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The Witan

School of Law Publications

2007

2007-2008 School Year

St. Mary's University School of Law

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 1

August 23, 2007

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales (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 extend a special welcome to our **first evening division class** and 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 5, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** (for day students) and **5:45 p.m.** (for evening students) in **Law Classroom 102**. 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, 2007**; the cost is \$190. A **late fee** of \$150 is imposed if this deadline is not met.

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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, 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!

COURSE CHANGES FOR FALL 2007 SEMESTER ONLY

Wednesday, August 29 and Thursday, August 30. Course change forms are available on the web at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/Coursechangeform.pdf>. Turn forms in to Law Administration Building, **Room 105** between **8:00 a.m.** and **5:00 p.m.** on Wednesday and Thursday. A listing of class closures is located in the hallway outside of the Admissions Office. Approximately two hours after the form is submitted, students may check **ATROX** for verification of the change. If you plan to change classes, please begin attending the class from the first day of the semester. Other items to keep in mind regarding course changes are:

1. You may not be enrolled for more than seventeen (17) hours in the Fall or Spring semesters.
2. In rare cases, written permission may be granted to enroll for more than the number of credit hours allowed per semester. See Associate Dean Victoria Mather for approval. Dean Mather's signature on the registration form will suffice.
3. You may not be enrolled for classes that meet at the same time or if scheduled meeting times overlap.

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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- 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.

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.

Deadline to waive the Student Health Insurance is the **12th class day or September 7, 2007**. 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. Students have up to the **12th class day or September 7, 2007** 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) 436-3607**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 2

August 27, 2007

By VMM

Submit articles to Ms. Bebe Gonzales (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! We 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 – the largest first year class in the history of our law school. Last Thursday at your orientation, you received some very encouraging advice from Dr. Charles Cotrell, President of St. Mary's University and from Judge Barbara Hervey, President of our Law Alumni Association. We 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

The *Witan* is published weekly by the Law School Administration and contains important announcements from the administration, faculty, staff and student organizations. The *Witan* is the **primary** means of alerting students to important announcements, including scholarship

opportunities, writing contests (that have cash prizes), course registration (for 2L and 3L classes), 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.

NEW EAP MOCK TRIAL COACHES

Please welcome the new coaches and assistant coaches for the EAP Mock Trial Teams – teams that compete in regional and national competitions. The two new head coaches are Mr. Cliff Herberg and Mr. Bill Squires. They are both St. Mary's graduates, and are in the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. While students at St. Mary's they were active in both internal and external competitions.

The three assistant coaches are Mr. Morgan Matson, a University of Texas graduate, of Major Lindsey & Africa, L.L.C.; Mr. Paul Huckaby, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, of the Law Office of Paul D. Huckaby; and Ms. Nicole Thornbro, a graduate of Arizona State University, who works at the Bexar County District Attorney's office, White Collar Crime Division.

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3. You may not be enrolled for classes that meet at the same time or if scheduled meeting times overlap.
4. In the meantime, attend the classes that you plan to take.

ORIENTATION ON ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AT ST. MARY'S

- 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, August 30, 2007** in **LCB 104** from **4:30 to 5:30 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.

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Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process will be required to attend a mock trial boot camp, to be held on the weekend of September 21-23. The boot camp (approximately 11 hours of training) will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the four mock trial teams and alternates.

To date, the law school has accepted invitations to compete in the NTAC competition at Michigan State on October 25-27 and at Buffalo-Niagara, New York, on November 10-12. Several other applications are pending.

If you have any questions, please contact Prof. Schlueter.

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OPENINGS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Professor Schlueter is looking for at least two research assistants to work on various writing projects this next year. It is important that you have finished, and done well, in the Evidence course. If you are interested, please contact him.

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WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **National Administrative Law Judge Foundation**, the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, is requesting applications for the 2007 Fellowship. The topic for the 2007 Fellowship is “Administrative Due Process and Enemy Combatants.” The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, and will deliver a fifty-minute oral presentation at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 17-20, 2007. Besides the \$1,000 stipend, the Fellow will receive air transportation, accommodations, and meals at the annual meeting and educational program. The final draft of the paper is due **January 1, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.naalj.org.

WITAN

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Issue 3

September 3, 2007

By VMM

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MINI BAR PREP SERIES

The Bar is almost here! 91% of the 3Ls who took the **Mini Bar Prep** passed the 2006 Summer Bar. It is never too early to start studying! Grab lunch and information on the Mini Bar Prep Series, brought to you by the Office of Academic Excellence, **September 5, 2006** in the **Alumni Room**. There will be two orientation sessions: Session I will be held from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. and Session II will be from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. For questions or additional information, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at (210) 431-4340 or email academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE FORUM

Second and **third-year students** are invited to an open house forum with Deans Charles Cantú and Victoria Mather on **Monday, September 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**.

First-year students are invited to the open house forum on **Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**.

Both forums are intended to answer questions about school and community.

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary services are **available** in the **Law Administration building**, office of Academic and Student Affairs, Room 105; Dean's Office, Rooms 120 and 121; and Law Alumni Office, Room 113. **Limited** notary services are available in Career Services, Law Library Room 216. Fees are waived for students, staff and faculty.

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Research Assistant needed this academic year for Professor Al Kauffman. Research Assistant will work on updates on U.S. and Texas procedure and work on equity of Texas school finance and higher education finance systems. 10-20 hours per week. Please specify your interest and email your resume to Al Kauffman at akauffman@stmarytx.edu.

Research Assistant needed for a short term project. Research assistant will work with Professor Al Kauffman on an article on the history of the Texas school finance lawsuit; depending on likely funding from national foundation. Please specify your interest and email your resume to Al Kauffman at akauffman@stmarytx.edu.

MINI BAR PREP SERIES SCHEDULE

Location: 101, 102, & 103

*** \$250 must be in BAR/BRI account by September 21 ***

Lunch Provided

Sunday, September 9	Criminal Law	1:00 – 4:00 pm (3 hours)
Sunday, September 23	Criminal Procedure	1:00 – 4:00 pm (3 hours)
Sunday, October 7	Property I	1:00 – 4:15 pm (3 hrs, 15 min)
Sunday, October 21	Property II	1:00 – 4:21 pm (3 hrs, 21 min)
Sunday, October 28	Property III	1:00 – 4:21 pm (3 hrs, 21 min)
Sunday, November 4	Evidence I	1:00 – 5:00 pm (4 hours)
Sunday, November 18	Evidence II	1:00 – 5:00 pm (4 hours)

For additional information, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at (210) 431-4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

A special thank you to the **Student Bar Association** for donating \$1,700 to the Center for Legal and Social Justice. The funds raised were from the great social event held last semester “Puttin on the Ritz.” Thank you to everyone involved in making this a big success!

Congratulations also to the **Student Bar Association** for their being recognized by the ABA National Student Division for the most outstanding website. The students have developed and maintained the Student Bar Association website which posts useful information. You may view the website at www.stmarytxsba.com.

The **Christian Legal Society** is a non-denominational Christian fellowship for all law students who have or want to put their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation. We are guided by Christ's command: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matt. 22:37-40. Our fellowship aims to cultivate a heart for "knowing God" (Jer. 9:23-24) and for serving our neighbors through three interrelated activities: 1) Spiritual Formation: Cultivating spiritual growth through communal prayer, fellowship, and worship; learning to share one's faith; and devotional study of the Bible and classic Christian works. 2) Compassionate Outreach: Showing the love of Christ to the campus community by proclaiming the gospel in word and in deed, such as through a life of integrity and charitable good works, or as Martin Luther put it, "to be as Christ to our neighbor." 3) Christian Calling: Addressing the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in law?" that is, submitting every aspect of one's calling in the legal profession to Christ's authority.

WEEKLY MEETING: Thursdays at Noon, Atrium (for more information, please contact Guillermo: gdekat@stmarytx.edu)

TACO TUESDAY'S (Men's Bible Study): Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m., Alumni Room (for more information, please contact Charles: charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net)

SELAH (Women's Bible Study), Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (For more information, please contact Natasha: selah.biblestudy@gmail.com)

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 4

September 10, 2007

By VMM

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

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE FORUM

Second and **third-year students** are invited to an open house forum with Deans Charles Cantú and Victoria Mather on **Monday, September 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**.

First-year students are invited to an open house forum on **Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**.

Both forums are intended to answer questions about school and community.

AUSTIN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT DIVISION

The St. Mary's University School of Law has been chosen by the Austin Young Lawyers Association (AYLA) Board of Directors to be the flagship host of the new **AYLA Law Student Division**. The AYLA Board is working closely with St. Mary's Alumni in the Austin area and with current students at the School of Law to bring you this exciting opportunity. Austin is one of the fastest-growing, most exciting and competitive legal markets in the country. If you plan on practicing in the Capitol City, this is the chance for you to get your foot further in the door.

Members of the AYLA Law Student Division will have the opportunity to be mentored by attorneys currently practicing in the Austin market, attend AYLA events both in Austin and San Antonio, and gain valuable contacts in the Austin legal community. For information on how to become a member, contact AYLA student representatives Rob Frazer (rfrazer@stmarytx.edu) or Nicole Baker (nicole@hotmail.com), AYLA Membership Development Coordinator David Courreges, '05 (dcourreges@dbilaw.com), visit the AYLA website at (www.ayla.org) or visit us at **Docket Call** this Thursday.

DOCKET CALL

Do you want to know what different student organizations offer? The Student Bar Association is hosting **Docket Call** on **Thursday, September 13, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Pecan Grove**. Come to learn about the various opportunities at your school. Bring your checkbooks so you can join the groups that will shape your future. Law School organizations will have booths set up and will be available to answer your questions. Food and drinks provided. To register, please e-mail rc.mosier@gmail.com.

SUMMER 2 2007 GRADE REVIEW

All of the course grades for the Innsbruck and Summer 2 2007 sessions have been submitted and processed. **Students** have the right to **review** and **discuss** their final examinations from the **Summer 2 2007 semester** with the faculty beginning, **Thursday, September 6, 2007** and **ending** on **Monday, October 8, 2007**.

CLASS OF 2008 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 2007, May 2008, or August 2008. **Return the completed form** to Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records [LAB 121] by **Friday, October 5**, 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.

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary services are **available** in the **Law Administration building**, office of Academic and Student Affairs, Room 105; Dean's Office, Rooms 120 and 121; and Law Alumni Office, Room 113. **Limited** notary services are available in Career Services, Law Library Room 216. Fees are waived for students, staff and faculty.

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 10-12**, with break rounds the week of September 17. 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.

OPENINGS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Professor Schlueter is looking for at least two research assistants to work on various writing projects this next year. It is important that you have finished, and done well, in the Evidence course. If you are interested, please contact Professor Schlueter at (210) 431-2212 or email dschlueter@stmarytx.edu.

Research Assistant needed this academic year for Professor Al Kauffman. Research Assistant will work on updates on U.S. and Texas procedure and work on equity of Texas school finance and higher education finance systems. 10-20 hours per week. Please specify your interest and email your resume to Al Kauffman at akauffman@stmarytx.edu.

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Location: 101, 102, & 103

*** \$250 must be in BAR/BRI account by September 21 ***

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The *Legal Minute* is the official newsletter of the **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, published bi-weekly by the SBA Communications Committee. The newsletter seeks to promote

greater student communication by alerting students as to upcoming events, community service opportunities, guest speakers, important deadlines, and more. If you wish to have an event or announcement published in the *Legal Minute*, please e-mail Lysette11@aol.com.

The **Christian Legal Society** is a non-denominational Christian fellowship for all law students who have or want to put their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation. We are guided by Christ's command: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matt. 22:37-40. Our fellowship aims to cultivate a heart for "knowing God" (Jer. 9:23-24) and for serving our neighbors through three interrelated activities: 1) Spiritual Formation: Cultivating spiritual growth through communal prayer, fellowship, and worship; learning to share one's faith; and devotional study of the Bible and classic Christian works. 2) Compassionate Outreach: Showing the love of Christ to the campus community by proclaiming the gospel in word and in deed, such as through a life of integrity and charitable good works, or as Martin Luther put it, "to be as Christ to our neighbor." 3) Christian Calling: Addressing the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in law?" that is, submitting every aspect of one's calling in the legal profession to Christ's authority.

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SELAH (Women's Bible Study), Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (For more information, please contact Natasha: selah.biblestudy@gmail.com)

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). There are over 675 lessons available to help you study 32 different legal subject areas at 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, 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

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POSTING NOTICES

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

- i. In the *Witan* (provide copy to Ms. Bebe Gonzales (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.

SHHH!

Please be as quiet as possible in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building when classes are in session. Students and faculty in those classes appreciate your cooperation! Patrons of the Law Library also appreciate your keeping noise to a minimum in the stacks and carrels.

The Scholar

St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues



VOLUME 10

SCHOLAR EDITORIAL BOARD

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

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EXECUTIVE COMMENTS EDITOR

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FRANCISCA PEREZ

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 5

September 17, 2007

By VMM

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

CELEBRATE U.S. CONSTITUTION DAY

Please join us for a discussion of the **U.S. Constitution** with special guests: **David A. Dittfurth**, J.D., LL.M., Professor, School of Law and **Henry Flores**, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate School. All students, faculty and staff are cordially invited to attend this event on **Monday, September 17, 12:20 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.** in the **AACC Hospitality Suite**. Light refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President, Academic Affairs, the School of Law and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2007 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL FINALS

The Larry G. Hyden **Mock Trial Finals** will be held on **Thursday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Moot Courtroom**. The Board of Advocates **invites all law students** to attend the final round to see great advocates compete. For questions or more information, please contact Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com.

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The **Federalist Society** presents **Mr. Aaron Streett** to talk about the new Supreme Court. Mr. Streett clerked for Chief Justice Rehnquist and now practices appellate litigation for Baker Botts in Houston. Mr. Streett will look at the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Roberts and some major decisions from the last term. The speech will take place on **Thursday, September 20 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Library Alumni Room**. Food and drinks will be provided. To learn more about the Federalist Society, please visit www.fed-soc.org. If you have any questions about this event or the Federalist Society, please contact Justin Fischer at justinfischer03@yahoo.com.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE
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 October 1-2, 2007** 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 for up to two (2) students** from each Texas law school. The assistance includes **complimentary conference registration and a \$250 stipend** per student to be used to defray travel, housing or other expenses. (The stipend will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts for expenses incurred.)

Applicants for this scholarship should submit a letter of application describing their work in support of Texas health law. Letters should be submitted to Dean Victoria Mather, LAB 104 no later than **Thursday, September 20, 2007**. For more information about the conference, please stop by LAB 105 or visit <http://www.texhealthlaw.org/>.

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**MINI BAR PREP SERIES SCHEDULE
LAST DAY TO REGISTER – SEPTEMBER 23, 2007**

Location 101, 102, & 103

*** \$250 must be in BAR/BRI account by September 21 ***

Lunch Provided

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What is the MBE and why is it important? – The MBE is on the second day of the bar exam and consists of 200 questions in 6 hours, covering Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Property, Remedies, and Torts. It has been adopted by every state except Louisiana and Washington and is identical nation wide. It makes up 40% of your bar score and is the only part of the bar in which points can carry over to other portions of the bar.

Who should sign up? – Everyone! 1Ls and 2Ls can make a deposit that will lock in rates for the review courses. By doing so, they receive supplement materials that include, Finals outlines and Audio CD sets of various courses they are taking in their year. 3Ls can sign up for the Comprehensive Program (consisting of both the 6 day and 3 day), or just the 6 day Foundation Course, or just the 3 day Review Course. Please sign up before **November 16, 2007**, though. After that date the price of the courses change. That is also the last day December graduates can sign up.

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:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujla	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley	Joe Ellazar
Mayella Gonzalez	Matt Massar	Gema Lopez	Sung Je Lee

Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10am - 2pm	Tue: 9am - 12pm 2pm - 3pm	Wed: 10am - 11am 12pm - 1pm
Thu: 10am - 12pm		

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The Student Health Center will offer **influenza vaccines** on **Thursday, September 27, 2007** from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the **Raba (Law Faculty) Building**. The fee for the vaccine is **\$20** and may be paid by cash or check. This opportunity is available to the entire Law School community. For additional information please contact the Student Health Center at (210) 436-3506 or visit their website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/healthcenter>.

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2007 SCHOOL LAW PRACTICE SEMINAR

The **National School Boards Association's Council of School Attorneys** (NSBA) will hold it's fall School Law Practice Seminar on **November 1-3, 2007** at the **Austin Hilton Downtown**, Austin, Texas. This is the NSBA's effort to increase the number of new lawyers choosing to become school attorneys who represent K-12 public school districts. **Law students are invited to attend at a greatly reduced discounted rate of \$50.** Registration for the two and one-half day event is \$650. About 150 school lawyers from around the country will attend. This is an opportunity for law students to see constitutional law and other law at work in K-12 public school districts. **Law students must register by fax or mail to receive the discounted rate.** Advance registration is required. Students should send their registration with a check or credit card payment to: Lyndsay Andrews, NSBA, 1680 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or fax to (703) 548-5613. For additional information, please contact Lyndsay Andrews at landrews@nsba.org (703) 838-6738. An online brochure is available at <http://www.nsba.org/cosa2/practice/index.htm>.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 6

September 24, 2007

By VMM

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THE WORLD'S FUNNIEST MEDIATION STORY

Alternative Dispute Resolution Organization presents “The World’s Funniest Mediation Story.” Please join us on **Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 101** as Professor of Law Adjunct **Rob Eichelbaum** introduces the mediation process and discusses its advantages and disadvantages. Mr. Eichelbaum will also review some of the pitfalls facing mediators today, and most importantly, will share with you the funniest mediation story, experienced by him first hand. The presentation promises to be both informative and entertaining.

MR. AARON STRETT – RESCHEDULED

The **Federalist Society** apologizes for the late cancellation of last week’s speech. Mr. Strett had to reschedule due to a family emergency. His speech has been rescheduled to **Thursday, September 27**. Please watch for time and meeting place on the TWEN site and on flyers around campus. Thank you for your understanding.

Mr. Aaron Strett will talk to us about the new Supreme Court. Mr. Strett clerked for Chief Justice Rehnquist and now practices appellate litigation for Baker Botts in Houston. Mr. Strett will look at the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Roberts and some major decisions from the last term. To learn more about the Federalist Society, please visit www.fed-soc.org. If you have any questions about this event or the Federalist Society, please contact Justin Fischer at justinfischer03@yahoo.com.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE/PRO BONO TWEN SITE

There is now a TWEN page dedicated to **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** opportunities. Sign up for the course (no password necessary) to be updated on activities and service opportunities. There are a variety of projects, many of which are only one day or even several hours. Do you have questions about service or have an event to add? Please contact **Arthur Allen** or **Mo Heinrichs** via email through the TWEN page.

THANK YOU

The **Student Bar Association** would like to **thank** the **Board of Advocates** for arranging and organizing the many plaques, awards, and trophies in the display cases in the entryway of the Raba Law Faculty Building. If a student organization has a plaque or award that it would like **displayed** in the case, please **contact** the Student Bar Association.

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For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the **Donald W. Banner** Diversity Scholarship. 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 1, 2007**.

The **Texas Young Lawyers Association** is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student at each of the ABA-accredited law schools in Texas. Selection criteria will include financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration will also be given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside of law school. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 19, 2007**.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 7

October 1, 2007

By VMM

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

REDEEMING LAW-CHRISTIAN CALLING AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The **Christian Legal Society** invites you to join them on **Thursday, October 4, 2007** for a presentation by **Michael P. Schutt**, Esq., and Director of the Institute for Christian Legal Studies (ICLS). Mr. Schutt will give a presentation on Redeeming Law-Christian Calling and the Legal Profession. Lunch will be served.

