WITAN
St. Mary’s University School of Law

Issue 1 August 25, 2014 By LHB

Submit articles to be published to Ms. Bebe Gonzalez (bgonzalez4@stmarytx.edu) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

WELCOME
FROM THE OFFICE OF DEAN STEPHEN SHEPPARD
LAWYER WHO FREED WRONGFULLY CONVICTED MAN ON DEATH ROW TO SPEAK AT TRINITY UNIVERSITY
MANDATORY MEETING WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS FOR FIRST-YEAR DAY AND EVENING STUDENTS
DOCKET CALL
ATTENTION CLASS OF 2015 – J.D. AND LL.M. GRADUATE CANDIDATES
CHECK YOUR STUDENT MAILBOX IN THE LAW CLASSROOM BUILDING
1L FINGERPRINTING - RESERVE THE DATE
TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION FILING DEADLINES
PRACTICE CREDIT PROGRAMS (PCP)
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES EVENTS
HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT
EVENT SET-UP FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
TOBACCO PRODUCTS
LAW MINISTRY
JOIN AUSTIN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
POSTING NOTICES
WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
WELCOME
FROM THE OFFICE OF DEAN STEPHEN SHEPPARD

Welcome back! I hope you had an excellent summer break. As you may know, I became dean during the summer. I have been busy meeting many of St. Mary’s friends, and … now that you are back … I hope to meet you. Later this semester, Dean Mather will issue an invitation designating a time and place where you can join us and discuss whatever is on your mind. In the meantime, if there is anything urgent, please contact Ms. Becky Adams (badams@stmarytx.edu, 210.431.5017) for some time with me, or catch me in my office in the Raba Building, LF 272. Enjoy your semester!

LAWYER WHO FREED WRONGFULLY CONVICTED MAN ON DEATH ROW TO SPEAK AT TRINITY UNIVERSITY

Diana Holt, whose efforts were chronicled in the best seller Anatomy of Injustice, will talk about the case as part of Trinity University’s Reading TUgether keynote lecture. Diana is an attorney who took up the cause of a wrongfully convicted man sitting on death row. Her presentation will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 in Laurie Auditorium, Trinity University, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. In attendance will be Edward Lee Elmore, the man whose conviction she fought to overturn. The event is free and open to the public.

MANDATORY MEETING WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS FOR FIRST-YEAR DAY AND EVENING STUDENTS

All first-year students, both day and evening, are required to attend the information meeting with the Board of Law Examiners (BLE), scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in Law Classrooms 101-102-103. Ms. Lori S. Adelman, Director, Character and Fitness, will conduct the meeting and will impart crucial information for filing the Declaration of Intention to Study Law, as well as answer student questions about the process.

DOCKET CALL
Calling all law student organizations, programs and services!

Docket Call will be held on Thursday, September 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., in the Law Plaza. This is a great way to register members and inform everyone about what your organization does. Students, come learn about the various opportunities at your school and don’t forget to bring your checkbooks so you may join the different organizations that will help shape your future. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information, or if you are interested in a table, please contact Jessica Shawver (jessica.shawver@aol.com) or Kate Dewan (kate.dewan@gmail.com).
ATTENTION CLASS OF 2015 – J.D. AND LL.M. GRADUATE CANDIDATES
CHECK YOUR STUDENT MAILBOX IN THE LAW CLASSROOM BUILDING
APPLICATION FOR DEGREE CARDS

The 3L student mailboxes have been stuffed with an Application for Degree card, which lets the Administration know (1) if you will receive your J.D. or LL.M. degree [must check one]; (2) whether you intend to complete your degree requirements in December 2014, May 2015, or August 2015 [August graduates are considered with the next years’ class, Class of 2016, for graduation purposes]; (3) if you will also receive a joint degree in conjunction with the Graduate School [indicate the Masters degree you will earn]; and (4) how you would like your name to appear on your diploma [next to (Print Name) line]. The completed card must be returned to Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, Law Administration Building, Room 121, by Friday, September 19, 2014. If you intend to graduate but did not receive a card in your student box, you can pick one up from her office. If you ARE NOT GRADUATING within the next 12 months, please let Ms. Olfers know so she can remove your name from any preliminary lists.

