Home. The Evening students are sponsoring pre-teen books for at risk pre-teens at the Children's Shelter. The bins for book donations will be available **through April 18, 2009** in the Law Administration Building, Law Library and Sister Grace's office. The ESBA appreciates any donations. If you don't have books to donate, **monetary donations** will be accepted in one of your classes, so look for us.

## CONSTITUTIONAL LAW WRITING COMPETITION

The family of **James Derrick, III** (Jimi), established a memorial **Constitutional Law Contest** as a tribute to their son. Jimi enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues, and in remembrance of their son's interest they are sponsoring a writing competition. Students are to write on the issue of "**whether the President has the authority to seize and detain U.S. citizens on U.S. soil based solely on their status as enemy combatants.**" The **winner** will be **awarded \$500**. The brief or essay need only be about 5 pages and is **due by April 17, 2009** in Sister Grace's office no later than 5:00 p.m. For **more information**, students can look to the BOA's TWEN site under the James Derrick Competition heading.

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The **National Conference on Restorative Justice** will be held on **May 13-15, 2009** at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Downtown Campus. The conference is a joint venture involving leaders from around the world in the restorative justice field. St. Mary's University School of Law is a financial co-sponsor of the conference. For more information please go to [www.restorativejusticenow.org](http://www.restorativejusticenow.org). The St. Mary's Restorative Justice Initiative will pay the cost of attendance for 5 interns. If you are interested in attending the conference as an intern, please contact [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com).

### ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The **Office of Academic Excellence** is seeking second- and third-year law students to serve as **Academic Scholars** (Scholars) for first-year courses during the 2009-2010 school year. Prospective Scholars should be conscientious, possess a personal standard of academic excellence, work well with students from diverse educational backgrounds, communicate effectively, and exhibit a positive desire to teach and learn.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Be a currently enrolled St. Mary's law student.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
3. Demonstrate excellent comprehension of the course materials.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching methods.

### PAY

Scholars are expected to attend each class session, hold weekly Discussion Groups and be available for one-on-one tutoring should the need arise. Scholars will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester.

Dinner Orientation meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, Thursday, August 27, and Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.

FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE RABA FACULTY BUILDING, ROOM 106-E,  
OR CALL PROFESSOR SHARON BRECKENRIDGE THOMAS  
AT 210-436-3541

**\*\* APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009. \*\***

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
**Quick Reference Timeline**

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Loan Information Form due  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**Endowed Scholarship Application for 2009-2010 year:** Scholarship applications are now available and can be picked up from the Financial Aid Office form rack or by requesting it via email at [nluna@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nluna@stmarytx.edu). The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class with amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Preference is given to students who have not already received a St. Mary's scholarship.

**Summer Loan Information:** Costs sheets for summer sessions are available. The Summer Loan Information Form will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

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**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION  
(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT  
GRADS)**

The **earlier dates for Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** are being driven by employers who want earlier consideration of students. Four other Texas schools will have already started their OCI the previous week. So...if you are going to **remain competitive**, particularly in this tight economy, you will have to jump in early. Together, we can make this work! All students: **Mark your calendars** with the dates for Fall On-Campus Interviewing:

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\* **August 10** is the firm deadline to submit via email. If you do not get an acknowledgment on or by that date then you may contact the Career Services Office at 210.436.3511. You may need to submit hard copies.

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\* School will start on **August 24**.

\* On-Campus Interviewing will occur **August 25-September 11**.

### 1L/2L/3L EVENING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Please know that because the dates of **Fall On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)** have been moved earlier in the year, the Office of Career Services will be putting on special resume writing workshops and sessions on how to participate in OCI during the Spring and Summer. It is critical that you, regardless of where you rank in your class, attend these so you don't miss deadlines and you know how to participate. **Interviews will start** the second day after your return to school in the Fall. You need to be ready to go, so please invest some time this Spring to insure that you have a great time in the Fall interviewing. Due to the **submission deadline occurring during the Summer**, you may want to attend one of the upcoming Everything You Want To Know About On-Campus Interviewing sessions, even if you have attended one in the past. Submission options will vary from the past this year.