Mr. Schutt is an Associate Professor of Law at Regent University, where he has taught since 1993. His subjects include Torts, Legal Ethics, and Business Associations among others. He has written and taught on the relationship of lawyers, faith, and culture. Before teaching at Regent, Professor Schutt practiced law in Fort Worth, Texas with the firm Thompson & Knight. He is an honors graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. His publications include *Oliver Wendell Holmes and the Decline of the American Lawyer: Social Engineering, Religion, and the Search for Professional Identity*, 30 RUTGERS L. J. 143 (1998) and *What's A Nice Christian Like You Doing in a Profession Like This?* 11 REGENT U. L. REV. 137 (1998-99). He has also authored supplements on biblical principals for use by his students in the law school classroom.

CONGRATULATIONS 2007 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

The Board of Advocates (BOA) **congratulates Eli Huffman and Bill Harris** as the **winners** of the **2007 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition**. **Congratulations** also to best speaker **Mary Nan Hayes**. The Board of Advocates would like to **thank all teams** who competed in the 2007 tournament. The next competition is Moot Court. Sign up will begin soon – check the classroom building for the BOA table.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED

Professor Chenglin Gary Liu seeks a research assistant to work approximately 10 hours per week assisting with his law and economics course. Interested students should contact Professor Liu at cliu@stmarytx.edu or (210) 431-2145.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for the four mock trial teams for the Fall 2007 semester:

Allison Skipper	Jeff Starnes	Alexis Lorick	Jason Goss
Javier Rocha	Thom Nisbet	Katherine Thomas	Amy Samuelson
Megan David	Juanita Pelaez-Prada	Blake Stribling	Monique Diaz
Taylor Hamilton	Austin Sanford	John Warren	Lysette Rios
Bill Harris	Morgan Figueroa	Matt Hill	Russell Jackson

To all of those students who interviewed and tried out for the teams, thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm for the mock trial programs. All of those involved in the process have been extremely impressed with your drive, energy, and willingness to spend the time necessary to improve your advocacy skills. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Schlueter at 431-2212.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the "Exam Takers" link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary's email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

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Integrated Biometrics Technology (IBT) will be in the **Raba Law Faculty Building, Room 103** on **Thursday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** (Lunch from 1 – 2 pm), and **Friday, November 2, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, to fingerprint the 1L students for the Declaration of Intention to Study Law. Detailed information regarding the process was emailed to all law students from Associate Dean Victoria Mather on Tuesday, September 27; check your inbox for this important message.

Students MUST register on-line before these dates, following the instructions outlined in Dean Mather’s email. Any specific questions can be directed to IBT at their website www.ibtfingerprint.com or to (888) 467-2080.

**CUSTOM TAILORING
RETURNS TO ST. MARY’S LAW**

Need new business attire for interviews and employment? Get quality, custom tailored outfits for a low price. Raj, from Macways Tailors, will be on campus on **Monday, October 15** and **Tuesday, October 16**. More information will be in the next edition of the *Witan*. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu, Carrel #111, or Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com. Price lists and time slot reservation information is available at Carrel #111.

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The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2007**.

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By VMM

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BREAK THE FAST

All law students, faculty and staff are invited to dinner to commemorate the Islamic tradition of breaking the Ramadan fast on **Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 7:00 p.m.** in the **Law Library Alumni Room**. The meal is free and open to the university community. Please RSVP by calling ext. 8067 or email iss@stmarytx.edu no later than October 9. This event is sponsored by International Student Services, University Ministry, School of Law Campus Ministry and Aramark.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS (NAELA) 2007 ADVANCED ELDER LAW INSTITUTE LAW STUDENT DAY

In an effort to expose law students to the practice of Elder Law, NAELA is presenting a Law Student Day on Friday, November 2, 2007 at the NAELA 2007 Advanced Elder Law Institute in Memphis, Tennessee. Students interested in being nominated to attend Law Student Day sessions at no cost, may contact Dean Mather at ymather@stmarytx.edu or 210.436-3318 by **October 12, 2007**. This is a great opportunity for an introduction to “real world” experiences of practicing elder law.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul from Macways Tailors and Export Co. Ltd will return to the law school on **Tuesday, October 16th** and **Wednesday, October 17th** to conduct fittings for both male and female law students who are interested in adding to their professional wardrobe. This is a unique opportunity to replenish your wardrobe without going broke in the process.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund for Sister Grace’s mission of service to others. Last year, Macways donated a few thousand dollars to our school through this program, along with other donations from school sponsored events. Your purchase helps our school.

Due to the time necessary for measurements and to select the desired fabrics, interested persons will need to sign up in advance for one of the time slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. **To schedule an appointment**, please stop by **Carrel #111** in the Law Library and complete the sign-up sheet. If you have a question, please email Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu, Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com or Steve Fraley at sfrayley@stmarytx.edu. Appointments last about 20 minutes.

Approximate Price List in U.S. dollars (subject to change without notice):

<u>Men’s</u>	<u>Classic Line</u>	<u>Exclusive Line</u>
2-Piece Suits	\$230	\$290
Sport Coat/Blazer	\$170	\$210
Trousers/Slacks	\$ 60	\$ 80
Shirts		\$ 50
Waist Coats	\$ 40	\$ 65
Tuxedo Suits	\$240	\$300
Tuxedo Shirt		\$ 65

Women’s

Suits

Jacket w/Trousers	\$230	\$290
Jacket w/Skirt	\$230	\$290
Jacket w/Trousers & Skirt	\$250	\$330
Jacket	\$170	\$210
Trousers	\$ 60	\$ 80
Skirt	\$ 50	\$ 70
Blouse		\$ 50
Dress (Price would depend on the style and would require a sample to work from)		

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NOTE: The prices are inclusive of all mailing charges and include a free upgrade to delivery via EMS (Express Mail Service), which guarantees delivery between five to seven business days. When converted from foreign currency, the actual price may vary by a few dollars.

The difference between the Classic Line and Exclusive Line lies in the quality of the

fabric. In regards to the suit fabrics, the Classic Line comprises an array of wool blends whereas the Exclusive Line contains only the top pure wool fabrics. In the same token, the Exclusive Line shirts are made from top natural fabrics such as pure cottons, linen, and silk among others.

Disclaimer: Due to the wool content in the suits, some parcels may be randomly selected and be subjected to extra duties when being cleared through customs. There is nothing that Macways or St. Mary's can do about this charge. We've tried.

JOURNEY OF HOPE

Please join us on **Monday, October 22, 2007** for two events with **Journey of Hope**. Journey of Hope is an organization led by murder victim family members, family members of the executed and the exonerated who conduct public education speaking tours to address alternatives to the death penalty.

10:00 a.m., Charlie King, a troubadour and storyteller will be at **Java City** to sing songs that provide another way of telling the story of hope to end the cycle of violence. **Free coffee** will be provided by Java City.

12:00 noon - lunch will be served in the **Law Alumni Room**. Journey of Hope spotlights real people with real stories and select the path of love and compassion for all humanity. Join us to listen to the voices of experience.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA)** on behalf of The College of William and Mary Law School, invites you to the NAML-NMLSA 2007 Annual Conference to be held on **November 9-11, 2007 in San Francisco, California**. This year's topic is "Protecting America's Promise." Their key note speakers are Justice Carlos Moreno with the Supreme Court of California and James Brosnahan, Partner, Morrison & Foerster. Early registration ends October 12. Please go to <http://www.namlnet.org/> to register. Any student interested in forming a local Muslim Law Student Association may email NMLSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for more information.

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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 include 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, 2007**. The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers is a nonprofit association of attorneys who have made significant contributions to consumer financial services law.

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The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 9

October 15, 2007

By VMM

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

EARN YOUR PRO-BONO SERVICE AWARD

The **St. Mary's Pro Bono Service Award** is given at graduation to those students who have devoted at least 50 hours in their three years of law school to serving the community free of charge. Students keep a log of the hours they dedicate to pro bono service. Log sheets and more information can be found at the **Public Interest Law Association (PILA)** information board in the law classroom building and on the Pro Bono Clinics/Community Service TWEN site.

PILA and the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice help coordinate the following events to provide students with opportunities to earn their pro bono hours and provide service to the community:

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC: conducted in association with Catholic Charities of San Antonio, students interview individuals who need legal assistance and then confer with on-site attorneys to work out answers to the "client's" problems. This is an excellent opportunity to work on your client interviewing skills and a great chance to meet local attorneys who also volunteer their time to help the community. Thank you to those who volunteered at the October 3 Ask-A-Lawyer! Keep an eye out for flyers about upcoming clinics - there will be one more this Fall and three more in the Spring. Also see the St. Mary's Ask-A-Lawyer group on Facebook.

WILLS CLINIC: conducted on the second Wednesday of every month in association with the San Antonio Bar Association and the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation. Students may assist attorneys in preparing wills and other legal documents for clients. Students also act as witnesses to the clients' wills and have an opportunity to meet local attorneys.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA): held every Saturday in the Spring leading up to April 15, students interview clients and prepare their documents for the tax

preparers. Students may also prepare taxes if they take a one-day training class for the tax software. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the federal income tax system while working with faculty to aid the community.

RED MASS

Red Mass – Mark your calendars to celebrate **Red Mass** on **Thursday, October 25, 2007** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** at **San Fernando Cathedral**. More information to be announced at a later date. Students, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul from Macways Tailors and Export Co. Ltd will return to the law school on **Tuesday, October 16th** and **Wednesday, October 17th** to conduct fittings for both male and female law students who are interested in adding to their professional wardrobe. This is a unique opportunity to replenish your wardrobe without going broke in the process.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund for Sister Grace's mission of service to others. Last year, Macways donated a few thousand dollars to our school through this program, along with other donations from school sponsored events. Your purchase helps our school.

Due to the time necessary for measurements and to select the desired fabrics, interested persons will need to sign up in advance for one of the time slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. **To schedule an appointment**, please stop by **Carrel #111** in the Law Library and complete the sign-up sheet. If you have a question, please email Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu, Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com or Steve Fraley at sfrayley@stmarytx.edu. Appointments last about 20 minutes.

Approximate Price List in U.S. dollars (subject to change without notice):

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Classic Line</u>	<u>Exclusive Line</u>
2-Piece Suits	\$230	\$290
Sport Coat/Blazer	\$170	\$210
Trousers/Slacks	\$ 60	\$ 80
Shirts		\$ 50
Waist Coats	\$ 40	\$ 65
Tuxedo Suits	\$240	\$300
Tuxedo Shirt		\$ 65

Women's

Suits

Jacket w/Trousers	\$230	\$290
Jacket w/Skirt	\$230	\$290
Jacket w/Trousers & Skirt	\$250	\$330
Jacket	\$170	\$210
Trousers	\$ 60	\$ 80
Skirt	\$ 50	\$ 70
Blouse		\$ 50

Dress (Price would depend on the style and would require a sample to work from)

NOTE: The prices are inclusive of all mailing charges and include a free upgrade to delivery via EMS (Express Mail Service), which guarantees delivery between five to seven business days. When converted from foreign currency, the actual price may vary by a few dollars.

The difference between the Classic Line and Exclusive Line lies in the quality of the fabric. In regards to the suit fabrics, the Classic Line comprises an array of wool blends whereas the Exclusive Line contains only the top pure wool fabrics. In the same token, the Exclusive Line shirts are made from top natural fabrics such as pure cottons, linen, and silk among others.

Disclaimer: Due to the wool content in the suits, some parcels may be randomly selected and be subjected to extra duties when being cleared through customs. There is nothing that Macways or St. Mary's can do about this charge. We've tried.

JOURNEY OF HOPE

Please join us on **Monday, October 22, 2007** for two events with **Journey of Hope**. Journey of Hope is an organization led by murder victim family members, family members of the executed and the exonerated who conduct public education speaking tours to address alternatives to the death penalty.

10:00 a.m., Charlie King, a troubadour and storyteller will be at **Java City** to sing songs that provide another way of telling the story of hope to end the cycle of violence. **Free coffee** will be provided by Java City.

12:00 noon - lunch will be served in the **Law Alumni Room**. Journey of Hope spotlights real people with real stories and select the path of love and compassion for all humanity. Join us to listen to the voices of experience.

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
HOMELESS WORK A DAY**

Have you ever wondered how you can truly impact lives when you are an attorney? Do you want to know how you can use your specialized legal skills to help a homeless person? Would you like to learn more about homelessness? Do you want materials on different avenues you can get involved in the future? Are you involved in an organization that is looking for ways to become involved locally?

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Materials on different ways we as students and future attorneys can help out locally and make a difference in homelessness will be provided. Please join us and come check out how you can help your community and help the homeless. Food will be provided.

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ANNUAL MEETING**

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

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Lunch Provided

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For additional information, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at (210) 431-4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the “Exam Takers” link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary’s email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/PRO BONO TWEN SITE

There is now a TWEN page dedicated to **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** opportunities. Sign up for the course (no password necessary) to be updated on activities and service opportunities. There are a variety of projects, many of which are only one day or even several hours. Do you have questions about service or have an event to add? Please contact **Arthur Allen** or **Mo Heinrichs** via email through the TWEN page.

KAPLAN PMBR

What is Kaplan PMBR? – KaplanPMBR provides supplement material for law school and review courses for the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE). The review courses consist of a 6 day Foundation Course that occurs near graduation and a 3 day Final Review Course that occurs a few weeks before the bar.

What is the MBE and why is it important? – The MBE is on the second day of the bar exam and consists of 200 questions in 6 hours, covering Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Property, Remedies, and Torts. It has been adopted by every state except Louisiana and Washington and is identical nationwide. It makes up 40% of your bar score and is the only part of the bar in which points can carry over to other portions of the bar.

Who should sign up? – Everyone! 1Ls and 2Ls can make a deposit that will lock in rates for the review courses. By doing so, they receive supplement materials that include, Finals outlines and Audio CD sets of various courses they are taking in their year. 3Ls can sign up for the Comprehensive Program (consisting of both the 6 day and 3 day), or just the 6 day Foundation Course, or just the 3 day Review Course. Please sign up before **November 16, 2007**, though. After that date the price of the courses change. That is also the last day December graduates can sign up.

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:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujla	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley	Joe Ellazar
Mayella Gonzalez	Matt Massar	Gema Lopez	Sung Je Lee

Hours for Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Tue: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

On **Monday, October 22, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**, the **Women's Law Association** is proud to offer a presentation on "Women in Politics: Electing to Lead." A panel of esteemed women will give their perspectives on running for office and the unique challenges they have faced in a male-dominated field. Presenters include Judge Barbara Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals; Chief Justice Alma Lopez, Fourth District Court of Appeals; and Amber Lidell Alwais, candidate for district court judge. Following the panel presentation, a question and answer session will be held. Refreshments will be provided. Please join us!

The **National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA)** on behalf of The College of William and Mary Law School, invites you to the NAML-NMLSA 2007 Annual Conference to be held on **November 9-11, 2007 in San Francisco, California**. This year's topic is "Protecting America's Promise." Their key note speakers are Justice Carlos Moreno with the Supreme Court of California and James Brosnahan, Partner, Morrison & Foerster. Early registration ends October 12. Please go to <http://www.namlnet.org/> to register. Any student interested in forming a local Muslim Law Student Association may email NMLSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for more information.

The **Christian Legal Society (CLS)** invites you to join them at their weekly meetings as follow:

CLS general meeting on Thursday's at 11:30 in the Atrium. Lunch provided. For more information on this meeting, contact Guillermo at gdekat@stmarytx.edu.

Taco Tuesday's (Men's Bible Study), Tuesday's at 7:00 a.m. in the Alumni Room. For more information on this meeting, contact charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

SELAH (Women's Bible Study), Friday's at 7:00 p.m. Meeting location varies. To find out where Selah meets this Friday, please contact Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com.

The *Legal Minute* is the official newsletter of the **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, published bi-weekly by the SBA Communications Committee. The newsletter seeks to promote greater student communication by alerting students as to upcoming events, community service opportunities, guest speakers, important deadlines, and more. If you wish to have an event or announcement published in the *Legal Minute*, please e-mail Lysette11@aol.com.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **Texas Young Lawyers Association** is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student at each of the ABA-accredited law schools in Texas. Selection criteria will include financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration will also be given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside of law school. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 19, 2007**.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2007 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, 2007 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline is **November 15, 2007**.

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By VMM

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RED MASS THE MOST SPLENDID PUBLIC EVENT OF THE LAW SCHOOL YEAR

Please join us as we celebrate the 55th annual **Red Mass on Thursday, October 25, 2007, 6:00 p.m., San Fernando Cathedral**. The Cathedral is located at 115 Main Plaza, San Antonio, Texas, 78205 (downtown, across from the Bexar County Courthouse and Cadena-Reeves Justice Center).

The Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio, will preside and Reverend John A. Leies, S.M., S.Th.D., Professor of Theology, will be the Homilist. Reflections will be given by The Honorable Barbara P. Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and President of the Law Alumni Association of St. Mary's University. Music by Coro Santa Maria of St. Mary's University.

Red Mass is the solemn votive Mass of the Holy Spirit that marks the beginning of the judicial year. Judges, lawyers and officials of all faiths attend Red Mass to invoke God's blessings and guidance on the administration of justice. A legal and judicial tradition since the reign of King Edward III in the early 14th century, Red Mass marks the opening of the court term. The first Red Mass in the United States was celebrated in 1928. San Antonio revived the tradition 55 years ago. Red Mass tradition is coordinated annually by the St. Mary's University School of Law, Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio, and representatives from San Antonio legal organizations, judiciary and state legislature.

WOMEN'S LAW ASSOCIATION
“Women in Politics: Electing to Lead”

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AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
“Homeless Work-A-Day” – Understanding the Cause

Have you ever wondered how you can truly impact lives when you are an attorney? Do you want to know how you can use your specialized legal skills to help a homeless person? Would you like to learn more about homelessness? Do you want materials on different avenues you can get involved in the future? Are you involved in an organization that is looking for ways to become involved locally?

It is not everyday you get a Free Lunch! The **American Bar Association** invites you to attend an informative event on **Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Four individuals that are involved with the different aspects of homelessness throughout our community will speak on homelessness and will be available to answer your questions.

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For more information, please contact an ABA Representative:

Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – Derek_Hilley@yahoo.com

Mike Denuccio – ABA Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu

Ema Garcia – ABA Lieutenant Governor – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – SungJeLee@gmail.com

**SBA, Restorative Justice, Law Campus Ministry and ABA Clothing Drive
DONATE YOUR DENIM JEANS
in the shiny aluminum bin in the Law Classroom building.**

**FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
MOOT COURT FINAL**

The **Board of Advocates** announces that the **Federal Bar Association Moot Court final round** will be held on **Wednesday, October 24** (instead of Friday, October 26) at **6:00 p.m.** The Board invites all students to attend the final round.

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MINI-BOO BASH

All students, faculty and staff and their children are invited to attend **Mini Boo Bash** to be held in the **Law School Plaza** on **Friday, October 26, 2007** from **4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Hot dogs will be served. Lots of candy, 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. Please bring candy and prize donations to Law Campus Ministry Office and deposit items in the marked Section bins. The 1L Section that brings in the most candy and prizes wins a party! (Date to be determined by winning Section). For more information, contact your SBA representative or Sr. Grace at (210) 436-3308 or (210) 436-3063.

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OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS TO ONLINE DATABASES

Students of the law school may now access most of the Law Library's subscription databases off campus. Law students may access these databases from any computer off campus by using the links provided from the Law Library's Online Catalog <http://regina.stmarytx.edu/> or the Law Library's database page <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/?go=db>. When prompted to log in, you can use user name (your St. Mary's ID number) and password (your last name) to gain access. The following databases are available for off-campus access:

- CCH Legal Research Network (multiple loose-leaf services)
- CCH Tax Research Network
- Checkpoint (tax law and taxation)
- HeinOnline (page images of law reviews and more)
- Index Master (table of contents for thousands of books)
- Legal Periodicals Index (index to law review and other articles)
- Lexis Congressional Universe (Federal legislation and related documents)
- LLMC Digital (historical Federal and state legal documents, and law treatises)
- Loislaw (competitor database with Lexis and Westlaw)
- United Nations Treaty Series

If you have any questions regarding online databases, please contact law librarian Paul S. Miller at (210) 431-8070 or pmiller1@stmarytx.edu.