1L FINGERPRINTING - RESERVE THE DATE

L1 Identity Solutions will conduct fingerprinting for all first-year law students for the Declaration of Intent for the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) on the below listed dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 22</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 24</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Monday, October 27</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 29</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 3</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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Please reserve the dates. Instructions for the registration process, which is completed after the Declaration has been filed, as well as the location will be announced at a later date. Please check your St. Mary’s Student Email account for more details on the 1L Fingerprinting process.

TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION FILING DEADLINES

Application deadlines for the Texas Bar Examination are noted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>File No Earlier Than</th>
<th>Timely Postmark Deadline</th>
<th>Absolute Postmark Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>October 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>March 30</td>
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Deadlines are STRICTLY enforced. Please refer to the Texas Board of Law Examiners website http://www.ble.state.tx.us/exam_info/deadlines_tbe.htm for more information.

**PRACTICE CREDIT PROGRAMS (PCP)**

It is not too late for **FALL** externships! Start planning ahead for the **SPRING OR** if you have an internship and want to earn credit. **Contact AMANDA RIVAS as soon as possible!** Email or call to schedule a one-on-one meeting, arivas@stmarytx.edu, office telephone 210.431.5712. PCP office hours in Career Services are Monday’s, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Thursday’s, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The below positions are available NOW:
- Veterans Administration, Audie Murphy- MedMal/Torts- (San Antonio)
- Equal Justice Center- Employment Law- (San Antonio)
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (San Antonio-tax, property, others)
- Catholic Charities- Immigration (San Antonio)
- Disability Rights Texas- Education/Civil Rights/ADA (San Antonio)
- UTSA Commercialization- IP/Trademarks (San Antonio)
- Office of Attorney General- Child Support (San Antonio)
- Texas Civil Rights Project (Austin)
- Office of the Governor (Austin)

Read about the two program options (**PCP Externship** or **PCP Independent Study**) on our website: [https://www.stmarytx.edu/academics/law/centers/practice-credit-program/](https://www.stmarytx.edu/academics/law/centers/practice-credit-program/).

**PLAN ahead:** **PCP Externship program (including In House Counsel) MANDATORY orientation class.** The PCP Independent Study Program does NOT require this class. Contact Amanda Rivas with any questions about the program or class at arivas@stmarytx.edu.

**DISCLAIMER:** You may attend the class even if you are not formally registered and you are still trying to solidify a placement. If you get a qualified job later and have not attended the class, you will be precluded from registering for the Externship course and gaining the maximum amount of credits.

**OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Please **RSVP to attend any of the below listed programs:** RSVP in the “Events” section of Symplicity under “Workshops”. You will not be included in the head count for food if you do not RSVP at least 24-hours before the event. You may still attend the event; however we ask that you do not eat until after the program concludes.

**Ask a Counselor Hour**
Monday, August 25, 2014
8:00 – 9:00 p.m., Online Through Symplicity Chat Feature
Need to ask a question about career planning but don't have enough time to stop by the Office of Career Services? Director Patrick will be available to answer your questions through the live chat feature in Symplicity. Log into Symplicity and click on the Chat with an Office of Career Services Staff Member.

**OCS Back to School Kick Off, Popcorn in the Courtyard**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2014**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Law Courtyard**  
Come by to get a bag of popcorn and learn about all of the exciting programming OCS has to offer this semester.

**Department of Justice Honors Program Information Session**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2014**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Atrium, Law Administration Building**  
Lunch will be provided. Tracey Greer, United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division attorney will come and speak about opportunities for paid and unpaid summer and paid post graduate positions through the honors program with the United States Department of Justice.