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### GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

**Class of 2009 graduates** who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 121. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The price for **each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with either **cash or check**. No credit or



debit cards will be accepted, and **no change will be made**. Purchase can be made anytime between now and **Friday, May 15, 2009**. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

## **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP**

A **summer internship** with the Staff Attorneys' Office at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in Austin, Texas is available for a **limited number of students** during the summer of 2008. Students who are selected for the program will work under the supervision of staff attorneys on criminal appeals, petitions for discretionary review and habeas corpus petitions. **Those interested in applying** should send a resume and a cover letter to **Professor Schmolesky** in **Room 224** of the **Law Faculty Building**. In the letter please indicate if you have any preference for first or second summer session. Students will receive 2 pass/fail credits upon successful completion of the program that requires a minimum of 120 hours of work. Students will receive credit as if for a course offered on the home campus rather than transient credit and accepted students will be required to pay tuition to the law school for their participation in the program. Preference will be given to students who have completed 2 years of law school, but students who have completed their first year may apply. The **deadline** for applications is **12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

## **INTERNSHIP POSITIONS**

As part of a new internship program, developed in conjunction with St. Mary's University School of Law, the **Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office** is looking for interns for the Spring and Summer semesters. There will be internship positions available each semester.

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**week** will be required. Whenever possible we will assign at least one piece of work which can be used as a future writing sample. We welcome applicants of any race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, political belief or disability. All candidates will be required to attend a short interview at our office.

**If you are interested please send a cover letter, your resume and a writing sample to:**

Angela J. Moore, Chief Public Defender, Bexar County Appellate Public Defender's Office,  
Suite 214, 410 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Phone (210) 335 0701 ■ Fax (210) 335 0707 ■ e-mail: [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org)

For questions or more information, email [amoore@bexar.org](mailto:amoore@bexar.org) or you may contact Professor Schmolesky at (210) 431-2275 or [jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jschmolesky@stmarytx.edu).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ATJ Law School and Law Student Awards**

Established by the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** in 2007, the ATJ Law School Commitment to Service Award is open to all accredited law schools in Texas. This award will honor a law school whose curriculum, clinic, faculty and student organizations have made a significant impact on the community as demonstrated by involvement in the advocacy of underserved populations and substantial encouragement and opportunity for active engagement in pro bono legal service (as opposed to general public service). The Commission also sponsors the ATJ Law Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes the dedication of a law student who has enhanced the delivery of quality legal services for poor Texans. This award is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Texas law school. Award nomination forms and criteria may be found at the Commission's website at [www.texasatj.org](http://www.texasatj.org) or by emailing [tlcmail@texasbar.com](mailto:tlcmail@texasbar.com). Nominations for both awards must be received by **May 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) or stop by LAB105.

The **Municipal Judges Section** of the Texas State Bar is pleased to announce the sponsorship of an essay contest, "The Role of the Municipal Courts in our Community" open to second and third year law students. The winning entry will receive a \$500 scholarship. Maximum words for the essay is 1,500. Deadline to enter is **April 15, 2009**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2009**.

**Notre Dame Law School** Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Call For Papers. The competition is open to all law students. Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics. Entries must be original, unpublished work and must not exceed 50 pages, including notes. Coauthored essays may be submitted. A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-1809.

**National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights** announces its legal research and advocacy contest. To participate, law students need only submit a 1000 word summary of their idea or proposal for a novel legal action aimed at protecting the rights of nonsmokers. Thirty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for second and \$1,000 for third, all in addition to 30 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>. Deadline to enter is **May 1, 2009**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing competition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit [www.texasbariplaw.org](http://www.texasbariplaw.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2009**.