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Who should sign up? – Everyone! 1Ls and 2Ls can make a deposit that will lock in rates for the review courses. By doing so, they receive supplement materials that include, Finals outlines and Audio CD sets of various courses they are taking in their year. 3Ls can sign up for the Comprehensive Program (consisting of both the 6 day and 3 day), or just the 6 day Foundation Course, or just the 3 day Review Course. Please sign up before **November 16, 2007**, though. After that date the price of the courses change. That is also the last day December graduates can sign up.

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The *Legal Minute* is the official newsletter of the **Student Bar Association** (SBA), published bi-weekly by the SBA Communications Committee. The newsletter seeks to promote greater student communication by alerting students as to upcoming events, community service opportunities, guest speakers, important deadlines, and more. If you wish to have an event or announcement published in the *Legal Minute*, please e-mail Lysette11@aol.com.

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Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for Christian Student Fellowship on campus! Meetings are held weekly **each Thursday** in the University Center, **Conference Room C**, from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome.

Darfur – Join us in prayer to take a stance and show solidarity for the **Victims of Darfur** on **Monday, October 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., Bell Tower**. Over the past 4 years, 274 people have died each day in Darfur. Following the vigil, these realities will be shown in the documentary *The Devil Came on Horseback* in the University Center, Conference Room A. All faiths are welcome.

Feast of All Souls Mass – Law School Ministry will remember and pray for our family and friends who have gone before us. **November 2, 2007, 12:00 noon, Law Administration Atrium.** All University members faculty, staff and students are invited to attend. Lunch will be served following the Mass.

Journey of Hope – Please join us on **Monday, October 22, 2007** for two events with **Journey of Hope.** Charlie King, a troubadour and storyteller will be at **Java City at 10:00 a.m.** to sing songs that provide another way of telling the story of hope to end the cycle of violence. **Free coffee** will be provided by Java City. **12:00 noon** - lunch will be served in the **Law Alumni Room.** Journey of Hope spotlights real people with real stories and select the path of love and compassion for all humanity. Join us to listen to the voices of experience.

RCIA - Inquiry sessions for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** are held in the University Ministry living room on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Carol Hewson at (210) 436-3065 for more information. For more information or if you are interested in participating in RCIA, please go to <http://www.stmarytx.edu/ministry/?go=rcia>.

Sacrament of Confirmation – For more information on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation please visit the University Ministry website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/ministry/?go=conf>.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2007 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, 2007 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline is **November 15, 2007.**

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 include 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, 2007.** The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers is a nonprofit association of attorneys who have made significant contributions to consumer financial services law.

The **National Administrative Law Judge Foundation**, the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, is requesting applications for the 2007 Fellowship. The topic for the 2007 Fellowship is “Administrative Due Process and Enemy Combatants.” The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, and will deliver a fifty-minute oral presentation at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 17-20, 2007. Besides the \$1,000 stipend, the Fellow will receive air transportation, accommodations, and meals at the annual meeting and educational program. The paper is due **January 1, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.naalj.org.

The **Public Justice, America’s Public Interest Law Firm** announces the 2008 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest is a \$5,000 cash award given to the author of the winning essay. The 2008 topic is *Global Warming: How Litigation Can Make A Difference*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 31, 2008**. Essay contest deadline is March 31, 2008.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers** (ASCAP) announces the 2008 Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition. The subject of the competition is Copyright Law. **Awards will be given at each participating law school**. First prize is \$600 and second prize is \$250. The national competition will be judged by a panel to be selected by, and in the sole discretion of, the Copyright Society of the USA. First prize in the national competition is \$3,000; second prize is \$2,000; and third prize is \$1,000. For more information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280, email NBMC@ASCAP.com or visit their website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>. Entry deadline: **June 30, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 11

October 29, 2007

By VMM

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

NAFTA INVESTMENT CHAPTER AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alberto de la Peña, Senior Associate with the International Practice Group of Haynes and Boone in Dallas, Texas will be here on **Monday, October 29, 2007, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in Raba Building, Room 103** to address “NAFTA Investment Chapter and Dispute Resolution.” This lecture is offered by Instructor of Law Roberto Rosas in Doing Business With Mexico. The lecture will be in Spanish. Everyone is invited.

DEMOCRATIC LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION “How to Get Elected in Texas”

Happening today, **Monday, October 29, 2007!** Anyone interested in politics is invited to the Democratic Law Students Association’s “**How to Get Elected in Texas**” forum today at **12:00 noon** in the **Law Library Alumni Room**. Don’t miss this great opportunity to meet and network with political strategists and local politicians. Scheduled to attend are: Political Strategist Christian Archer, Judge John Bull, State Representative David M. Leibowitz, Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, and Former Councilmember and St. Mary’s Law Student Chip Haas. Lunch will be provided.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** would like to congratulate **Mike DeNuccio** and **Andrew Froelich**, winners of the 2007 Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Federal Bar Association. **Best speaker** of the final round went to **Mike DeNuccio**. Congratulations also to the other finalists, **Nick Tedford** and **Melanie Airey**. It was a successful competition and the Board of Advocates sends a thank you to all participants.

The Board of Advocates Negotiations competition will be held from November 5 through November 14. Sign up will begin on **Monday, October 29, 2007** in the law classroom building.

FINGERPRINTING FOR THE DECLARATION OF INTENT TO STUDY LAW

Integrated Biometrics Technology (IBT) will be in the **Raba Law Faculty Building, Room 103** on **Thursday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** (Lunch from 1 – 2 pm), and **Friday, November 2, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, to fingerprint the 1L students for the Declaration of Intention to Study Law. Detailed information regarding the process was emailed to all law students from Associate Dean Victoria Mather. Please check your inbox for this important message. **Students MUST register on-line before these dates, following the instructions outlined in Dean Mather's email.** Any specific questions can be directed to IBT at their website www.ibtfingerprint.com or to (888) 467-2080.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS MASS

On **Friday, November 2, 2007**, at **noon** in the **Law Administration Atrium**, Law Ministry will host an **All Soul's Mass** to remember family and friends who have gone before us. Fr. Richard Wosman, S.M. will preside at the Liturgy. A Book of Remembrance will be kept. You are invited to write the names of your beloved departed. Lunch will follow the Mass to provide fellowship and support as we remember those who have been an important part of our lives. All students, faculty and staff, and all faith traditions are invited.

HISPANIC FEST

The **Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)** invites you to celebrate Hispanic culture at **Hispanic Fest 2007**. Join us for food, drinks, music, and games with prizes! All students, faculty, and their families are welcome. **Hispanic Fest** will be held on **Saturday, November 3, 2007** at **The Clubhouse** at Professor Valencia's home, Summerfield Subdivision, **2600 Fairfield Bend Drive**, near N.W. Military and Wurzbach Parkway. The cost is \$10 for non-HLSA members and free for paid members and children.

2007 SCHOOL LAW PRACTICE SEMINAR

The **National School Boards Association's Council of School Attorneys (NSBA)** will hold it's fall School Law Practice Seminar on **November 1-3, 2007** at the **Austin Hilton Downtown**, Austin, Texas. This is the NSBA's effort to increase the number of new lawyers choosing to become school attorneys who represent K-12 public school districts. **Law students are invited to attend at a greatly reduced discounted rate of \$50.** Registration for the two and one-half day event is \$650. About 150 school lawyers from around the country will attend. This is an opportunity for law students to see constitutional law and other law at work in K-12 public school districts. **Law students must register by fax or mail to receive the discounted**

rate. Advance registration is required. Students should send their registration with a check or credit card payment to: Lyndsay Andrews, NSBA, 1680 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or fax to (703) 548-5613. For additional information, please contact Lyndsay Andrews at landrews@nsba.org (703) 838-6738. An online brochure is available at <http://www.nsba.org/cosa2/practice/index.htm>.

**CLASS OF 2008 – GRADUATION INFORMATION
ORDERS FOR TAMS, GOWNS, INVITATIONS AND RINGS**

Representatives from The Herff Jones/Graduation Center will be in the **Atrium** on **Tuesday, November 6, 2007**, and **Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** each day, to take orders for the **Class of 2008** 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, including prices.

MINI BAR PREP SERIES SCHEDULE

Location 101, 102, & 103

Lunch Provided

Sunday, November 4	Evidence I	1:00 – 5:00 pm (4 hours)
Sunday, November 18	Evidence II	1:00 – 5:00 pm (4 hours)

For additional information, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at (210) 431-4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **International Law Students Association** will hold its first general meeting at **4:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 31, 2007** in **Law Classroom 104**. We are holding the same meeting at **5:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, November 1, 2007** in **Law Classroom 103**. Anyone interested in International Law is encouraged to attend. Everyone is invited.

The **Women’s Law Association** will host their annual **Silent Auction** on **Thursday, November 8, 2007** from **11:00 a.m.** until **4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. The silent auction will benefit **Magdalena House**. Please join us for food, fun and bidding! You are welcome to peruse the items for auction beginning at 11:00 a.m. Bidding will end at 4:00 p.m.

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EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the "Exam Takers" link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary's email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS TO ONLINE DATABASES

Students of the law school may now access most of the Law Library's subscription databases off campus. Law students may access these databases from any computer off campus by using the links provided from the Law Library's Online Catalog <http://regina.stmarytx.edu/> or the Law Library's database page <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/?go=db>. When prompted to log in, you can use user name (your St. Mary's ID number) and password (your last name) to gain access. The following databases are available for off-campus access:

CCH Legal Research Network (multiple loose-leaf services)
CCH Tax Research Network
Checkpoint (tax law and taxation)
HeinOnline (page images of law reviews and more)
Index Master (table of contents for thousands of books)
Legal Periodicals Index (index to law review and other articles)
Lexis Congressional Universe (Federal legislation and related documents)
LLMC Digital (historical Federal and state legal documents, and law treatises)
Loislaw (competitor database with Lexis and Westlaw)
United Nations Treaty Series

If you have any questions regarding online databases, please contact law librarian Paul S. Miller at (210) 431-8070 or pmiller1@stmarytx.edu.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/PRO BONO TWEN SITE

There is now a TWEN page dedicated to **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** opportunities. Sign up for the course (no password necessary) to be updated on activities and service opportunities. There are a variety of projects, many of which are only one day or even several hours. Do you have questions about service or have an event to add? Please contact **Arthur Allen** or **Mo Heinrichs** via email through the TWEN page.

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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 2008-2009*. All application materials must be postmarked by November 9, 2009. 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) and Declaration for Federal Employment (OF-306) and/or resume, which should include information contained on these forms; 3) Law school transcript (official copy only); and 4) A writing sample of at least 5 pages,

double spaced. The links for the Legal Honors Program brochure and fillable application may be found at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/legalsinglefinal2008.pdf> and <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/lhipformfinal2008.pdf>.

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The **ABA Section of Business Law** is sponsoring its 22nd Annual Mendes Hershman Student Writing Contest to encourage and reward law student writings on a business law subject of general and current interest. First place: \$2,500, Second Place: \$1,000 and Third Place: \$500. For more information, please visit <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/hershman/>. Entries must be submitted electronically by **January 4, 2008**.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 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 or contact Professor Martin Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 12

November 5, 2007

By VMM

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

CLASS OF 2008 – GRADUATION INFORMATION ORDERS FOR TAMS, GOWNS, INVITATIONS AND RINGS

Representatives from The Herff Jones/Graduation Center will be in the **Atrium** on **Tuesday, November 6, 2007**, and **Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** each day, to take orders for the **Class of 2008** 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, including prices.

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The **Women's Law Association** will host their annual **silent auction** on **Thursday, November 8, 2007** from **11:00 a.m.** until **4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. This year's silent auction will benefit the Magdalena House. Please join us for food, fund and bidding! You are welcome to peruse the items to be auctioned beginning at 11:00 a.m. Bidding will end at 4:00 p.m.

LONE STAR CLASSIC – 2007

St. Mary's law school is hosting its annual **Lone Star Classic** – a national, invitational mock trial tournament – on **November 8, 9, and 10**. This year, we are hosting sixteen teams from sixteen law schools. The following schools are competing this year: Baylor; Buffalo-Niagra; Campbell; Catholic; Connecticut; Cumberland; Fordham; Georgia State; LSU; Michigan State; Pace; South Texas; Texas Wesleyan; Tulane; Villanova; and Williams & Mary.

The preliminary rounds will be held on **Thursday, November 8, 2007** in the afternoon, Friday morning and Friday afternoon, **November 9th**, at the Bexar County Courthouse. The semi-final rounds will be held in the law classroom building on Saturday morning, **November 10**, at 9:00 a.m. The final round will be held on Saturday, at 2:00 p.m. in the law school courtroom. We will be video taping the final round.

The judges for the final round are Judge Pat Higginbotham, Judge Xavier Rodriguez, and former Federal Public Defender, Mr. Lucien Campbell. The problem this year is a criminal case.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to personally observe excellent advocates from other schools. If you have any interest 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. If you are interested in assisting in any way with the competition (we need about 50 students to help), please contact Andrea Koch or Professor Dave Schlueter.

MINI BAR PREP SERIES SCHEDULE

Location 101, 102, & 103

Lunch Provided

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – EVIDENCE II – 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. (4 HOURS)

For additional information, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at (210) 431-4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

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Chief Justice John Roberts will join an exceptional group of American and Austrian faculty members as the Distinguished Visiting Jurist for the **2008 Innsbruck Program** to be conducted from **July 7 to August 8, 2008** at the **University of Innsbruck, Austria**. An information meeting will be held on **November 19 at noon** in **LC 104** for students interested in learning more about the program. Topics to be discussed include curriculum, travel opportunities, housing, financial aid, and much more. Learn more about St. Mary's flagship study abroad program, now in its 23rd year, and speak with past participants and faculty members about this exciting experience! For additional information, please contact either of the Co-Directors for this year's program: Professor Geary Reamey (ext. 2233) or Professor Mark Cochran (ext. 2102), or the program assistant, Ms. Caroline Buckley (ext. 6878).

NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH FOR YOUR PAPER?

Westlaw student representatives are available to help with research for your upcoming paper assignments. If you need an individualized training session focused on the area of law related to your paper, please contact R.C. Mosier at rc.mosier@gmail.com or Hanna Borchard at

jmborchard@yahoo.com to set up a quick 30 minute tutorial on how to research for your paper, or a research topic of your choice.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA)** on behalf of The College of William and Mary Law School, invites you to the NAML-NMLSA 2007 Annual Conference to be held on **November 9-11, 2007 in San Francisco, California**. This year’s topic is “Protecting America’s Promise.” Their key note speakers are Justice Carlos Moreno with the Supreme Court of California and James Brosnahan, Partner, Morrison & Foerster. Early registration ends October 12. Please go to <http://www.namlnet.org/> to register. Any student interested in forming a local Muslim Law Student Association may email NMLSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for more information.

The **Federalist Society** presents Professor Kurt Lash who will discuss “The Lost History of the Ninth Amendment.” Professor Lash teaches constitutional law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Professor Michael Ariens will provide commentary on Professor Lash’s presentation. The speech will take place on **Tuesday, November 13, 2007 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library. Food and drinks will be provided. To learn more about the Federalist Society, please visit our website at www.fed-soc.org. For more information about this event or if you have questions about the Federalist Society, please contact Justin Fischer at justinfischer03@yahoo.com.

The **Christian Legal Society (CLS)** invites you to join them at their weekly meetings as follow:

CLS general meeting on **Thursday’s at 11:30** in the **Atrium**. Lunch provided. For more information on this meeting, contact Guillermo at gdekat@stmarytx.edu.

Taco Tuesday's (Men's Bible Study), **Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. For more information on this meeting, contact charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

SELAH (Women's Bible Study), **Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Meeting location varies. To find out where Selah meets this Friday, please contact Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com.

The *Legal Minute* is the official newsletter of the **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, published bi-weekly by the SBA Communications Committee. The newsletter seeks to promote greater student communication by alerting students as to upcoming events, community service opportunities, guest speakers, important deadlines, and more. If you wish to have an event or announcement published in the *Legal Minute*, please e-mail Lysette11@aol.com.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the "Exam Takers" link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary's email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS TO ONLINE DATABASES

Students of the law school may now access most of the Law Library's subscription databases off campus. Law students may access these databases from any computer off campus by using the links provided from the Law Library's Online Catalog <http://regina.stmarytx.edu/> or the Law Library's database page <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/?go=db>. When prompted to log in, you can use user name (your St. Mary's ID number) and password (your last name) to gain access. The following databases are available for off-campus access:

- CCH Legal Research Network (multiple loose-leaf services)
- CCH Tax Research Network
- Checkpoint (tax law and taxation)
- HeinOnline (page images of law reviews and more)
- Index Master (table of contents for thousands of books)
- Legal Periodicals Index (index to law review and other articles)
- Lexis Congressional Universe (Federal legislation and related documents)
- LLMC Digital (historical Federal and state legal documents, and law treatises)
- Loislaw (competitor database with Lexis and Westlaw)
- United Nations Treaty Series

If you have any questions regarding online databases, please contact law librarian Paul S. Miller at (210) 431-8070 or pmiller1@stmarytx.edu.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/PRO BONO TWEN SITE

There is now a TWEN page dedicated to **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** opportunities. Sign up for the course (no password necessary) to be updated on activities and service opportunities. There are a variety of projects, many of which are only one day or even several hours. Do you have questions about service or have an event to add? Please contact **Arthur Allen** or **Mo Heinrichs** via email through the TWEN page.

EARN YOUR PRO-BONO SERVICE AWARD

The **St. Mary's Pro Bono Service Award** is given at graduation to those students who have devoted at least 50 hours in their three years of law school to serving the community free of charge. Students keep a log of the hours they dedicate to pro bono service. Log sheets and more information can be found at the **Public Interest Law Association (PILA)** information board in the law classroom building and on the Pro Bono Clinics/Community Service TWEN site.

PILA and the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice help coordinate the following events to provide students with opportunities to earn their pro bono hours and provide service to the community:

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC: conducted in association with Catholic Charities of San Antonio, students interview individuals who need legal assistance and then confer with on-site attorneys to work out answers to the "client's" problems. This is an excellent opportunity to work on your client interviewing skills and a great chance to meet local attorneys who also volunteer their time to help the community. Thank you to those who volunteered at the October 3 Ask-A-Lawyer! Keep an eye out for flyers about upcoming clinics - there will be one more this Fall and three more in the Spring. Also see the St. Mary's Ask-A-Lawyer group on Facebook.

WILLS CLINIC: conducted on the second Wednesday of every month in association with the San Antonio Bar Association and the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation. Students may assist attorneys in preparing wills and other legal documents for clients. Students also act as witnesses to the clients' wills and have an opportunity to meet local attorneys.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA): held every Saturday in the Spring leading up to April 15, students interview clients and prepare their documents for the tax preparers. Students may also prepare taxes if they take a one-day training class for the tax software. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the federal income tax system while working with faculty to aid the community.

KAPLAN PMBR

What is Kaplan PMBR? – KaplanPMBR provides supplement material for law school and review courses for the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE). The review courses consist of a 6 day Foundation Course that occurs near graduation and a 3 day Final Review Course that occurs a few weeks before the bar.

What is the MBE and why is it important? – The MBE is on the second day of the bar exam and consists of 200 questions in 6 hours, covering Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Property, Remedies, and Torts. It has been adopted by every state except Louisiana and Washington and is identical nationwide. It makes up 40% of your bar score and is the only part of the bar in which points can carry over to other portions of the bar.

Who should sign up? – Everyone! 1Ls and 2Ls can make a deposit that will lock in rates for the review courses. By doing so, they receive supplement materials that include, Finals outlines and Audio CD sets of various courses they are taking in their year. 3Ls can sign up for the Comprehensive Program (consisting of both the 6 day and 3 day), or just the 6 day Foundation Course, or just the 3 day Review Course. Please sign up before **November 16, 2007**, though. After that date the price of the courses change. That is also the last day December graduates can sign up.