**Meet the Professionals Series: Federal Government, ARMY JAG**  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2014**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, Room 216, Law Library**  
You may bring a brown bag lunch.  
LIMITED TO 10 STUDENTS, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, SIGN UP IN SYMPLECTIVITY  
The Meet the Professionals Series is a series of programs that provide students with an opportunity to learn from practitioners in a small setting. The practitioners will talk about their career and experiences and how they got to their current positions as well as answer student questions. This program will be presented by Major Jason Wells an ARMY JAG officer and will discuss opportunities to become an ARMY JAG intern or ARMY JAG after law school. He will also be conducting JAG informational interviews if you are interested in applying for JAG for after graduation that day. If you are interested, you may apply to the 2014 Army JAG session in the “On Campus Interviews Tab” in Symplicity.

**Lunch and Learn: Southwest Research Institute**  
**Wednesday, September 3, 2014**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, Room 216, Law Library**  
Come learn about Southwest Research Institute from attorneys in their legal department. You will learn about what their practice is like and the type of work Southwest Research engages in on a regular basis. This employer hires students for paid internships so it is a great networking opportunity! Lunch will be provided by Southwest Research from Jason's Deli. This event is cosponsored by the Business Law Association and the Office of Career Services.

**Meet the Professionals Series: Federal Government, NAVY JAG**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2014**
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, Room 216, Law Library
You may bring a brown bag lunch.
LIMITED TO 10 STUDENTS, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, SIGN UP IN SYMPLECTIC
Come hear from current JAG officer and STMU Law alum about the NAVY program and the hiring process. The NAVY does not conduct interviews on campus so if you are interested in learning about the NAVY, do not miss this opportunity. Lt. Albright, J.D. ’06 will be speaking at this session.

LL.M. Informational Meeting and Luncheon
Wednesday, September 10, 2014
12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Law Alumni Room
Lunch will be served.
The Office of Academic and Student Affairs and the Office of Career Services will be holding a lunch meeting with LL.M. students to discuss questions related to academic skills, career resources, gaining experience through the Pro Bono program and the changing New York Bar Exam requirements.

Charting Your Course over your Last Year in Law School (Class of 2015)
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Law Alumni Room
Lunch will be provided.
This program will refresh your game plan as your start your last year of law school. Topics will include:
• Refreshing your Resume
• Using Symplicity
• Gaining additional job skills in your last year
• Preparing for solo practice
• Learning about exit interviews and much more.

SABA/3L Mentor-Mentee Program Reception
Thursday, September 18, 2014
5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Law Alumni Room
Food and drinks will be provided.
The Office of Career Services and the San Antonio Bar Association (SABA) invite you to the SABA-3L Mentor-Mentee Program Reception. Please join us to learn about the program and tell us what area of the law you are interested in so we can find the right mentor for you. Dress code is business casual.

Ask a Counselor Hour
Monday, September 22, 2014
8:00 – 9:00 p.m., Online Through Symplicity Chat Feature
Need to ask a question about career planning but don't have enough time to stop by the Office of Career Services? Director Patrick will be available to answer your questions through the live chat feature in Symplicity. Log into Symplicity and click on the Chat with an Office of Career Services
Year Two, Now What to Do? (Class of 2016)
Wednesday, September 24, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Law Alumni Room
Lunch will be provided.
This program is designed to help you stay on task with your career planning. Did you work your first summer? Are you worried about gaining experience? It is not too late! There are tons of opportunities for second year students and this program will highlight them for you. We will also discuss how to update your resume, maximize your use of Symplicity including the various resume books and take advantage of networking opportunities.

Meet the Professionals Series: Insurance Defense Law
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, Room 216, Law Library
The Meet the Professionals Series is a series of programs that provide students with an opportunity to learn from practitioners in a small setting. The practitioners will talk about their career and experiences and how they got to their current positions as well as answer student questions. The programs are limited to 10 students. Space is limited. Sarah Minter, a local insurance defense attorney at the law firm of Goldman and Associates will present this program. You may bring a brown bag lunch.