Applications are now being accepted for the Sovereignty Symposium XXII **Ed Edmondson Scholarship**. One-hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver scholarships are being offered. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues and the need for scholarship in a letter of application. For further information please contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522-5801 or email [julie.rorie@oscn.net](mailto:julie.rorie@oscn.net). Deadline to enter is **May 5, 2009**.

The **International Association of Defense Counsel** invites you to participate in its 2009 Legal Writing Contest. First prize is \$2,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Rules, writing guidelines and entry forms may be found on the IADC web site at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm). Deadline for articles is **Friday, May 15, 2009**.

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The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the sixteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2009 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Rules and

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The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

**NEW** – The **National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)** is accepting essays for the 2009 Law Student Essay Competition. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and be given a scholarship to the NACC Law Conference in Brooklyn, New York. Essays must be received by **June 1, 2009**. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at [www.NACCchildlaw.org](http://www.NACCchildlaw.org)

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

**NEW** – The 2009-2010 annual **LatCrit Student Scholar Program (SSP)**, in partnership with DePaul University College of Law and the University of Iowa College of Law is now accepting applications. For copies of the official Call for Papers and related application materials, please visit the LatCrit, Inc. website at [www.latcrit.org](http://www.latcrit.org). The **deadline** to apply is **July 1, 2009**.

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

The University of Leicester presents the 2009 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is £250. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2009**.

# WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 31

April 27, 2009

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales ([bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu)) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

## ATTENTION ALL 3LS Pro Bono Certificates

Please note that your **hour-tracking forms** are due before **5:00 p.m.** on **Friday, May 1, 2009**. Forms are available through **Kristal Thurmond, Pro Bono** desk located next to Professor Mark's office, LF254 in the Raba Building. Forms are also available on the Pro Bono Clinics/Community Service **TWEN site**. Just click on the link labeled "Track Your Hours" (located in the blue block on the left hand side of the home page). Eligibility requirements for certificates is 50 hours of completed Pro Bono Service for the Pro Bono Certificate and 50 hours of completed Community Service for the Community Service Certificate. Forms may be submitted to Kristal Thurmond or Laura Almanza in the Raba Building or to Christopher Clapham at the CLSJ.

If you completed a course in Civil Justice, Immigration or Criminal Justice Clinic, you are automatically eligible for a Pro Bono Certificate. For any questions, please contact Christopher Clapham at 210.431.5765 or [cclapham@stmarytx.edu](mailto:cclapham@stmarytx.edu) to ensure you receive your certificate at graduation.

## STUDENT LOCKER RENEWAL

It is time to **renew** your rental locker agreement. Please stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration building to renew your agreement. The **2009-2010 renewal fee is \$35**. Checks should be made payable to the Student Bar Association. If you will not be renewing your agreement, **please return your locker key** and pick up your deposit check no later than **May 15, 2009**. Checks for any key not returned will be deposited for payment on **May 22** and lockers will be emptied on **May 29**. Third year students who need their locker for bar purposes, please email

Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) so that your locker items are not discarded nor your check cashed.

### **ACCESS TRANSCRIPTS of TEXAS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS on WESTLAW**

**Westlaw** has created a database of written transcripts for **oral arguments** held at the **Texas Supreme Court**. Since St. Mary's law school is the originator and sponsor of the Texas Supreme Court **Webcast project**, we have received a number of complimentary passwords to access this database. [Note: your regular Westlaw password will not work for this database due to Westlaw restrictions.]

If you wish to look at the transcripts of any oral arguments, **please contact Tim Wilson**, Electronic Services Librarian (email: [twilson11@stmarytx.edu](mailto:twilson11@stmarytx.edu); phone: 210.436.3512), and he can **give you a password**. If Tim is not available, please ask any of our librarians or the Circulation Desk for assistance. Please contact Tim if you need technical assistance.

When you logon to Westlaw using such a password, there will be several brief sign-in screens to complete during your first use. These are one time prompts only for your first use. The first screen asks you if you would like hourly or transactional billing. You will NOT be charged for access regardless of whichever option you choose. This password allows you to access only the database of TX oral argument transcripts. If you try to access other databases, such as the TX briefs, you will get a pop-up box that this content is outside of your subscription.