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:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujla	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley	Joe Ellazar
Mayella Gonzalez	Matt Massar	Gema Lopez	Sung Je Lee

Hours for Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Tue: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Office hours for Computer Administration located in the **Raba Building, Room 101A**, are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Computer Administration also offers after hour **appointments** Monday through Thursday between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. For an appointment, please call (210) 431-4292 or jflores13@stmarytx.edu.

UNIVERSITY AND LAW MINISTRY

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for Christian Student Fellowship on campus! Meetings are held weekly **each Thursday** in the University Center, **Conference Room C**, from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome.

RCIA - Inquiry sessions for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** are held in the University Ministry living room on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Carol Hewson at (210) 436-3065 for more information. For more information or if you are interested in participating in RCIA, please go to <http://www.stmarytx.edu/ministry/?go=rcia>.

Sacrament of Confirmation – For more information on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation please visit the University Ministry website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/ministry/?go=conf>.

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 2008-2009*. All application materials must be postmarked by **November 9, 2009**. 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) and Declaration for Federal Employment (OF-306) and/or resume, which should include information contained on these forms; 3) Law school transcript (official copy only); and 4) A writing sample of at least 5 pages, double spaced. The links for the Legal Honors Program brochure and fillable application may be found at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/legalsinglefinal2008.pdf> and <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/lhipformfinal2008.pdf>.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2007 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, 2007 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline is **November 15, 2007**.

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 include cash payments of \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,000, 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, 2007**. The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers is a nonprofit association of attorneys who have made significant contributions to consumer financial services law.

The **National Administrative Law Judge Foundation**, the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, is requesting applications for the 2007 Fellowship. The topic for the 2007 Fellowship is “Administrative Due Process and Enemy Combatants.” The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, and will deliver a fifty-minute oral presentation at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 17-20, 2007. Besides the \$1,000 stipend, the Fellow will receive air transportation, accommodations, and meals at the annual meeting and educational program. The paper is due **January 1, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.naalj.org.

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Nightlight Christian Adoptions announce their 2008 student 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 plus travel expenses to present paper at the Emerging Issues in Embryo Donation and Adoption Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Second place - \$2,000 and third place - \$1,500. To register or for more information please visit www.embryolaw.org. Deadline to enter is **March 2, 2008**.

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St. Mary's University School of Law

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By VMM

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THANK YOU TO THE VETERANS AMONG US

As we observe Veterans Day, the Student Bar Association would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces, especially those who have joined our law school community. We know there are many veterans among us and we are a better community because of your dedication. Thank you for your service to our nation and our community!

THE LOST HISTORY OF THE NINTH AMENDMENT

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INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE

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NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH FOR YOUR PAPER?

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FALL EXAMS AND GRADES

Anonymous Exam Numbers

Each student is given a four-digit anonymous exam number each semester, which is the **only student identification placed on examination responses**. Students access their exam number on ATROX by navigating to their "Fall Course Schedule". There, students will see a field containing their anonymous exam number for that semester. A student who is unable to view the exam number on ATROX can contact the University's IT department (helpdesk@stmarytx.edu or 210.431.4357) to correct the problem. **The use of an incorrect number on a final may cause the student not to receive a grade**, as the professor will be unable to reconcile the grade with the correct anonymous exam numbers listed on the Instructor Grade Report (IGR).

Posting of Fall 2007 Grades

The University is closed for the Christmas Break from December 24, 2007 through January 1, 2008, and **no Fall 2007 grades are posted on ATROX before the University reopens on January 2, 2008**. The faculty have one month after the last exam date of the semester to submit their grades; for the Fall 2007 Semester, the **grading deadline for the faculty is Monday, January 14, 2008, at 12:00 noon**. The professors submit their final grades to the Director of Student Records, who confirms the grades meet the median grades and percentage limitations (Student Handbook 2007-08, pages 24-26) and enters the grades in the

computer. Once the grades for a particular course are posted, students can view their individual grade on ATROX by navigating to their “Fall Course Schedule.” Grades are posted as they are received from the professors and processed by the Director of Student Records. Your patience during the grading period is appreciated.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the “Exam Takers” link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary’s email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS TO ONLINE DATABASES

Students of the law school may now access most of the Law Library’s subscription databases off campus. Law students may access these databases from any computer off campus by using the links provided from the Law Library’s Online Catalog <http://regina.stmarytx.edu/> or the Law Library’s database page <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/?go=db>. When prompted to log in, you can use user name (your St. Mary’s ID number) and password (your last name) to gain access. The following databases are available for off-campus access:

- CCH Legal Research Network (multiple loose-leaf services)
- CCH Tax Research Network
- Checkpoint (tax law and taxation)
- HeinOnline (page images of law reviews and more)
- Index Master (table of contents for thousands of books)
- Legal Periodicals Index (index to law review and other articles)
- Lexis Congressional Universe (Federal legislation and related documents)
- LLMC Digital (historical Federal and state legal documents, and law treatises)
- Loislaw (competitor database with Lexis and Westlaw)
- United Nations Treaty Series

If you have any questions regarding online databases, please contact law librarian Paul S. Miller at (210) 431-8070 or pmiller1@stmarytx.edu.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/PRO BONO TWEN SITE

There is now a TWEN page dedicated to **Community Service** and **Pro Bono** opportunities. Sign up for the course (no password necessary) to be updated on activities and service opportunities. There are a variety of projects, many of which are only one day or even several hours. Do you have questions about service or have an event to add? Please contact **Arthur Allen** or **Mo Heinrichs** via email through the TWEN page.

EARN YOUR PRO-BONO SERVICE AWARD

The **St. Mary's Pro Bono Service Award** is given at graduation to those students who have devoted at least 50 hours in their three years of law school to serving the community free of charge. Students keep a log of the hours they dedicate to pro bono service. Log sheets and more information can be found at the **Public Interest Law Association (PILA)** information board in the law classroom building and on the Pro Bono Clinics/Community Service TWEN site.

PILA and the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice help coordinate the following events to provide students with opportunities to earn their pro bono hours and provide service to the community:

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC: conducted in association with Catholic Charities of San Antonio, students interview individuals who need legal assistance and then confer with on-site attorneys to work out answers to the "client's" problems. This is an excellent opportunity to work on your client interviewing skills and a great chance to meet local attorneys who also volunteer their time to help the community. Thank you to those who volunteered at the October 3 Ask-A-Lawyer! Keep an eye out for flyers about upcoming clinics - there will be one more this Fall and three more in the Spring. Also see the St. Mary's Ask-A-Lawyer group on Facebook.

WILLS CLINIC: conducted on the second Wednesday of every month in association with the San Antonio Bar Association and the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation. Students may assist attorneys in preparing wills and other legal documents for clients. Students also act as witnesses to the clients' wills and have an opportunity to meet local attorneys.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA): held every Saturday in the Spring leading up to April 15, students interview clients and prepare their documents for the tax preparers. Students may also prepare taxes if they take a one-day training class for the tax software. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the federal income tax system while working with faculty to aid the community.

KAPLAN PMBR

What is Kaplan PMBR? – KaplanPMBR provides supplement material for law school and review courses for the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE). The review courses consist of a 6 day Foundation Course that occurs near graduation and a 3 day Final Review Course that occurs a few weeks before the bar.

What is the MBE and why is it important? – The MBE is on the second day of the bar exam and consists of 200 questions in 6 hours, covering Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Property, Remedies, and Torts. It has been adopted by every state except Louisiana and Washington and is identical nationwide. It makes up 40% of your bar score and is the only part of the bar in which points can carry over to other portions of the bar.

Who should sign up? – Everyone! 1Ls and 2Ls can make a deposit that will lock in rates for the review courses. By doing so, they receive supplement materials that include, Finals outlines and Audio CD sets of various courses they are taking in their year. 3Ls can sign up for the Comprehensive Program (consisting of both the 6 day and 3 day), or just the 6 day Foundation Course, or just the 3 day Review Course. Please sign up before **November 16, 2007**, though. After that date the price of the courses change. That is also the last day December graduates can sign up.

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:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujla	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley	Joe Ellazar
Mayella Gonzalez	Matt Massar	Gema Lopez	Sung Je Lee

Hours for Kaplan PMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Tue: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Office hours for Computer Administration located in the **Raba Building, Room 101A**, are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Computer Administration also offers after hour **appointments** Monday through Thursday between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. For an appointment, please call (210) 431-4292 or jflores13@stmarytx.edu.

UNIVERSITY AND LAW MINISTRY

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary’s undergrad, grad, and law students for Christian Student Fellowship on campus! Meetings are held weekly **each Thursday** in the University Center, **Conference Room C**, from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome.

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Sacrament of Confirmation – For more information on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation please visit the University Ministry website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/ministry/?go=conf>.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** is pleased to announce their 2007 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, 2007 are eligible. Co-authored papers are not eligible. Deadline is **November 15, 2007**.

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 include cash payments of \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,000, 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, 2007**. The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers is a nonprofit association of attorneys who have made significant contributions to consumer financial services law.

The **National Administrative Law Judge Foundation**, the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, is requesting applications for the 2007 Fellowship. The topic for the 2007 Fellowship is “Administrative Due Process and Enemy Combatants.” The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, and will deliver a fifty-minute oral

presentation at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 17-20, 2007. Besides the \$1,000 stipend, the Fellow will receive air transportation, accommodations, and meals at the annual meeting and educational program. The paper is due **January 1, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.naalj.org.

The **ABA Section of Business Law** is sponsoring its 22nd Annual Mendes Hershman Student Writing Contest to encourage and reward law student writings on a business law subject of general and current interest. First place: \$2,500, Second Place: \$1,000 and Third Place: \$500. For more information, please visit <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/hershman/>. Entries must be submitted electronically by **January 4, 2008**.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 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 or contact Professor Martin Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**.

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., a national firm engaged in the practice of health care and life sciences law, is pleased to announce its Tenth Annual Health Care and Life Sciences Law Writing Competition. Cash prizes will be awarded for the three best papers. First place, \$4,000, Second place, \$2,000 and Third place, \$500. Additional information and an official entry form can be found at: <http://www.ebghealthlaw.com>. Competition entries are due **January 25, 2008**.

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, 2008**.

Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm announces the 2008 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. \$5,000 cash will be awarded to the author of the winning essay. The 2008 topic is *Global Warming: How Litigation Can Make A Difference*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 31, 2008**. Essay deadline is March 31, 2008.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions announce their 2008 student 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 plus travel expenses to present paper at the Emerging Issues in Embryo Donation and Adoption Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Second place - \$2,000 and third place - \$1,500. To register or for more information

please visit www.embryolaw.org. Deadline to enter is **March 2, 2008**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Judges Association** (AJA) announces its Twentieth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "Search and Seizure Arising from Motor Vehicle Stops." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers** (ASCAP) announces the 2008 Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition. The subject of the competition is Copyright Law. **Awards will be given at each participating law school.** First prize is \$600 and second prize is \$250. The national competition will be judged by a panel to be selected by, and in the sole discretion of, the Copyright Society of the USA. First prize in the national competition is \$3,000; second prize is \$2,000; and third prize is \$1,000. For more information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280, email NBMC@ASCAP.com or visit their website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>. Entry deadline: **June 30, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 14

November 19, 2007

By VMM

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

2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM FEATURES CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS

Chief Justice John Roberts will join an exceptional group of American and Austrian faculty members as the Distinguished Visiting Jurist for the **2008 Innsbruck Program** to be conducted from July 7 to August 8, 2008 at the **University of Innsbruck, Austria**. An **information meeting** will be held today, **Monday, November 19 at noon** in **LC 104** for students interested in learning more about the program. Topics to be discussed include curriculum, travel opportunities, housing, financial aid, and much more. Learn more about St. Mary's flagship study abroad program, now in its 23rd year, and speak with past participants and faculty members about this exciting experience! For additional information, please contact either of the Co-Directors for this year's program: Professor Geary Reamey (ext. 2233) or Professor Mark Cochran (ext. 2102), or the program assistant, Ms. Caroline Buckley (ext. 6878).

THANKSGIVING MEAL & PRAYER FOR FINALS AND FEBRUARY BAR PREP

The Christian Legal Society, St. Thomas More and Law Ministry invite School of Law Faculty, Staff and Students to celebrate Thanksgiving and pray for finals and February bar prep today, **Monday, November 19, 2007, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library. Please join us for good food (lunch), prayer, fellowship and tips for preparing for final exams. Phi Delta Phi asks you to please bring a **can of food** or make a **donation**, as a service project, for the families served by the Center for Legal and Social Justice.

**MOCK TRIAL TEAM IS SEMI-FINALIST
IN GEORGETOWN COMPETITION**

Congratulations to our mock trial teams! On November 9 through 12, a Mock Trial Team, **coached by Mr. Cliff Herberg and Assistant Coach Mr. Paul Huckabay**, participated in the annual White Collar Crime Mock Trial Competition, sponsored by Georgetown School of Law in Washington, D.C. Only sixteen teams were invited to participate in this year's competition and our team was one of four teams that advanced to the semi-finals — as the top seeded team! The other three teams in the semi-finals were Pace, South Texas, and the University of Texas. **Our team won every judge's ballot in the preliminary rounds.** Second place University of Texas was the only other team to also sweep all of the ballots in the preliminary rounds. Our team lost in the semi-finals round to South Texas College of Law, which ended up winning the tournament. The advocates for this year's team were second year students who had never competed before and the South Texas team was made up of third year students who had competed in other tournaments. Team members were **Blake Stribling** (Advocate), **Alexis Lorick** (Advocate), **Morgan Figueroa** (Witness), **Lysette Rios** (Witness), and **Russell Jackson** (Alternate). Please congratulate them on a very strong showing at a national tournament.

**EAP NEGOTIATIONS TEAM
PLACES 5TH IN REGION**

This year St. Mary's University School of Law sent its inaugural EAP Negotiations team consisting of 3Ls **Steven Fraley** and **R.C. Mosier** — who were head-to-head finalists in last year's BOA Negotiations Competition — to the **ABA Regional Tournament** held at the University of Tulsa. The ABA Law Student Division's Negotiation Competition is designed to promote greater interest among law students in legal negotiation and provides a means for them to practice and improve their negotiating skills. The competition simulates legal negotiations in which law students, acting as lawyers, negotiate a series of legal problems. Our law school's team placed 5th out of 24 teams, representing 5 states. **Congratulations on the strong showing.**

**BOARD OF ADVOCATES CONGRATULATES
MOOT COURT FINALISTS AND WINNERS**

The **Board of Advocates** would like to congratulate **Jennie Palacios** and **Stephanie Martin**, the winners of the Fall 2007 Negotiations Tournament sponsored by Ceasefire. Congratulations also to **Matt Wade** and **Sarah Ellison**, finalists in the competition. A special thank you to all participants for being a part of this successful tournament.

**CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

Please join the Center for Terrorism Law's **Distinguished Speaker** Series in welcoming the **Honorable Henry Cuellar**, U.S. House of Representatives on **Tuesday, November 20, 2007, 3:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita East Kenedy Law Library. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Faithe Campbell, 210.431.2219 or fcampbell@stmarytx.edu.

**FIRST ANNUAL
AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION BLOOD DRIVE**

The Aggie Bar Association is sponsoring its First Annual Blood Drive on **Wednesday, November 21, 2007, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium** of the Law Administration building. Bleed orange and maroon! Come support our blood drive.

COMPLETION OF LEGAL STUDIES

Please join family, friends and students at the **December Completion of Legal Studies** celebration to be held on **Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Ernest Raba Law Faculty** building. The formal commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2008.

INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE

Students who attended the Innsbruck Program last summer may receive their personalized certificates of participation from Ms. Caroline Buckley. Ms. Buckley's desk is located on the second floor of the Law Faculty Building (Raba Building). You may contact her by telephone at extension 6878 or 210.431.6878.

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
ESSAY ADVANTAGE WORKSHOP**

91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the February 2006 Bar!
91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the July 2006 Bar!
100% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the February 2007 Bar!
91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the July 2007 Bar!

On **Saturday, January 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** Mike Sims, Bar/Bri's principal national lecturer on the topic of essay writing, will come to St. Mary's for the Essay Advantage Workshop. The Essay Advantage Workshop is a live, interactive, one-day workshop to prepare students for the third day of the Texas Bar Examination. This workshop is open to St. Mary's students who will take the February 2008 or July 2008 Bar Exams.

The workshop will cover:

- how to avoid the four most common mistakes bar examinees make;
- a step-by-step approach to reading, outlining, and writing winning bar exam essays; and
- how to answer bar exam questions when you don't know the law.

Students who attend the Saturday workshop are invited to join us for lunch and simulated essay testing on **Sunday, January 13, 2008**. Lunch begins at noon. Simulated testing will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions, submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence for review, and make an appointment for one-on-one feedback.

Both of these workshops will be held in LC 101, 102, and 103. Tuition is \$95 for St. Mary's students and \$125 for non-St. Mary's students. Visit the Office of Academic Excellence (RABA 106A or 106D) to enroll. The **deadline** for advanced registration is **Tuesday, January 8, 2008**. Last minute registration is available in the foyer of the LC building 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 12, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436.3541 or 210.431.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Christian Legal Society (CLS)** invites you to join them at their weekly meetings as follow:

CLS general meeting on **Thursday's at 11:30** in the **Atrium**. Lunch provided. For more information on this meeting, contact Guillermo at gdekat@stmarytx.edu.

Taco Tuesday's (Men's Bible Study), **Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. For more information on this meeting, contact charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

SELAH (Women's Bible Study), **Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** Meeting location varies. To find out where Selah meets this Friday, please contact Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com.

The **Legal Minute** is the official newsletter of the **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, published bi-weekly by the SBA Communications Committee. The newsletter seeks to promote greater student communication by alerting students as to upcoming events, community service opportunities, guest speakers, important deadlines, and more. If you wish to have an event or announcement published in the *Legal Minute*, please e-mail Lysette11@aol.com.

FALL EXAMS AND GRADES

Anonymous Exam Numbers

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NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH FOR YOUR PAPER?

Westlaw student representatives are available to help with research for your upcoming paper assignments. If you need an individualized training session focused on the area of law related to your paper, please contact R.C. Mosier at rc.mosier@gmail.com or Hanna Borchard at jmborchard@yahoo.com to set up a quick 30 minute tutorial on how to research for your paper, or a research topic of your choice.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the “Exam Takers” link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary’s email password.

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The **American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM)** presents its 2008 Hoffman Bioethics Student Writing Competition. The ACLM will present awards for three outstanding original papers written by law or health professions students on topics in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. The ACLM will also present a \$1,000 prize in their Letourneau writing competition. Deadline is **January 15, 2008**.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law’s Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 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 or contact Professor Martin Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 15

November 26, 2007

By VMM

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

COMPLETION OF LEGAL STUDIES

Please join family, friends and students at the **December Completion of Legal Studies** celebration to be held on **Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Ernest Raba Law Faculty** building. The formal commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2008.

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****ESSAY ADVANTAGE WORKSHOP****

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- how to avoid the four most common mistakes bar examinees make;
- a step-by-step approach to reading, outlining, and writing winning bar exam essays; and
- how to answer bar exam questions when you don't know the law.

Students who attend the Saturday workshop are invited to join us for lunch and simulated essay testing on **Sunday, January 13, 2008**. Lunch begins at noon. Simulated testing will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions, submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence for review, and make an appointment for one-on-one feedback.

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percentage limitations (Student Handbook 2007-08, pages 24-26) and enters the grades in the computer. Once the grades for a particular course are posted, students can view their individual grade on ATROX by navigating to their "Fall Course Schedule." Grades are posted as they are received from the professors and processed by the Director of Student Records. Your patience during the grading period is appreciated.

NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH FOR YOUR PAPER?