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

St. Mary’s 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 you may complete the waiver process by going to the following link: https://www.academichealthplans.com/stmarytx/

Deadline to waive the Student Health Insurance is September 19, 2014. There are no extensions to this deadline. F1 international students are NOT allowed to waive the Student Health Insurance for any reason.

Commuter students who are interested in enrolling on the Student Health Insurance program can do so online by visiting: https://www.academichealthplans.com/stmarytx/index.php. Students have until September 19, 2014 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 the St. Mary’s Student Health Center 210.436.3506.
EVENT SET-UP FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Work Order requests for event set-ups should be submitted 10-days in advance to Ofilia Rodarte, Dean’s Office, orodarte@stmarytx.edu.

Please note this is a St. Mary’s University Housekeeping Division policy. This advance notice allows the Housekeeping Division to appropriately schedule staff, set-up and breakdown of your event.

Work Orders received after this deadline will be accommodated when possible, however not guaranteed.

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.

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 Ernest Raba (Law Faculty) building. Sister Grace is available for pastoral counseling and spiritual guidance. Sister Grace also coordinates service programs that provide outreach to the community. You may reach Sister Grace by telephone at 210.436.3063 or by email at gwalle@stmarytx.edu. Stop by for a cup of coffee or a PBJ sandwich, available at no cost, just outside of her office.

JOIN AUSTIN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Do you live in Austin or are you planning on practicing in Austin? Join Austin Young Lawyers Association (AYLA). A one year student membership is $25 or $50 for a three year membership (good even after graduation). Other reasons to join AYLA:

- Networking/social opportunities
- Free monthly "Docket Call" Happy Hours and the Annual Holiday Party
- Pro Bono and Community Service Volunteer Opportunities
- Austin Bar Association/AYLA Joint Luncheons
- Annual Bench-Bar Conference
- Opportunities to mix, mingle, and make new friends
- Opportunity for participation in various athletic events and tournaments
- All members receive the Austin Lawyer, a monthly newsletter

This is a great opportunity to meet and work with young Austin attorneys - any one of which
could be your connection to a job! To join, please go to the AYLA website at www.ayla.org.

**POSTING NOTICES**

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

- In the *Witan* (provide a copy to Ms. Bebe Gonzalez (bgonzalez4@stmarytx.edu) by noon Thursday.

- On its organization bulletin board

- 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 is:
  
  1. not greater than 11” x 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.

**WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

If a link is not provided below for detailed information to any of the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzalez at bgonzalez4@stmarytx.edu.

The [Dallas Asian-American Bar Association](#) (DAABA) will award a scholarship of up to $5,000 to a law student enrolled at the time of the application and scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage Asian-American law students to enter the practice of law in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and to become active members of DAABA and the Asian-American community. The [Law Student Scholarship Application](#) must be postmarked by **September 19, 2014**.

The [Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association](#) (PIABA) 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.piabafoundation.org](http://www.piabafoundation.org). Submission deadline is 5:00 p.m., **September 19, 2014**.

[Latham & Watkins](#) is pleased to announce the Latham Diversity Scholars Program which will award a $10,000 non-renewable scholarship to six law students for use during their second year of law school. Details and application forms may be found [here](#). Deadline to apply is **September 26, 2014**.
1-800-LAW-FIRM, PLLC is now accepting essay entries through **October 5, 2014** on the topic “What would you do to improve the legal system.” $10,000 grand prize. Please go to [http://www.1800lawfirm.com/scholarship](http://www.1800lawfirm.com/scholarship)” for more information.

The **Center for Alcohol Policy** is accepting submissions for their national essay contest. The topic for this year’s contest is: “As states contemplate the legalization of prohibited products, like marijuana, what are some lessons policymakers and regulators can learn from the movement to end alcohol Prohibition in the 1930s?” Prizes are $5,000, 2,500 and 1,000. For more information, please visit [www.centerforalcoholpolicy.org](http://www.centerforalcoholpolicy.org). All entries must be received by **November 17, 2014**.

As more writing competitions, fellowships and scholarships are available, they will be published here. Please check back again. Thank you.