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### **TRIAL ADVOCACY – NEW SECTION ADDED**

Due to the demand for slots in **Trial Advocacy** a fifth section for this course has been added to the Fall 2009 schedule. Judge John Bull will teach a small section on Thursdays, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Courthouse. If you are not able to register for any of the five sections for Trial Advocacy, you may add your name to the waiting list posted on Professor Schlueter's office door, LFB 270. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Schlueter.

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The **National Conference on Restorative Justice** will be held on **May 13-15, 2009** at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Downtown Campus. The conference is a joint venture involving leaders from around the world in the restorative justice field. St. Mary's University School of Law is a financial co-sponsor of the conference. For more information please go to [www.restorativejusticenow.org](http://www.restorativejusticenow.org). The St. Mary's Restorative Justice Initiative will pay the cost of attendance for 5 interns. If you are interested in attending the conference as an intern, please contact [mlaneman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaneman@yahoo.com).

### OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Quick Reference Timeline

Ongoing Now – Endowed Scholarship Applications are available

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer 1 session begins

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative date for refund of financial aid

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tentative date for refund of private loan aid for Innsbruck only

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer 2 session begins

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for refunds for Summer 2 only students.

**UPDATE on Summer Loan Information:** Students attending summer sessions are eligible to receive financial assistance. The minimum number of credit hours needed for funding is 2 credit hours for a summer session. If attending summer for the first time, funding for the Stafford Loan is set up as \$20,500 for the summer and fall semesters with a new \$20,500 funding beginning in the spring 2010 semester. The Summer Loan Information Form is now available and is the form used to request the amount of funds needed for the summer. Detailed information, requirements and instructions are on the form. While the priority deadline is past, the Summer Loan Information is still being accepted and will be processed after applications received by the priority deadline are completed.

**Tax benefits for education for tax year 2008:** Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability through different education credits. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation.

**FAFSA for 2009-2010:** Form is required for each academic year beginning with the fall semester. Results from this form is used for determining recipients of Endowed Scholarship as the majority of the scholarships are based on both academic merit as well as financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical for this process.

**FALL ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWING – NEW EARLIER DATES!**  
**ALL CURRENT STUDENTS PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION**



(EVEN YOU CURRENT 3L'S AS THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT GRADS)

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The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Fourth Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. All entries must be submitted between March 1, 2009 and **June 1, 2009**. For contest guidelines please visit [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org).

The **National Association of Counsel for Children** (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2009 Law Student Essay Competition. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and be given a scholarship to the NACC Law Conference in Brooklyn, New York. Essays must be received by **June 1, 2009**. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at [www.NACCchildlaw.org](http://www.NACCchildlaw.org)

The ABA Section of **Real Property, Trust and Estate Law** announces its annual student writing competition for the Section's flagship scholarly publication, the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 with second and third place winners receiving cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. Deadline to submit papers is **June 19, 2009**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at [www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/writingcontest).

The 2009-2010 annual **LatCrit Student Scholar Program (SSP)**, in partnership with DePaul University College of Law and the University of Iowa College of Law is now accepting applications. For copies of the official Call for Papers and related application materials, please visit the LatCrit, Inc. website at [www.latcrit.org](http://www.latcrit.org). The **deadline** to apply is **July 1, 2009**.

The Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association is pleased to announce the **James E. Beckley** writing competition. This is a writing competition for students who are interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities law. First prize is \$1000, Second prize is \$750 and third

prize is \$500. For more information please visit [www.piaba.org](http://www.piaba.org). Click on Member Resources and select Law Students. Submission **deadline** is **August 17, 2009**.

The University of Leicester presents the 2009 **Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize Essay** contest. Essay should be no more than 10,000 words relating to Women & The Law. Prize is £250. For more information, email: [lh55@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh55@le.ac.uk). Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2009**.