Westlaw student representatives are available to help with research for your upcoming paper assignments. If you need an individualized training session focused on the area of law related to your paper, please contact R.C. Mosier at rc.mosier@gmail.com or Hanna Borchard at jmborchard@yahoo.com to set up a quick 30 minute tutorial on how to research for your paper, or a research topic of your choice.

EXAM SOFT SOFTEST INSTALLATION

Your Exam Soft account is now active. An email was sent to you by the Computer Administration department. Please look for this information in your email mailbox. If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please install and register SofTest prior to the exam period. Log on to www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw then click on the "Exam Takers" link. Log in using your Student ID (6 digits minus the leading zeroes) and your St. Mary's email password. Download and install SofTest. Once you have registered SofTest, you will receive a confirmation email. If you require assistance with downloading and or registering SofTest, please see any of the Information Systems Technicians in Computer Administration, Raba Building, Room 101A.

UNIVERSITY AND LAW MINISTRY

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WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise

noted.

The **Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program** of the **ABA Section of Business Law** encourages students to pursue business court clerkship opportunities and to consider careers in the practice of business law.

In considering a student's diversity, the Section will give special consideration to individuals who have overcome social or economic disadvantages such as physical disability, financial constraints, or cultural impediments to becoming a law student.

The objectives of the Program include:

- To encourage more diverse law students to apply for clerkship positions
- To foster relationships between business court judges and diverse law students
- To provide students with a foundation in various aspects of business law

Up to nine interns will be placed in business court clerkships in the Philadelphia Commerce Court or the Delaware Court of Chancery. Interns will also be given a summer stipend of \$6,000.

The Application Process

Applications are due **January 31, 2008** and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Students will be notified in March 2008.

For more information about the Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program click [here](#).

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 include cash payments of \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,000, 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, 2007**. The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers is a nonprofit association of attorneys who have made significant contributions to consumer financial services law.

The **National Administrative Law Judge Foundation**, the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, is requesting applications for the 2007 Fellowship. The topic for the 2007 Fellowship is "Administrative Due Process and Enemy Combatants." The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, and will deliver a fifty-minute oral presentation at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 17-20, 2007. Besides the \$1,000 stipend, the Fellow will receive air transportation, accommodations, and meals at the

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WITAN

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Issue 16

December 3, 2007

By VMM

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TEXAS SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Texas Supreme Court** will hear **oral arguments** in Austin on December 4th and 5th and at Baylor Law School on December 6th. The arguments on Tuesday and Wednesday will be available by **live webcast at the St. Mary's University School of Law website**. The arguments start at 9:00 AM; each side has 20 minutes for argument.

The following summaries 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.

Cases to Be Argued on Tuesday, December 4th.

05-0986

Harris County Hospital District v. Tomball Regional Hospital

The issue is whether the Harris County Hospital District is immune from the Tomball hospital's suit seeking compensation because it allegedly treated indigent patients that Harris County should have under state law. Tomball sued to be reimbursed for care given to Harris County patients that Tomball alleges were turned away from Harris County hospitals or referred by those hospitals to Tomball's. Harris County claims in part that it is exempt from paying other hospitals for treating patients eligible for free care under the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act. The trial court dismissed Tomball's suit on Harris County's jurisdictional plea. The court of appeals reversed, holding that the statute's language that a hospital district could "sue and be sued" was an unambiguous immunity waiver.

06-0422

Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co. and Samuel Alvarado v. Michael Sevcik and Cathy Loth

Among principal issues in this personal-injury case are (1) whether the trial court erred by admitting evidence of the defendant company's gross sales when plaintiffs were not seeking punitive damages and (2) whether the appeals court erred by modifying an award for past medical expenses. Sevcik and Loth sued Reliance and its truck driver, Alvarado, over a collision that left Sevcik with physical injuries and Loth with permanent brain injury. At trial the judge rejected Reliance's attempt to show how much Loth earned before the accident, but allowed Loth to introduce evidence of Reliance's gross sales. On appeal Reliance argues that the gross sales testimony prejudiced the jury's damages awards. The court of appeals reduced an award for Loth's past medical expenses by \$6,000, but otherwise affirmed damages Reliance challenged.

06-0755

Frymire Engineering Co. Inc. v. Jomar International Ltd. and Mixer S.R.L.

In this case involving premises damages attributed to a faulty water valve, the principal issues are (1) whether a subcontractor obligated by agreement to pay any damages to the premises owner has standing to sue the valve manufacturer under the equitable-subrogation doctrine; (2) whether the doctrine's application contravenes state contribution law on the theory that the contractor and the valve manufacturer are joint tortfeasors; and (3) whether applying the doctrine violates public policy on assigned claims. Through its insurer Frymire, the subcontractor repairing a water line, paid a Dallas hotel owner for flooding damages and got the hotel's release from all claims. Frymire then sued Jomar, the valve manufacturer, alleging negligence, products liability and warranty breach. In uncontradicted testimony, Frymire's expert attributed the flooding to a faulty valve. The trial court granted summary judgment in Jomar's favor. The court of appeals affirmed, holding that Frymire did not have standing to sue because it paid the hotel to satisfy its own contractual obligation, not Jomar's tort liability, and voluntarily agreed to indemnify the hotel owner.

Cases to Be Argued on Tuesday, December 4th.

06-0845

Wagner & Brown Ltd., et al. v. Jane Turner Sheppard

A principal issue is whether an oil and gas lease terminated for royalties nonpayment attributed to a clerical error automatically terminates the mineral-rights owner's participation in a pooling agreement. In this case Sheppard leased her one-eighth mineral interests in almost 63 acres to a production company, C.W. Resources, for a quarter of the royalties free of production costs. C.W. Resources and Wagner & Brown had leases on most of the other seven-eighths mineral rights. Under a pooling agreement, Wagner & Brown combined Sheppard's tract with others it leased and drilled two producing wells. Sheppard was not paid royalties within 120 days of production from those wells, which terminated her lease by its terms. She sued to declare her

participation in the pooling agreement terminated because her lease had terminated and to declare she was entitled to a one-eighth share in production from the two wells producing on her tract. The trial court held that her interest was not subject to the pooled unit agreement. The court of appeals affirmed.

06-0904

Guitar Holding Co., L.P. v. Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, et al.

The issues in this water-transfer challenge arising from an attempt by El Paso to buy and transfer water from nearby Hudspeth County are (1) whether the conservation district's transfer rules violate state law prohibiting more restrictive conditions on out-of-district transfer applications and (2) whether the district's transfer rules violate the landowner's equal-protection rights. As part of its aquifer-conservation plan, the Hudspeth County district imposed restrictions on transferring water based on historical water use. That means, in this case, Guitar, which had not used as much water in the past as smaller landowners, could not transfer as much water as the smaller landowners. Guitar argues that those restrictions violate provisions of Senate Bill 2, an amendment to the comprehensive groundwater law enacted in 1997. The trial court held the conservation district's rules valid. The appeals court affirmed.

07-0147

In re Calla Davis, et al.

In this dispute over an order for a local-option election to approve beer and wine sales, the principal issues are (1) whether county commissioners abused their discretion by refusing to order the election after election petitions were certified and, if so, (2) whether the election should be called for the current justice-of-the-peace precinct (from which petitions were gathered) or separate elections for areas of two existing precincts that were in the precinct that voted "dry" in the 1870s. Commissioners acted because the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code (section 251.80) requires a "wet" or "dry" area must remain unchanged until a vote in the same territory that comprised the precinct when its status was established. In this case the boundaries of the original JP precinct changed since it voted "dry" in 1877. The court of appeals denied mandamus relief that would have ordered commissioners to set the election.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** will accept applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

The **San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association (SACDLA)** is offering a scholarship to all February Bar Takers who have graduated or anticipate graduation in May. The mission of the SACDLA Scholarship Fund is to allow newly graduated students to concentrate on the bar exam while lessening the financial burdens associated with bar preparation. Scholarship **applications** are available with Margaret Garza in the **Financial Aid Office** and with Stephanie Stevens at the **Center For Legal and Social Justice**. **Application deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2008**. For additional information, please refer to www.SACDLA.org.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

The **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass** will be held on **Wednesday, December 12, 2007** from **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** at the **St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice Clinic (CLSJ)**. Rev. Rudy Vela, SM, DMin. will preside. The CLSJ is located near the corner of 36th Street and Woodlawn Avenue. Join us for Mariachis and lunch following the Mass. Everyone is welcome.

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The **Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law** is sponsoring scholarship grants for judicial clerks. The IPIL Sponsored Scholarship Grants (SSG) program at the University of Houston Law Center is designed to facilitate new-authored scholarship on Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL) by Federal Appellate Court Clerks. For application materials or for more information about this program, please refer to <http://www.law.uh.edu/ipil/ssgpclerk.html>. Application deadline is **December 15, 2007**.

The **American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, Inc. (ACCFL)** and the College of Commercial Arbitrators invite the submission of papers for presentation and publication by the Colleges on the topic of the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques in disputes relating to commercial finance transactions. Further information is available on the Colloquium website sponsored by the Commercial Finance Committee of the ABA Business Law Section at <http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=CL190021>. Deadline to apply is **December 15, 2007**.

The **American Law Institute/American Bar Association (ALI-ABA)** Committee on Continuing Professional Education has approved a limited number of full-tuition scholarships to allow deserving law students to attend the ALI-ABA Course of Study, Environmental Law to be held on February 6-8, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda near Washington, D.C. Deadline to apply is **December 20, 2007**.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 17

January 7, 2008

By VMM

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

POSTING OF FALL 2007 GRADES

The faculty has one month after the last exam date of the semester to submit their grades; for the Fall 2007 Semester, the **grading deadline for the faculty is Monday, January 14, 2008, at 12:00 noon.** The professors submit their final grades to the Director of Student Records, who confirms the grades meet the median grades and percentage limitations (Student Handbook 2007-08, pages 24-26) and enters the grades in the computer. Once the grades for a particular course are posted, students can view their individual grade on ATROX by navigating to their "Fall Course Schedule." Grades are posted as they are received from the professors and processed by the Director of Student Records. Your patience during the grading period is appreciated.

SPRING 2008 COURSE CHANGES

Course changes for Spring 2008 will be held this week on **Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 10.** Please submit forms to Bebe Gonzales in the Law Administration Building, Room 105 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please note Ms. Gonzales does not enter the course changes. Any questions regarding this process should be directed to Catherine Mery at cmery@stmarytx.edu. Course change forms are available online at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/Coursechangeform.pdf>. An updated list of course closures is located in the hallway outside of the Admission Office. Other items to keep in mind are:

1. You may not be enrolled for more than seventeen (17) hours per semester.
2. In rare cases, written permission may be granted to enroll for more than the number of credit hours allowed per semester. Please see Associate Dean Victoria Mather for approval. Dean Mather's signature on the registration form will suffice.

3. You may not be enrolled for classes that meet at the same time or if scheduled meeting times overlap.

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	<u>Mon., Mar 24</u>	<u>Tue., Mar 25</u>	<u>Wed., Mar 26</u>
5:00 - 5:50 p.m.		Competitor’s meeting	
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The **Board of Advocates** will accept applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
****ESSAY ADVANTAGE WORKSHOP****

91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the February 2006 Bar!
91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the July 2006 Bar!
100% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the February 2007 Bar!
91% of those who participated in this workshop last year passed the July 2007 Bar!

On **Saturday, January 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** Mike Sims, Bar/Bri's principal national lecturer on the topic of essay writing, will come to St. Mary's for the Essay Advantage Workshop. The Essay Advantage Workshop is a live, interactive, one-day workshop to prepare students for the third day of the Texas Bar Examination. This workshop is open to St. Mary's students who will take the February 2008 or July 2008 Bar Exams.

The workshop will cover:

- how to avoid the four most common mistakes bar examinees make;
- a step-by-step approach to reading, outlining, and writing winning bar exam essays; and
- how to answer bar exam questions when you don't know the law.

Students who attend the Saturday workshop are invited to join us for lunch and simulated essay testing on **Sunday, January 13, 2008**. Lunch begins at noon. Simulated testing will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions, submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence for review, and make an appointment for one-on-one feedback.

Both of these workshops will be held in LC 101, 102, and 103. Tuition is \$95 for St. Mary's students and \$125 for non-St. Mary's students. Visit the Office of Academic Excellence (RABA 106A or 106D) to enroll. The **deadline** for advanced registration is **Tuesday, January 8, 2008**. Last minute registration is available in the foyer of the LC building 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 12, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436.3541 or 210.431.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2008 Hoffman Bioethics Student Writing Competition. The ACLM will present awards for three outstanding original papers written by law or health professions students on topics in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. The ACLM will also present a \$1,000 prize in their Letourneau writing competition. Deadline is **January 15, 2008**.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 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/plcl/LouisJacksonNWC.html or contact Professor Martin Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**.

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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 next set of oral arguments will be held on **January 15, 16, and 17**, 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 following summaries for the arguments on Tuesday, January 17, 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.

06-0933

Southwestern Bell Telephone L.P. v. Harris County Toll Road Authority and Harris County

For petitioner: Mike A. Hatchell, Austin

For respondents: Bruce S. Powers, Houston

The issues in this dispute over costs of relocating underground cables are (1) whether the Transportation Code (section 251.102) allows for reimbursement of relocation costs and provides for waiver of governmental immunity to enforce the claim and (2) whether the utility has a sufficient property interest along a right-of-way to bring an inverse-condemnation claim for costs of moving its underground cables. In this case Southwestern Bell sued the county and toll-road authority for refusing to pay the \$1.5 million it billed for relocating the cables to accommodate roadway expansion. The trial court awarded costs to the telephone company, but the court of appeals reversed.

06-1071

State Farm Lloyds v. Becky Ann Johnson

For petitioner: Michael W. Huddleston, Dallas

For respondent: Russell J. Bowman, Dallas

The principal issue is whether an appraisal clause in a homeowner's policy covers a dispute over just the insurer's amount-of-damage calculation instead of one determining causation, coverage and liability questions in setting the loss amount. In this case Johnson sued State Farm after it refused her request for an appraisal under a clause providing an appraisal mechanism if the insurer and insured "fail to agree on the amount of loss...." State Farm had determined that Johnson's policy covered only \$499 for hail-damaged shingles along the top of the roof, but her expert recommended a new roof, finding more extensive hail damage. The trial court granted State Farm's summary-judgment motion, but the court of appeals held in reversing the case that the dispute about the extent of hail damage was a dispute about the loss amount.

07-0010

Galveston Central Appraisal District v. TRQ Captain's Landing, L.P., and American Housing Foundation

For petitioner: Michael B. Hughes, Galveston

For respondents: John Ben Blanchard, Amarillo

The issue is whether a community housing agency may claim an ad valorem tax exemption for property to which it holds equitable title but legal title is held by a wholly owned development subsidiary. Together with TRQ Captain's Landing, its subsidiary, American Housing Foundation sued the appraisal district over the district's denial of a property-tax exemption for apartments to which TRQ held legal title. Under state tax law, such an exemption may be granted only to a qualified non-profit community housing-development organization that owns property for sale or lease to low- or moderate-income people. Galveston County Appraisal District argues that it holds equitable title in the apartments and that its intent in forming the subsidiary, to develop low-income housing, complies with the Legislature's intent for tax exemptions. The trial court granted summary judgment for the appraisal district. The court of appeals reversed.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student tax preparers and interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. If you have an interest in tax law or a business or tax background, please consider attending one of three available training sessions to become familiar with the special tax software used by the program. Attendance at a training session is only required for those who will be preparing tax forms for clients and will be held on the following dates at the AT&T Center for Information Technology located just inside the Culebra entrance to the campus:

Saturday, January 12th – 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 18th – 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 19th – 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Student volunteer interviewers are also needed to work at the VITA site. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., from January 26th until April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

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MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

In **memory of Sarah Thompson**, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the **2008 Innsbruck Program**. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must **write an essay** and address how they will benefit from international legal studies as well as how they would contribute to making this a better world. Applicants must demonstrate how international legal study and international travel would benefit their legal education. Applicants must also demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the

poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. Applicants can address some particular way they have reached out in support of a friend or family member at a difficult time or in an unusual situation. Please submit your essay with your name, address, telephone number, email address and St.MU I.D. number to Sr. Grace Walle, FMI no later than **February 27, 2008**, by **5:00 p.m.** Award winners will be notified by March 10, 2008.

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

The **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.

Criteria: (Your nominee may participate in some or all of these activities and endeavors.)

1. Encourages law student participation in or leads University and Law School organizations and supports the community through participation in law school events.
2. Mentors other law students, teens, and/or children during their academic career or in previous employment.
3. Demonstrates a commitment to public service, especially through involvement in pro bono activities in the community or at the law school.
4. Develops or supports programs that help law students achieve success.
5. Provides advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered and abused women and children.
6. Maintains honor, integrity and personal integrity in educational pursuits, personal life and career goals.
7. Demonstrates academic accomplishments and personal financial need.

The nomination panel must receive all nominations no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 5, 2008 *after* the **4th 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.

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The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing ompetition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit www.texasbariplaw.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2008 Tannenwald Writing Competition. The subject many 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 \$3,500; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please see abanet.org; actconline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry deadline is **July 1, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 19

January 21, 2008

By VMM

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENTS

MLK March - Monday, January 21, 2008. Join some of our legal organizations at one of the largest **Martin Luther King marches** in the nation. Meet at **8:30 a.m. at VJ Keefe Parking Lot**. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Connecting with Martin Luther King's Legacy - Reflections by Reverend Jesse Grice, Pastor of True Vine Baptist Church on **Wednesday, January 23, University Center, Conference Room B, 12:20 p.m.** Reverend Grice will speak on the dream and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and where we are in 2008.

FREE LIVE WEBINAR USING WEBCASTING TO ENHANCE LEGAL EDUCATION, LITIGATION AND OUTREACH

Faculty of St. Mary's University School of Law will describe the critical role technology plays in training students for the real world practice of law in a high-tech age and judicial staff who will discuss the driving forces behind the courtroom webcasting between the University, Office of Court Administration and Texas Supreme Court. Featured presenters are Professor David Schlueter, The Honorable John Specia and Bruce Hermes, Director of Information Services, Texas Judicial System. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. CST**. To register for this free live webinar, please go to <http://www.sonicfoundry.com/register>.

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

Law student volunteers are needed for the upcoming **Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic**. The Clinic will be held on **Wednesday, January 23, 2008** from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the **Edgewood Family Network, 8138 Westshire Drive, Highway 90 & Loop 410**, across the street from Lucy's Cake Shop and behind Misión Luterana. The Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's University School of Law. Law student volunteers are available to interview individuals about various legal issues. Licensed attorneys are available to students for consultation about the legal issues presented. Participants are offered legal information, and if necessary, referrals to legal aid, or to other attorneys who will work on a sliding scale payment plan or might take a case pro bono. **Law student volunteers** should arrive at the site at 5:30 p.m. Please see the TWEN Pro-Bono Group and/or the Ask-A-Lawyer facebook group for more information.

BAR/BRI MPRE REVIEW COURSE

SIGN UP ON OR BEFORE THE JANUARY 29 DEADLINE

2Ls and 3Ls, come by the BAR/BRI table on **Tuesday** between **9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** or **Wednesday** between **9:00–11:00 a.m.** or **12:00– 2:00 p.m.** to enroll in BAR/BRI's MPRE review course. You must **complete the BAR/BRI MPRE review course enrollment application** and need to have paid \$250 toward your BAR/BRI bar review course tuition to receive the following:

- Comprehensive, four-hour review lecture
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- More than 300 practice questions
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The written materials will be distributed at the review course, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of **February 23-24**. Enrolled students will receive a course confirmation, with software downloading instructions, during the week of February 4.

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Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lld/elections>. **For some positions, the DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FEBRUARY 1st!** Apply today! Other positions have February 15th deadlines. Check the site today to determine which position(s) you are interested. If you have questions about any position, ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary’s that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

Available positions and respective filing deadlines are:

February 1

Chair
Vice-Chair
Secretary-Treasurer
Circuit Governors
Student Editor

February 15

Law Student Division Liaisons to ABA Entities
National Student Directors

June 1

Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations
Division Delegates to the ABA House of Delegates (3 positions)

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., from January 26th until April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** announces the **2008 Renna & Jeff Embry Mock Trial Competition**. Competition sign-up has already started in the Law Classroom Building. Participation is open to 2L and 3L students. 1L students may participate as witnesses or bailiffs. The packet will be released **Thursday, January 24th**. The competition will run from Monday, January 28 to Thursday, February 7. Prizes for the competition are \$1,750 for First Place and \$750 for Second Place. For more details, please see the BOA TWEN page.

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
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FOR 2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM**

In memory of **Sarah Thompson**, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the **2008 Innsbruck Program**. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must **write an essay** and address how they will benefit from international legal studies as well as how they would contribute to making this a better world. Applicants must demonstrate how international legal study and international travel would benefit their legal education. Applicants must also demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. Applicants can address some particular way they have reached out in support of a friend or family member at a difficult time or in an unusual situation. Please submit your essay with your name, address, telephone number, email address and St.MU I.D. number to Sr. Grace Walle, FMI no later than **February 27, 2008, by 5:00 p.m.** Award winners will be notified by March 10, 2008.

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

The **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.

Criteria: (Your nominee may participate in some or all of these activities and endeavors.)

- Encourages law student participation in or leads University and Law School organizations and supports the community through participation in law school events.
- Mentors other law students, teens, and/or children during their academic career or in previous employment.
- Demonstrates a commitment to public service, especially through involvement in pro bono activities in the community or at the law school.
- Develops or supports programs that help law students achieve success.
- Provides advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered and abused women and children.
- Maintains honor, integrity and personal integrity in educational pursuits, personal life and career goals.
- Demonstrates academic accomplishments and personal financial need.

The nomination panel must receive all nominations no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 5, 2008 *after* the **4th 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.

NEW “HELP DESK” TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has a new “**Help Desk**” telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

UNIVERSITY AND LAW MINISTRY

Marianist Heritage Mass – **Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 11:10 a.m.** in **Guadalupe Chapel.** This is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts of the Marianist Family and their contribution to educating in community. The Marianist Family began in Bordeaux, France in the 1800's and was founded by Venerable Father William Joseph Chaminade, Mother Adele de Batz de Trenquellion and lay collaborator Marie Terese De Lamourous. Their legacy continues today as members of the Marianist priests, brothers, sisters and laity and continues to collaborate in ministry for our contemporary world with concern for providing quality education, spiritual support and outreach to the most impoverished in our society.

Continuing the Heritage – Join the St. Mary's community, **Saturday, January 26, 2008**, for a half-day of service. By tradition, St. Mary's University proudly begins each academic year with service to others, helping nonprofit agencies around the city and the surrounding neighborhood. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are invited to work side by side. We will gather for a light lunch at the fountain in front of St. Louis Hall at 11:30 a.m. The vans will depart St. Mary's University at 11:50 a.m. for the service sites and will return to campus at 4:00 p.m.

Law Students Service Opportunity – In conjunction with Continuing the Heritage, the law students opportunity for service will be assisting at WINGS for Life (Women in Need of Greater Strength). WINGS works with young mothers who are considered at risk by providing counseling, victim advocacy therapy and educational services. **Suzette Kinder**, Adjunct, St. Mary's alum and former Law Alumni Board President leads the founding board of WINGS for Life and is enthusiastic about law student participation. Volunteers are sought to help paint buildings on **Saturday, January 26, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** at WINGS for Life Headquarters. Lunch will be provided. For further information and or directions you may visit the website at www.wfltx.org, refer to the flyers in the Law Classroom building or contact an SBA representative. Law students may also join undergraduate students in service at the Center for Legal and Social Justice on the same afternoon.

Ash Wednesday – **February 6, 2008 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Alumni** room. Rev. Richard Wosman, S.M. will preside. A light Lenten lunch will follow. Everyone is welcome.

Mardi Gras – February 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Food, jazz, music, and fellowship will be held in the Law Plaza weather permitting. This event is sponsored by Law Ministry and the Student Bar Association.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

Jackson Lewis LLP and Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Workplace will co-sponsor the 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 or contact Professor Martin Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**.

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., a national firm engaged in the practice of health care and life sciences law, is pleased to announce its Tenth Annual Health Care and Life Sciences Law Writing Competition. Cash prizes will be awarded for the three best papers. First place, \$4,000, Second place, \$2,000 and Third place, \$500. Additional information and an official entry form can be found at: <http://www.ebghealthlaw.com>. Competition entries are due **January 25, 2008**.

The **Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program** of the **ABA Section of Business Law** encourages students to pursue business court clerkship opportunities and to consider careers in the practice of business law.

In considering a student's diversity, the Section will give special consideration to individuals who have overcome social or economic disadvantages such as physical disability, financial constraints, or cultural impediments to becoming a law student.

The objectives of the Program include:

- To encourage more diverse law students to apply for clerkship positions
- To foster relationships between business court judges and diverse law students
- To provide students with a foundation in various aspects of business law

Up to nine interns will be placed in business court clerkships in the Philadelphia Commerce Court or the Delaware Court of Chancery. Interns will also be given a summer stipend of \$6,000.

The Application Process

Applications are due **January 31, 2008** and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Students will be notified in March 2008. For more information about the Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program click [here](#).

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, 2008**.

Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm announces the 2008 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. \$5,000 cash will be awarded to the author of the winning essay. The 2008 topic is *Global Warming: How Litigation Can Make A Difference*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 31, 2008**. Essay deadline is March 31, 2008.

The Fourth Biennial **University of Richmond** Journal of Law & Technology Writing Competition. "The Endless Frontier: Emerging Issues in Law & Technology" Grand Prize \$,1200 and publication, second prize \$600 and third prize \$200 and 2,500 LexisNexis points. Entry deadline is **February 8, 2008**. Sponsored by Westlaw, LexisNexis and Fairwinds Partners. For more information go to: <http://law.richmond.edu/jolt/writingCompetition.asp>.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Advocacy Competition. 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. Deadline for entry submissions is **March 1, 2008**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 20

January 28, 2008

By VMM

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**MINI-BAR PREP
SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES**

Sunday, January 27	Contracts I	1:00 - 4:21 p.m.
Saturday, February 2	Contracts II	1:00 - 4:10 p.m.
Sunday, February 10	Contracts III	1:00 - 4:16 p.m.
Sunday, February 24	Torts I	1:00 - 4:43 p.m.
Sunday, March 2	Torts II	1:00 - 4:53 p.m.
Saturday, March 8	Con. Law I	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

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Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

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February 1 - Chair, Vice- Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Circuit Governors, Student Editor

February 15 - Law Student Division Liaisons to ABA Entities, National Student Directors

June 1 - Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates (3 positions)

INNSBRUCK 2008 INFORMATIONAL MEETING

There will be an introductory orientation session for all students who are considering participating in the **Summer Innsbruck Program**. This meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.** in **LC104**. Co-Directors of the Institute for World Legal Problems will be present to answer questions. You may contact Professors Reams in Raba 234 for more information. Applications can also be obtained from Caroline Buckley in Raba.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

NEW "HELP DESK" TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has a new "**Help Desk**" telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

UNIVERSITY AND LAW MINISTRY

Ash Wednesday – **February 6, 2008 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Alumni** room. Rev. Richard Wosman, S.M. will preside. A light Lenten lunch will follow. Everyone is welcome.

Mardi Gras – **February 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** Food, jazz, music, and fellowship will be held in the Law Plaza weather permitting. This event is sponsored by Law Ministry and the Student Bar Association.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The **Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program** of the **ABA Section of Business Law** encourages students to pursue business court clerkship opportunities and to consider careers in the practice of business law.

In considering a student's diversity, the Section will give special consideration to individuals who have overcome social or economic disadvantages such as physical disability, financial constraints, or cultural impediments to becoming a law student.

The objectives of the Program include:

- To encourage more diverse law students to apply for clerkship positions
- To foster relationships between business court judges and diverse law students
- To provide students with a foundation in various aspects of business law

Up to nine interns will be placed in business court clerkships in the Philadelphia Commerce Court or the Delaware Court of Chancery. Interns will also be given a summer stipend of \$6,000.

The Application Process

Applications are due **January 31, 2008** and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Students will be notified in March 2008. For more information about the Business Law Diversity Clerkship Program click [here](#).

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, 2008**.

Public Justice, America's Public Interest Law Firm announces the 2008 Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law essay contest. \$5,000 cash will be awarded to the author of the winning essay. The 2008 topic is *Global Warming: How Litigation Can Make A Difference*. Intent-to-enter submission deadline is **January 31, 2008**. Essay deadline is March 31, 2008.

The Fourth Biennial **University of Richmond** Journal of Law & Technology Writing Competition. "The Endless Frontier: Emerging Issues in Law & Technology" Grand Prize \$,1200 and publication, second prize \$600 and third prize \$200 and 2,500 LexisNexis points. Entry deadline is **February 8, 2008**. Sponsored by Westlaw, LexisNexis and Fairwinds Partners. For more information go to: <http://law.richmond.edu/jolt/writingCompetition.asp>.

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National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Advocacy Competition. 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. Deadline for entry submissions is **March 1, 2008**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions announce their 2008 student 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 plus travel expenses to present paper at the Emerging Issues in Embryo Donation and Adoption Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Second place - \$2,000 and third place - \$1,500. To register or for more information please visit www.embryolaw.org. Deadline to enter is **March 2, 2008**.

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 7, 2008**.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** of the State Bar of Texas announces the Annual Intellectual Property Law Writing ompetition and The Women and Minority Scholarship. For more information, forms, or and/or questions about both competitions, please visit www.texasbariplaw.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 21

February 4, 2008

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been selected to represent St. Mary's University School of Law at the **Hispanic National Bar Association's Moot Court Competition** which will take place in New York City, March 13-15, 2008:

Rebecca Covarrubias

Enrique Maciel Matos

Amanda Rivas

The Hispanic Law Students Association Faculty Advisors, Professor Ana Novoa and Professor Reynaldo Anaya Valencia, would like to thank Professor Gary Liu, Professor Al Kauffman, Visiting Clinical Professor Karen Kelley, and Visiting Clinical Professor Ann Burnham for their help in selecting the team, and all of the competitors for participating in the competition. **Let's wish the team well in New York!!**

Congratulations also to **Andria Brannon**, 3L who was one of three students to receive the Marianist Student Leadership Award. Andria came to St. Mary's in 2005. Andria has worked with Sister Grace as a member of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Anti-Death Penalty Issue team. She has interned with the Fourth Court of Appeals, the Travis County Juvenile Public Defender and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. She is currently participating in the criminal justice clinic at St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice where she is defending the indigent and low income residents of Bexar County. Andria has served on the Women's Law Association Board of Directors, assisted in the law school's orientation program and service activities. Also, she was the recipient of the 2007 inaugural Justice Alma Lopez Woman in Leadership Award.

FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The **Federalist Society** presents **Professor Robert Turner** to talk about “**FISA and the Constitution: Why the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is Unconstitutional and How it Contributed to the Success of the 9/11 Attacks.**” Professor Turner is the Associate Director of the Center for National Security Law at The University of Virginia. Professor Jeffrey Addicott will be providing commentary on Professor Turner’s presentation. Please join us on **Monday, February 4, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**, Law Library. Food and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions about this event please contact Justin Fischer at justinfischer03@yahoo.com. To learn more about the Federalist Society, please visit us at www.fed-soc.org.

TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Join us as we celebrate *Mardi Gras* tradition on **Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Law Plaza**. The St. Mary’s Jazz band will perform. This event is sponsored by Law Ministry and the Student Bar Association.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on **February 6, 2008 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Alumni** room. Rev. Richard Wosman, S.M. will preside. A light Lenten lunch will follow. Everyone is welcome.

FACEBOOK

Facebook photo shoot for **first year** law students is this week **Thursday, February 7** in the **foyer** of the **Raba** building between 10:00 -11:00 a.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. The Facebook is important. Please take the time to get your picture taken. Many departments of the Law School use the Facebook to identify (and remember!) students. Time suggestions by section are below. However, if you cannot make your assigned slot, please go at another time.

- A: 10:00 -11:00 a.m.
- B: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- C: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- D: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT - MEXICAN LAW PROJECT

Attorney David Lopez, co-author of Mexican Law (Oxford 2004), seeks a JD or LLM student to help with research for second edition. Spanish reading and speaking proficiency required. Flexible hours. Contact dlopez@pulmanlaw.com.

**INNSBRUCK 2008
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

There will be an introductory orientation session for all students who are considering participating in the **Summer Innsbruck Program**. This meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.** in **LC104**. Co-Directors of the Institute for World Legal Problems will be present to answer questions. You may contact Professors Reams in Raba 234 for more information. Applications can also be obtained from Caroline Buckley in Raba.

**MINI-BAR PREP
SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES**

Saturday, February 2	Contracts II	1:00 - 4:10 p.m.
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The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW STUDENT DIVISION**

The **American Bar Association, Law Student Division** will hold its 13th Circuit Spring Meeting on **Saturday, February 23, 2008** in Law Classrooms 101 and 102. If you are interested in building a network to launch your career after graduation, or in learning how to get the most from your legal education, the meeting is the perfect venue for you to experience first-hand how the ABA can help you achieve your goals. Don't miss the opportunity to build your network on **Friday night** before the meeting at the **Meet and Greet Reception** followed by dinner at Dick's Last Resort. Registration is required at www.abanet.org/lzd/spring/2008/13/reg-form.html.

ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! Deadlines are around the corner.. Check the site today to determine which position(s) you are interested. If you have questions about any position, ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary’s that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

Available positions and respective filing deadlines are:

February 15 - Law Student Division Liaisons to ABA Entities, National Student Directors

June 1 - Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates (3 positions)

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS IN SAN ANTONIO

Semesters: Summer 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009

Deadline: Noon Monday, February 18, 2008

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with six federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application **deadline** is noon **Monday, February 18, 2008**. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters.

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

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 each of three judges (Honorable Xavier Rodriguez, Honorable Fred Biery, and Honorable Royal Furgeson) during each of the next three semesters (summer 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009). 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. *Successful candidates typically have a strong academic record.*

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

Applications

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

An application should include:

(1) One federal court internship form, available from Ms. Grace 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.

Applications will be accepted from students now in their first or second year of law school.

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

The **2008 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.

Criteria: (Your nominee may participate in some or all of these activities and endeavors.)

- Encourages law student participation in or leads University and Law School organizations and supports the community through participation in law school events.
- Mentors other law students, teens, and/or children during their academic career or in previous employment.
- Demonstrates a commitment to public service, especially through involvement in pro bono activities in the community or at the law school.
- Develops or supports programs that help law students achieve success.
- Provides advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered and abused women and children.
- Maintains honor, integrity and personal integrity in educational pursuits, personal life and career goals.
- Demonstrates academic accomplishments and personal financial need.

Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I., D. Min., in the Raba building no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 5, 2008 *after* the **4th 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.

THE INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION

Join St. Mary's University School of Law and The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues as they present **The Inaugural Symposium on Immigration, 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 21, 2008, Plaza Club San Antonio, 100 W. Houston Street, Suite 2100.** Speakers will include federal judges, lawmakers, law professors, and practicing immigration lawyers—all of whom bring a unique and contemporary perspective to the legal issues surrounding immigration in the United States. This symposium has been approved for six CLE hours by the State Bar of Texas. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit www.thescholarlawreview.org.

MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

In **memory of Sarah Thompson**, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the **2008 Innsbruck Program**. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must **write an essay** and address how they will benefit from international legal studies as well as how they would contribute to making this a better world. Applicants must demonstrate how international legal study and international travel would benefit their legal education. Applicants must also demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. Applicants can address some particular way they have reached out in support of a friend or family member at a difficult time or in an unusual situation. Please submit your essay with your name, address, telephone number, email address and St.MU I.D. number to Sr. Grace Walle, FMI no later than **February 27, 2008, by 5:00 p.m.** Award winners will be notified by March 10, 2008.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** announces the **2008 Renna & Jeff Embry Mock Trial Competition**. Competition sign-up has already started in the Law Classroom Building. Participation is open to 2L and 3L students. 1L students may participate as witnesses or bailiffs. The competition will run from Monday, January 28 to Thursday, February 7. Prizes for the competition are \$1,750 for First Place and \$750 for Second Place. For more details, please see the BOA TWEN page.

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.		8:00 - 8:50 p.m.
	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.		9:00 - 9:50 p.m.

The **Board of Advocates** will accept membership applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

RACE FOR THE CURE

The Student Bar Association, Legal Sports Society and Women's Law Association have joined forces to put together a St. Mary's **Race for the Cure team**. The Race is on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. We will run/walk the race and then go over to Aldaco's in Sunset Station for breakfast tacos and the Bloody Mary Bar! Join the team or get more information by visiting www.sakomen.org. **Our team name is St. Mary's Law** and the team captain is **Matt Wade**. In the past there have been several groups to put teams together. We would really like to have one big St. Mary's team! Don't want to get up early? You can still be on the team through **Sleep in for the Cure!** Sign up on the team website. Questions? Contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) or Niki Baker (nicoleabaker@hotmail.com).

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The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy is pleased to announce the 2008 **Richard D. Cudahy Writing Competition** on Regulatory and Administrative Law. The author of the winning paper will receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Up to three top papers will receive special recognition at the ACS National Convention. Deadline for submission is **Friday, February 15, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.acslaw.org.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Advocacy Competition. 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. Deadline for entry submissions is **March 1, 2008**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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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 7, 2008**.

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 \$1,000 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2008 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 \$3,500; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please see abanet.org; actonline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry deadline is **July 1, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 22

February 11, 2008

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

The Board of Advocates **congratulates Gwen Jacobs and Kevin Capps**, winners of the 2008 Renna & Jeff Embry Mock Trial Competition. Congratulations also to finalists **Mary Nan Hayes and Andrea Koch**. **Thank you** to all participants in this year's competition.

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VALENTINES DAY LUNCHEON

Please join the Law Ministry for lunch on Valentines Day, **Thursday, February 14** (while food lasts), **11:45 a.m.** in the **Atrium**, Law Administration building.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

The annual **People's Law School** will be held at St. Mary's on **Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the law classroom building**. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The People's Law School is a free public seminar featuring local attorneys who are experts in their field. Topics this year are Elder Law, Family Law and Business Law. This event is co-sponsored by the San Antonio Bar Foundation, St. Mary's School of Law and the San Antonio

Bar Association Family Law Section. For more information please contact Elena Hutchins, Executive Director, www.SanAntonioBarFoundation.org, 210.277.8825.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT - MEXICAN LAW PROJECT

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leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

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Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

Available positions and respective filing deadlines are:

February 15 - Law Student Division Liaisons to ABA Entities, National Student Directors

June 1 - Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates (3 positions)

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS IN SAN ANTONIO

Semesters: Summer 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009
Deadline: Noon Monday, February 18, 2008

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with six federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application **deadline** is noon **Monday, February 18, 2008**. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters.

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

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 each of three judges (Honorable Xavier Rodriguez, Honorable Fred Biery, and Honorable Royal Furgeson) during each of the next three semesters (summer 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009). 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. *Successful candidates typically have a strong academic record.*

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 2008, fall 2008, and spring 2009).

Applications

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

An application should include:

(1) One federal court internship form, available from Ms. Grace 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.

Applications will be accepted from students now in their first or second year of law school.

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

The **2008 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.

Criteria: (Your nominee may participate in some or all of these activities and endeavors.)

- Encourages law student participation in or leads University and Law School organizations and supports the community through participation in law school events.
- Mentors other law students, teens, and/or children during their academic career or in previous employment.
- Demonstrates a commitment to public service, especially through involvement in pro bono activities in the community or at the law school.
- Develops or supports programs that help law students achieve success.
- Provides advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered and abused women and children.
- Maintains honor, integrity and personal integrity in educational pursuits, personal life and career goals.
- Demonstrates academic accomplishments and personal financial need.

Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I., D. Min., in the Raba building no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 5, 2008 *after* the **4th 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.

THE INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION

Join St. Mary's University School of Law and The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues as they present **The Inaugural Symposium on Immigration, 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 21, 2008, Plaza Club San Antonio, 100 W. Houston Street, Suite 2100.** Speakers will include federal judges, lawmakers, law professors, and practicing immigration lawyers—all of whom bring a unique and contemporary perspective to the legal issues

surrounding immigration in the United States. This symposium has been approved for six CLE hours by the State Bar of Texas. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit www.thescholarlawreview.org.

**MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR 2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM**

In **memory** of **Sarah Thompson**, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the **2008 Innsbruck Program**. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must **write an essay** and address how they will benefit from international legal studies as well as how they would contribute to making this a better world. Applicants must demonstrate how international legal study and international travel would benefit their legal education. Applicants must also demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. Applicants can address some particular way they have reached out in support of a friend or family member at a difficult time or in an unusual situation. Please submit your essay with your name, address, telephone number, email address and St.MU I.D. number to Sr. Grace Walle, FMI no later than **February 27, 2008, by 5:00 p.m.** Award winners will be notified by March 10, 2008.

**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 The Access Group, 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 or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Financial Aid office is **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program**

and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
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	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.		8:00 - 8:50 p.m.
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The **Board of Advocates** will accept membership applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

RACE FOR THE CURE

The Student Bar Association, Legal Sports Society and Women's Law Association have joined forces to put together a St. Mary's **Race for the Cure team**. The Race is on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. We will run/walk the race and then go over to Aldaco's in Sunset Station for breakfast tacos and the Bloody Mary Bar! Join the team or get more information by visiting www.sakomen.org. **Our team name is St. Mary's Law** and the team captain is **Matt Wade**. In the past there have been several groups to put teams together. We would really like to have one big St. Mary's team! Don't want to get up early? You can still be on the team through **Sleep in for the Cure!** Sign up on the team website. Questions? Contact Mo Heinrichs

(maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) or Niki Baker (nicoleabaker@hotmail.com).

KAPLAN PMBR

- **Thank you, St. Mary's** – The Law School is contributing \$300 toward the balance of any student who signs up for either the Comprehensive (6day and 3day) Review Course or the 6day Review Course.
- **Deadline – April 18th** is the LAST day for 3L's to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. It is also the last day for 1L's and 2L's to pay a deposit and lock in this year's rate. 1L's and 2L's will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.
- **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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

NEW “HELP DESK” TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has a new “**Help Desk**” telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

The 2008 Annual **LatCrit Student Scholar Program**, in partnership with the University of California – Berkeley School 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. The **deadline** for applications is **Friday, February 15, 2008**.

The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy is pleased to announce the 2008 **Richard D. Cudahy Writing Competition** on Regulatory and Administrative Law. The author of the winning paper will receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Up to three top papers will receive special recognition at the ACS National Convention. Deadline for submission is **Friday, February 15, 2008**. For more information, please visit www.acslaw.org.

National Center for Nonsmokers’ Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Advocacy Competition. 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. Deadline for entry submissions is **March 1, 2008**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions announce their 2008 student 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 plus travel expenses to present paper at the Emerging Issues in Embryo Donation and Adoption Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Second place - \$2,000 and third place - \$1,500. To register or for more information please visit www.embryolaw.org. Deadline to enter is **March 2, 2008**.

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 7, 2008**.

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 \$1,000 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The Special Committee on Animals and the Law of the New York State Bar Association is pleased to announce its First Annual Student Writing Competition. Winner will receive \$500 and publication by NYSBA. For complete rules and entry form please visit www.nysba.org/SCALWritingCompetition. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

The **Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2008 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 \$3,500; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please see abanet.org; actonline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry deadline is **July 1, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 23

February 18, 2008

By VMM

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

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS SUMMER 2008, FALL 2008, SPRING 2008 DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2008

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with six federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application **deadline is noon Monday, February 18, 2008**. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters. A detailed pamphlet, entitled “*Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships*,” is available on the website (law.stmarytx.edu) in the section on “Judicial Internships.” **Please give your materials to Ms. Grace Garcia** on the second floor of the Raba Law Faculty Building. (Although classes will not be held on Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 18, the staff has working hours, and it will be possible to submit an application to Ms. Garcia before noon that day.)

THE INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION

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DEMOCRATIC LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The **Democratic Law Student Association** will meet on **Wednesday, February 20, 2008** at **noon** in the Sarita Kenedy Law Library, **Alumni Room**. Lunch will be provided. For more information please contact Russell Lorfing at russlorfing@gmail.com.

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CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

The Christian Legal Society welcomes **Justice Raul A. Gonzalez**, Former Associate Justice, **Texas Supreme Court** to speak on **Thursday, February 21, 2008**. Justice Gonzalez will speak on "Gymnasium for the Soul: His Personal Path of Spiritual Growth." An invitation is extended to the entire Law School. Please join us in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library. Lunch will be served from 11:30 - 12:00 noon followed by the presentation.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT DIVISION

The **American Bar Association, Law Student Division** will hold its 13th Circuit Spring Meeting on **Saturday, February 23, 2008** in Law Classrooms 101 and 102. If you are interested in building a network to launch your career after graduation, or in learning how to get the most from your legal education, the meeting is the perfect venue for you to experience first-hand how the ABA can help you achieve your goals. Don't miss the opportunity to build your network on **Friday night** before the meeting at the **Meet and Greet Reception** followed by dinner at Dick's Last Resort. Registration is required at www.abanet.org/lzd/spring/2008/13/reg-form.html.

**MINI-BAR PREP
SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES**

Sunday, February 24	Torts I	1:00 - 4:43 p.m.
Sunday, March 2	Torts II	1:00 - 4:53 p.m.
Saturday, March 8	Con. Law I	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

**MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
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WILL YOU BE AMERICA'S NEXT TOP LAWYER?

Come sign up to be a part of the second annual **Puttin' on the Writs!** For those that don't know, Puttin on the Writs is a legal variety show hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) where students develop and present their own unique talents. These can range from skits to musical performances parodying their law school experiences, etc. The **sign up sheet** is available on the SBA Bulletin Board in the Law Classroom building next to the Assignment boards. **Deadline** to sign up is **February 29**, so please hurry up and sign. The show will be held on April 11, 2008 at the Josephine Theatre. Let's see if you have what it takes to stop the show!

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

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Applications may be obtained upon request at nluna@stmarytx.edu or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Financial Aid office is **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES!

Get ready to roll up your sleeves! **The Health Law Association** and the **Student Bar Association** will host a **Blood Drive** on **Monday, March 3, 2008** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium** of the Law Administration building. Random gift card drawings will be held for all individual donors. A social for the group or organization with the most donors will be given away, i.e. 1L sections, SBA, WLA, HLSA, BOA, Faculty, Deans, Alumni, etc...**we challenge all of you**. The South Texas Tissue and Blood Center will be here to help students, faculty, staff and anyone else who would like to donate. So come on out. Support your organization and maybe even win a prize! **Remember** – only one pint of donated blood can help save the lives of several people! Make a difference in someone’s life and donate.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear oral argument in two cases at St. Mary’s on **March 5, 2008**, beginning at **1:30 p.m.** For more information, please click the hyperlinks below.

[FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS WEBCASTS](#)

[04-07-00038-CV CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P., APPELLANT/CROSS APPELLEE V. THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, APPELLEE/CROSS-APPELLANT](#)

THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

The **ACLU of Texas** is presenting their 70th anniversary conference “The Future of Texas” on **March 8, 2008** at the **Hyatt Regency** San Antonio Riverwalk. A invitation is extended to all law faculty. **Volunteer opportunities for students are available.** Currently the ACLU of Texas is building a list of interested student-volunteers. Information on the conference is available at <http://www.aclutx70th.org/index.html>. A detailed list of speaker and panelists is available at <http://www.aclutx.org/projects/article.php?aid=539&cid=33>. For questions, please email JoAnn Kennedy at jkennedy@aclutx.org.

SPRING BREAK IMMERSION TRIPS

Alternative Spring Break Immersion trips for the law school are sponsored through the University’s commitment to provide service learning experience for law students during Spring Break. This is an opportunity to enjoy a break while contributing to make a difference in people’s lives. One project will be to work with **Projecto Azteca** in McAllen, Texas. Projecto Azteca assists in the building of homes for clients in the colonias (rural communities that lack basic appropriate housing). There will be opportunities to work with clients building their homes, visiting and providing educational sessions on issues related to needs of the community, e.g. predatory lending. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy South Padre’s beach and network with our Alumni in the Valley. **Saturday, March 15 through Thursday, March 20** are the targeted dates. Housing, transportation and some food will be provided. Please contact Sr. Grace at gwalle@stmarytx.edu or Professor Ana Novoa at anovoa@stmarytx.edu.

The second immersion project is **Habitat for Humanity** in Taos, New Mexico. Targeted dates are **Sunday, March 16 through Thursday, March 20**. Habitat for Humanity works on adobe homes. Taos is a tourist town, however many residents are low income. Transportation, housing and some food will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please contact Mike Martinez at mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu or Sr. Grace at gwalle@stmarytx.edu.

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) is an independent non-profit organization geared toward solving major problems affecting the world today, such as healthcare, climate change, peace and human rights, and poverty alleviation. Founded in 2005, CGI is effective in engendering change by serving as a catalyst for action. CGI brings together world leaders to devise innovative solutions to global challengers. CGI University is an attempt to expand this network of the willing to the academic community, including both undergraduate and graduate students as well as the faculty and administration. The inaugural meeting is scheduled to take place March 14-16, 2008 at Tulane University in New Orleans. For an application and to learn more about CGI, visit www.cgiu.org. **Deadline** to apply is **March 18, 2008**. Please note that CGI is a bipartisan, non-profit organization and is independent of the Senator’s campaign.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

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RACE FOR THE CURE

The Student Bar Association, Legal Sports Society and Women's Law Association have joined forces to put together a St. Mary's **Race for the Cure team**. The Race is on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. We will run/walk the race and then go over to Aldaco's in Sunset Station for breakfast tacos and the Bloody Mary bar! Join the team or get more information by visiting www.sakomen.org. **Our team name is St. Mary's Law** and the team captain is **Matt Wade**. In the past there have been several groups to put teams together. We would like to have one big St. Mary's team! Don't want to get up early? You can still be on the team through **Sleep in for**

the Cure! Sign up on the team website. Questions? Contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) or Niki Baker (nicoleabaker@hotmail.com).

KAPLAN PMBR

- **Thank you, St. Mary's** – The Law School is contributing \$300 toward the balance of any student who signs up for either the Comprehensive (6day and 3day) Review Course or the 6day Review Course.
- **Deadline** – **April 18th** is the LAST day for 3L's to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. It is also the last day for 1L's and 2L's to pay a deposit and lock in this year's rate. 1L's and 2L's will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.
- **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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
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Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
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ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! If you have questions please ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St.

Mary's that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu

Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com

Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

There are three (3) positions available for Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

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NEW "HELP DESK" TELEPHONE NUMBER

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WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Advocacy Competition. 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. Deadline for entry submissions is **March 1, 2008**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The **Special Committee on Animals** and the Law of the New York State Bar Association is pleased to announce its First Annual Student Writing Competition. Winner will receive \$500 and publication by NYSBA. For complete rules and entry form please visit www.nysba.org/SCALWritingCompetition. **Deadline** to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

The **Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence** in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2008 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 \$3,500; second prize is \$2,500; and third prize is \$1,500. For competition rules, please see abanet.org; actonline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry **deadline** is **July 1, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 24

February 25, 2008

By VMM

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

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT DIVISION

The **American Bar Association, Law Student Division** will hold its 13th Circuit Spring Meeting on **Saturday, February 23, 2008** in Law Classrooms 101 and 102. If you are interested in building a network to launch your career after graduation, or in learning how to get the most from your legal education, the meeting is the perfect venue for you to experience first-hand how the ABA can help you achieve your goals. Don't miss the opportunity to build your network on **Friday night** before the meeting at the **Meet and Greet Reception** followed by dinner at Dick's Last Resort. Registration is required at www.abanet.org/lsd/spring/2008/13/reg-form.html.

SEVENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON LEGAL MALPRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 2008 Symposium on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility will be held on **Friday, February 29, 2008, 9:00 - 3:30 p.m.**, at the **Plaza Club**, Frost Bank Plaza in downtown San Antonio. This program will address a variety of topics in the areas of ethics and malpractice, including the ethics of surreptitious tape-recording, the unintended technological disclosure of confidential information, and ethical plea bargaining. The symposium will offer 5.0 hours in legal ethics and professional responsibility (approval pending). For more information contact Jason Whitney, Symposium Editor at 210.488.0078, jwhitney@stmarytx.edu or Renee Higgins, Business Manager, 210.436.3525, rhiggins@stmarytx.edu.

**MINI-BAR PREP
SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES**

Sunday, February 24	Torts I	1:00 - 4:43 p.m.
Sunday, March 2	Torts II	1:00 - 4:53 p.m.
Saturday, March 8	Con. Law I	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

**MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR 2008 INNSBRUCK PROGRAM**

In **memory** of **Sarah Thompson**, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the **2008 Innsbruck Program**. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must **write an essay** and address how they will benefit from international legal studies as well as how they would contribute to making this a better world. Applicants must demonstrate how international legal study and international travel would benefit their legal education. Applicants must also demonstrate a concern and interest in helping the poor in need of legal services, especially the elderly. Applicants can address some particular way they have reached out in support of a friend or family member at a difficult time or in an unusual situation. Please submit your essay with your name, address, telephone number, email address and StMU I.D. number to Sr. Grace Walle, FMI no later than **February 27, 2008**, by **5:00 p.m.** Award winners will be notified by March 10, 2008.

WILL YOU BE AMERICA'S NEXT TOP LAWYER?

Come sign up to be a part of the second annual **Puttin' on the Writs!** For those that don't know, Puttin on the Writs is a legal variety show hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) where students develop and present their own unique talents. These can range from skits to musical performances parodying their law school experiences, etc. The **sign up sheet** is available on the SBA Bulletin Board in the Law Classroom building next to the Assignment boards. **Deadline** to sign up is **February 29**, so please hurry up and sign. The show will be held on April 11, 2008 at the Josephine Theatre. Let's see if you have what it takes to stop the show!

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 The Access Group, 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 or at the Law School Financial Assistance Office. The **deadline** for submitting the completed application and denial letter to the Financial Aid office is **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – YOU DON’T WANT TO MISS IT!

In just one week, the **Health Law Association** will host a **Blood Drive on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Law Administration **Atrium**. We know you feel bad that you missed the blood drive on upper campus last week, but we understand that there were important Valentine’s Day plans to be made. So now is your chance to make it right. And don’t forget the prizes; gift cards for randomly selected individual donors, and a social for the group or organization with the most donors. **Remember** – one pint of blood can help save the lives of several people. Every three seconds, someone needs blood. Make a difference in someone’s life and donate. See you there!

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear oral argument in two cases at St. Mary’s on **March 5, 2008**, beginning at **1:30 p.m.** For more information, please click the hyperlinks below.

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[04-07-00146-CR ARTURO MATA V THE STATE OF TEXAS](#)

ALMA L. LOPEZ WOMAN IN LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD & RECEPTION

Please join us at the **Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award and Banquet** to be held on **Wednesday, March 5, 2008** at the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, **Alumni Room** at **3:45 p.m.**. A public reception including remarks from Chief Justice Alma Lopez and announcement of award recipients will be held. This leadership award and reception is also a celebration of 2008 Women's History Month. Everyone is invited.

THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

The **ACLU of Texas** is presenting their 70th anniversary conference "The Future of Texas" on **March 8, 2008** at the **Hyatt Regency** San Antonio Riverwalk. A invitation is extended to all law faculty. **Volunteer opportunities for students are available.** Currently the ACLU of Texas is building a list of interested student-volunteers. Information on the conference is available at <http://www.aclutx70th.org/index.html>. A detailed list of speaker and panelists is available at <http://www.aclutx.org/projects/article.php?aid=539&cid=33>. For questions, please email JoAnn Kennedy at jkennedy@aclutx.org.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from **Macways Tailors and Export Co. Ltd.** will return to the law school on **Wednesday, March 12, and Thursday, March 13, 2008** to conduct fittings for both male and female law students who are interested in adding to their professional wardrobe. This is a unique opportunity to replenish your wardrobe without going broke in the process. A list of prices is available at **Carrel #111**.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund that goes toward assisting Sister Grace's mission of service to others. Last year, Macways donated over \$3000 to our school through this program, along with other donations to school sponsored events. Your purchase helps our school.

Due to the time necessary to get the required measurements and select the desired fabrics, interested persons will need to sign up in advance for one of the time slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

To schedule an appointment time, please stop by **Carrel #111** in the Law Library and complete the sign-up sheet. If you have a question, please e-mail Mike DeNuccio at mduccio@stmarytx.edu, Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com. Appointments last about **20 minutes**.

SPRING BREAK IMMERSION TRIPS

Alternative Spring Break Immersion trips for the law school are sponsored through the University's commitment to provide service learning experience for law students during Spring Break. This is an opportunity to enjoy a break while contributing to make a difference in people's lives. One project will be to work with **Projecto Azteca** in McAllen, Texas. Projecto Azteca assists in the building of homes for clients in the colonias (rural communities that lack basic appropriate housing). There will be opportunities to work with clients building their homes, visiting and providing educational sessions on issues related to needs of the community, e.g. predatory lending. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy South Padre's beach and network with our Alumni in the Valley. **Saturday, March 15 through Thursday, March 20** are the targeted dates. Housing, transportation and some food will be provided. Please contact Sr. Grace at gwall@stmarytx.edu or Professor Ana Novoa at anovoa@stmarytx.edu.

The second immersion project is **Habitat for Humanity** in Taos, New Mexico. Targeted dates are **Sunday, March 16 through Thursday, March 20**. Habitat for Humanity works on adobe homes. Taos is a tourist town, however many residents are low income. Transportation, housing and some food will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please contact Mike Martinez at mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu or Sr. Grace at gwall@stmarytx.edu.

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) is an independent non-profit organization geared toward solving major problems affecting the world today, such as healthcare, climate change, peace and human rights, and poverty alleviation. Founded in 2005, CGI is effective in engendering change by serving as a catalyst for action. CGI brings together world leaders to devise innovative solutions to global challengers. CGI University is an attempt to expand this network of the willing to the academic community, including both undergraduate and graduate students as well as the faculty and administration. The inaugural meeting is scheduled to take place March 14-16, 2008 at Tulane University in New Orleans. For an application and to learn more about CGI, visit www.cgiu.org. **Deadline** to apply is **March 18, 2008**. Please note that CGI is a bipartisan, non-profit organization and is independent of the Senator's campaign.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit

the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
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Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
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WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 25

March 3, 2008

By VMM

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

IT'S HERE...THE PREMIER EVENT OF SPRING

The **Health Law Association Blood Drive! Monday, March 3, 2008** from **9:00 a.m.** to **1:00 p.m.** in the Law Administration Atrium. SPURS T-Shirts for EVERY donor: **Free.** Chances to win SPURS tickets, gift cards and a pizza party/social for your group: **Free.** Cookies and juice for all donors: **Free.** That warm feeling you get by donating to help save lives: **PRICELESS!** See you there.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Fourth Court of Appeals** will hear oral argument in two cases at St. Mary's on **Wednesday, March 5, 2008**, beginning at **1:30 p.m.** For more information, please click the hyperlinks below.

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Following the oral arguments, please join us for the **Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award and Reception** in the Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A public reception including remarks from Chief Justice Alma Lopez and presentation of several awards honoring women in law, including the Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award will be held. This reception is a celebration of 2008 Women's History Month. This event is hosted by the Women's Law Association and Law Ministry. Everyone is invited.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

SBA presents “**Ride the Bull**” Texas Independence Day celebration on **Thursday, March 6, 2008** at **Cowboys Dance Hall, 30303 N.E. Loop 410** beginning at **8:00 p.m.** SBA Executive Election results will be announced. SBA will be selling tickets and t-shirts Monday, March 3 through Thursday, March 6. T-shirts are \$5 each and tickets are \$5 each with student ID.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATES OF BEXAR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

The **Office of Financial Assistance** has a one page information sheet that is being requested in order to consider a student for the **George W. Brackenridge Foundation Scholarships** available to Law students. While priority is being given to students who are economically disadvantaged representing minority populations, other students may also complete this information sheet. Funding is available for this 07-08 academic year. If funds are awarded to students whose budget has been met by loan programs, the scholarship funds will be used to payback the educational loans with the higher interest rate. Due to a deadline for requesting additional funds from the Foundation, please come by the Office in RABA 109 and complete the form no later than **11:45 a.m. on March 6, 2008**. The information sheet is available now.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

Westlaw is currently looking for outgoing, energetic and motivated law students to become **Westlaw Student Representatives next year!** Students will work part-time on campus, sharpen their research skills, assist with training, develop marketing strategies, and maintain the Westlaw computer lab. Please submit your cover letter, resume and any questions to Academic Account Manager Erin Boase at erin.boase@thomson.com.

MINI-BAR PREP SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Sunday, March 2	Torts II	1:00 - 4:53 p.m.
Saturday, March 8	Con. Law I	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

The **ACLU of Texas** is presenting their 70th anniversary conference “The Future of Texas” on **March 8, 2008** at the **Hyatt Regency** San Antonio Riverwalk. A invitation is extended to all law faculty. **Volunteer opportunities for students are available.** Currently the ACLU of Texas is building a list of interested student-volunteers. Information on the conference is available at <http://www.aclutx70th.org/index.html>. A detailed list of speaker and panelists is available at <http://www.aclutx.org/projects/article.php?aid=539&cid=33>. For questions, please email JoAnn Kennedy at jkennedy@aclutx.org.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY’S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from **Macways Tailors and Export Co. Ltd.** will return to the law school on **Wednesday, March 12, and Thursday, March 13, 2008** to conduct fittings for both male and female law students who are interested in adding to their professional wardrobe. This is a unique opportunity to replenish your wardrobe without going broke in the process. A list of prices is available at **Carrel #111**.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund that goes toward assisting Sister Grace’s mission of service to others. Last year, Macways donated over \$3000 to our school through this program, along with other donations to school sponsored events. Your purchase helps our school.

Due to the time necessary to get the required measurements and select the desired fabrics, interested persons will need to sign up in advance for one of the time slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

To schedule an appointment time, please stop by **Carrel #111** in the Law Library and complete the sign-up sheet. If you have a question, please e-mail Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu, Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com. Appointments last about **20 minutes**.

SPRING BREAK IMMERSION TRIPS

Alternative Spring Break Immersion trips for the law school are sponsored through the University’s commitment to provide service learning experience for law students during Spring Break. This is an opportunity to enjoy a break while contributing to make a difference in people’s lives. One project will be to work with **Projecto Azteca** in McAllen, Texas. Projecto Azteca assists in the building of homes for clients in the colonias (rural communities that lack basic appropriate housing). There will be opportunities to work with clients building their homes, visiting and providing educational sessions on issues related to needs of the community, e.g. predatory lending. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy South Padre’s beach and network with our Alumni in the Valley. **Saturday, March 15 through Thursday, March 20** are the targeted dates. Housing, transportation and some food will be provided. Please contact Sr. Grace at gwall@stmarytx.edu or Professor Ana Novoa at anovoa@stmarytx.edu.

The second immersion project is **Habitat for Humanity** in Taos, New Mexico. Targeted dates are **Sunday, March 16 through Thursday, March 20**. Habitat for Humanity works on adobe homes. Taos is a tourist town, however many residents are low income. Transportation, housing and some food will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please contact Mike Martinez at mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu or Sr. Grace at gwall@stmarytx.edu.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.		8:00 - 8:50 p.m.
	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.		9:00 - 9:50 p.m.

The **Board of Advocates** will accept membership applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

RACE FOR THE CURE

The Student Bar Association, Legal Sports Society and Women's Law Association have joined forces to put together a St. Mary's **Race for the Cure** team. The Race is on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. We will run/walk the race and then go over to Aldaco's in Sunset Station for breakfast tacos and the Bloody Mary bar! Join the team or get more information by visiting www.sakomen.org. **Our team name is St. Mary's Law** and the team captain is **Matt Wade**. In the past there have been several groups to put teams together. We would like to have one big St. Mary's team! Don't want to get up early? You can still be on the team through **Sleep in for the Cure!** Sign up on the team website. Questions? Contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) or Niki Baker (nicoleabaker@hotmail.com).

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 applications will be available the week of March 3rd. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 18, 2008. 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 **Monday, March 31, 2008**.

WILL YOU BE AMERICA'S NEXT TOP LAWYER?

Come sign up to be a part of the second annual **Puttin' on the Writs!** For those that don't know, Puttin on the Writs is a legal variety show hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) where students develop and present their own unique talents. These can range from skits to musical performances parodying their law school experiences, etc. The **sign up sheet** is available on the SBA Bulletin Board in the Law Classroom building next to the Assignment boards. Please stop by and sign up. The show will be held on **April 11, 2008** at the **Josephine Theatre**. Let's see if you have what it takes to stop the show!

KAPLAN PMBR

· **Thank you, St. Mary's** – The Law School is contributing \$300 toward the balance of any student who signs up for either the Comprehensive (6day and 3day) Review Course or the 6day Review Course.

· **Deadline – April 18th** is the LAST day for 3L’s to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. It is also the last day for 1L’s and 2L’s to pay a deposit and lock in this year’s rate. 1L’s and 2L’s will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.

· **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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! If you have questions please ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary’s that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

There are three (3) positions available for Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

NEW "HELP DESK" TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has a new "**Help Desk**" telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer 08 classes. If tax returns have not been completed the form allows for estimated income and asset information. In addition, the criteria for a large majority of our Law School Endowed Scholarships are based on academic merit, and also on financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical since applications for the Scholarships are due in March.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year. However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2007: Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability or their Adjusted Gross Income through the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education will be available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970 as soon as IRS completes the new regulatory adjustments made by Congress in late fall 2007. When it does become available, use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Usually Appendix B of the publication has a good breakdown of the tax benefits. The tax benefits usually result in a greater tax refund or a reduction in the amount of taxes owed.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 08-09 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 3rd either by picking it up from the Financial Aid Office or by requesting it via email at nluna@stmarytx.edu. The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class and amounts range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet will be available on Wednesday, March 26th. More information will be provided closer to date of availability. Deadline for forms is after registration for classes is complete.

Status of New Database: The Financial Aid Office went live on Banner in January. All results of the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 year are being drawn down in the new system. During this spring semester, our office will have many mini “go-live” events as each process within our module is completed. The implementation team, of which Ms. Garza is a member, is working on the award letters, the web self-service, and the loan processes to name a few. Ms. Garza is tentatively scheduled to be out of the office about 5 weeks of the semester. Her schedule is dependent on the consultant’s schedule as well as any necessary projects assigned to her. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of implementation.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

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 7, 2008**.

J.L. Turner Legal Association (JLTLA), the African-American bar association in Dallas, Texas will award a scholarship to a **third year law student** who will take the Texas bar exam during 2008. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for consideration. Applications and additional information about JLTLA can be found on the website located at www.jlta.org.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2008 Attorney-CPA Foundation Scholarships. Fourteen scholarships will be awarded. Two \$1,000 scholarships; Four \$500 scholarships; Eight \$250 scholarships. For criteria and application, please visit www.attorney-cpa.com/foundation. Application deadline is **April 15, 2008**.

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 \$1,000 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Third 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, 2008 and **May 1, 2008**. For contest guidelines please visit www.naela.org.

Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writers is pleased to announce its 2008 Brief-Writing Competition. The Scribes Brief-Writing Committee solicits winning briefs from national moot-court competitions and selects the finest of those winning briefs. The winning author will be recognized at the Scribes luncheon during the ABA's meeting in New York on August 9, 2008. Plaques will be awarded to the author and his or her school. Deadline to submit briefs is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Judges Association (AJA)** announces its Twentieth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "Search and Seizure Arising from Motor Vehicle Stops." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The Planning & Law Division of the **American Planning Association** announces its twenty-fifth annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students and planning students, writing on a question of significance in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law. The winning entry will be awarded \$2,500 and will be submitted for publication in *The Urban Lawyer*. Second place prize is \$1,000 and two Honorable Mentions of \$250. **Deadline** to apply is **June 9, 2008**.

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, 2008**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or www.innsofcourt.org.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 26

March 10, 2008

By VMM

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

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The **St. Mary's School of Law Restorative Justice Initiative** (RJI) is offering a once in a lifetime opportunity. This summer RJI will be giving full and partial scholarships to students who are interested in traveling to **Marquette Law School** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to study and observe their RJI program in action. Travel dates are somewhat flexible, but will be either **early June or early July**. The program is one week long and you will have the chance to work alongside retired Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, **Janine Geske**, the department head of Marquette's RJI. If you are interested, please reply to Leadership@stmarytxrji.org with the month that you would be interested in traveling, along with a brief description of why you believe you would be a strong candidate for this opportunity. In addition please attend RJI's monthly meeting on **March 10, 2008, 12:00 noon** in the **Atrium** of the Law Administration building. For more information, contact Matthew R. Wade, 505.550.1810 or wade0004@gmail.com

TRYOUTS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP)

The application procedures for the EAP Mock Trial teams will begin shortly. If you are interested in being considered for the next year's mock trial teams, you should pick up an application from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) and turn it back in to him no later than 5:00 p.m. PM on Friday, March 28, 2008. When you turn in your application, you will need to sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted from Monday, April 7th through Tuesday, April 15th.

Current members of the mock trial team who wish to participate again next year must also fill out an application and go through an interview.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process --- to be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th --- will be required to attend a multi-day mock trial "boot camp," to be held during the week of August 18th, before Fall semester classes begin. The boot camp will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter.

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.

For more information, please call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. **Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.**

The Scholar

St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues



The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues is pleased to announce that the following individuals have been selected for the 2008-2009 Editorial Board:

CarloGabriel Reyes
Editor-in-Chief

Emily Jeffcott
Executive Articles Editor

Jennifer Hansen
Managing Editor
Symposium Editor

Nicole Merritt
Executive Comments Editor

Jonathan Grove
Articles Editor

Austin Smithson
Articles Editor

Guillermo Dekat
Comments Editor

Rebecca Gleason
Comments Editor

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Editorial Board

MINI-BAR PREP SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Saturday, March 8	Con. Law I	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday series will be held in the AT&T Center for Information Technology. The Sunday series will be held in the Law Classroom building. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

JAMES DERRICK, III CONSTITUTIONAL LAW DEBATE 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. James 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. Members of Jimi's family continue their support of the contest. St. Mary's Law School joins with the family to continue Jimi's memory.

The prize money for this year's competition is \$3,000. This year the competition is a debate format thanks to the organizational work of two members of the Board of Advocates, Lindsey Beard and Krysta Popp. Our Constitutional Law professors were consulted and the final debate topic was outlined by Professor David Dittfurth. The following question is for debate: **Whether a terminally ill person has a fundamental constitutional right to possess and use marijuana when prescribed by a physician as a component of the patient's palliative care.** *Research will be provided. Students will not be required to research materials on the particular topic prior to the competition.*

1. Sign up will begin **Monday, March 10** through **Friday, April 4**. Please sign up at Sr. Grace's office door, Law Ministry, Raba building. **NO PARTNERS NEEDED!!!**
INDIVIDUAL DEBATES ONLY
2. Packet release: Monday, April 7. Only the materials in the packet will be the information necessary for the debate.
3. Pairings Release: Tuesday, April 8
4. Competitors Meeting: Friday, April 11

5. Competition Date: Saturday, April 12

Please contact Lindsey Beard (lindseybeard@yahoo.com) or Krysta Popp (kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu) for more information.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from **Macways Tailors and Export Co. Ltd.** will return to the law school on **Wednesday, March 12, and Thursday, March 13, 2008** to conduct fittings for both male and female law students who are interested in adding to their professional wardrobe. This is a unique opportunity to replenish your wardrobe without going broke in the process. A list of prices is available at **Carrel #111**.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund that goes toward assisting Sister Grace's mission of service to others. Last year, Macways donated over \$3000 to our school through this program, along with other donations to school sponsored events. Your purchase helps our school.

Due to the time necessary to get the required measurements and select the desired fabrics, interested persons will need to sign up in advance for one of the time slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

To schedule an appointment time, please stop by **Carrel #111** in the Law Library and complete the sign-up sheet. If you have a question, please e-mail Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu, Ema Garcia at emaisabel36@yahoo.com. Appointments last about **20 minutes**.

SPRING BREAK IMMERSION TRIPS

Alternative Spring Break Immersion trips for the law school are sponsored through the University's commitment to provide service learning experience for law students during Spring Break. This is an opportunity to enjoy a break while contributing to make a difference in people's lives. One project will be to work with **Projecto Azteca** in McAllen, Texas. Projecto Azteca assists in the building of homes for clients in the colonias (rural communities that lack basic appropriate housing). There will be opportunities to work with clients building their homes, visiting and providing educational sessions on issues related to needs of the community, e.g. predatory lending. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy South Padre's beach and network with our Alumni in the Valley. **Saturday, March 15 through Thursday, March 20** are the targeted dates. Housing, transportation and some food will be provided. Please contact Sr. Grace at gwall@stmarytx.edu or Professor Ana Novoa at anovoa@stmarytx.edu.

The second immersion project is **Habitat for Humanity** in Taos, New Mexico. Targeted dates are **Sunday, March 16 through Thursday, March 20**. Habitat for Humanity works on adobe homes. Taos is a tourist town, however many residents are low income. Transportation,

housing and some food will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please contact Mike Martinez at mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu or Sr. Grace at gwalle@stmarytx.edu.

THE SCHOLAR: ST. MARY'S LAW REVIEW ON MINORITY ISSUES

St. Mary's University School of Law invites you to attend the **Tenth Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony** on **Saturday, March 29, 2008, The Plaza Club at San Antonio, 100 W. Houston, #2100, 6:00 p.m.** Attorney Sonia M. Rodriguez, one of the co-founders of The Scholar will be the keynote speaker. Please R.S.V.P. no later than March 24, 2008. For additional information please contact Francisca Perez, at (210) 431-4229 or email lawscholar@stmarytx.edu.

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

1L Moot Court will be here soon! Any 2L or 3L interested in participating as a student judge for 1L Moot Court should contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu. Judges shall be selected at the BOA's discretion, based on a student's involvement in the law school community. Judges will be needed to judge 50 minute rounds and must attend a short orientation meeting prior to judging. If you are interested please send Andrea your name, telephone number, email and the times you are available to judge. The times of the rounds are as follow:

<u>Mon., March 24</u>	<u>Tue., March 25</u>	<u>Wed., March 26</u>	<u>Thu., March 27</u>
8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
	8:00 - 8:50 p.m.		8:00 - 8:50 p.m.
	9:00 - 9:50 p.m.		9:00 - 9:50 p.m.

The **Board of Advocates** will accept membership applications and hold interviews in the Spring semester. Any first-year student who has ten (10) Board of Advocate Points or any second-year student who has twenty (20) Board of Advocates points may apply for membership

on the Board. (For application purposes, a first-year student is one who will have completed 31 hours by May 2008). The point system and requirements are posted on the Board of Advocates TWEN site. The Board will announce when applications are available.

RACE FOR THE CURE

The Student Bar Association, Legal Sports Society and Women's Law Association have joined forces to put together a St. Mary's **Race for the Cure team**. The Race is on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. We will run/walk the race and then go over to Aldaco's in Sunset Station for breakfast tacos and the Bloody Mary bar! Join the team or get more information by visiting www.sakomen.org. **Our team name is St. Mary's Law** and the team captain is **Matt Wade**. In the past there have been several groups to put teams together. We would like to have one big St. Mary's team! Don't want to get up early? You can still be on the team through **Sleep in for the Cure!** Sign up on the team website. Questions? Contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) or Niki Baker (nicoleabaker@hotmail.com).

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 applications will be available the week of March 3rd. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 18, 2008. 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 **Monday, March 31, 2008**.

WILL YOU BE AMERICA'S NEXT TOP LAWYER?

Come sign up to be a part of the second annual **Puttin' on the Writs!** For those that don't know, Puttin on the Writs is a legal variety show hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) where students develop and present their own unique talents. These can range from skits to musical performances parodying their law school experiences, etc. The **sign up sheet** is available on the SBA Bulletin Board in the Law Classroom building next to the Assignment boards. Please stop by and sign up. The show will be held on **April 11, 2008** at the **Josephine Theatre**. Let's see if you have what it takes to stop the show!

KAPLAN PMBR

1. **Thank you, St. Mary's** – The Law School is contributing \$300 toward the balance of any student who signs up for either the Comprehensive (6day and 3day) Review Course or the 6day Review Course.
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3. **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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education. There are opportunities at the **local, regional and national level**.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! If you have questions please ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary's that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu

Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com

Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

There are three (3) positions available for Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

HELP DESK TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has another "**Help Desk**" telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer 08 classes. If tax returns have not been completed the form allows for estimated income and asset information. In addition, the criteria for a large majority of our Law School Endowed Scholarships are based on academic merit, and also on financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical since applications for the Scholarships are due in March.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year.

However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2007: Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability or their Adjusted Gross Income through the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education will be available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970 as soon as IRS completes the new regulatory adjustments made by Congress in late fall 2007. When it does become available, use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Usually Appendix B of the publication has a good breakdown of the tax benefits. The tax benefits usually result in a greater tax refund or a reduction in the amount of taxes owed.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 08-09 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 3rd either by picking it up from the Financial Aid Office or by requesting it via email at nluna@stmarytx.edu. The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class and amounts range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet will be available on Wednesday, March 26th. More information will be provided closer to date of availability. Deadline for forms is after registration for classes is complete.

Status of New Database: The Financial Aid Office went live on Banner in January. All results of the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 year are being drawn down in the new system. During this spring semester, our office will have many mini “go-live” events as each process within our module is completed. The implementation team, of which Ms. Garza is a member, is working on

the award letters, the web self-service, and the loan processes to name a few. Ms. Garza is tentatively scheduled to be out of the office about 5 weeks of the semester. Her schedule is dependent on the consultant's schedule as well as any necessary projects assigned to her. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of implementation.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

J.L. Turner Legal Association (JLTLA), the African-American bar association in Dallas, Texas will award a scholarship to a **third year law student** who will take the Texas bar exam during 2008. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for consideration. Applications and additional information about JLTLA can be found on the website located at www.jlta.org.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2008 Attorney-CPA Foundation Scholarships. Fourteen scholarships will be awarded. Two \$1,000 scholarships; Four \$500 scholarships; Eight \$250 scholarships. For criteria and application, please visit www.attorney-cpa.com/foundation. Application deadline is **April 15, 2008**.

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 \$1,000 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Third 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, 2008 and **May 1, 2008**. For contest guidelines please visit www.naela.org.

Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writers is pleased to announce its 2008 Brief-Writing Competition. The Scribes Brief-Writing Committee solicits winning briefs from national moot-court competitions and selects the finest of those winning briefs. The winning author will be recognized at the Scribes luncheon during the ABA's meeting in New York on August 9, 2008. Plaques will be awarded to the author and his or her school. Deadline to submit briefs is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Judges Association (AJA)** announces its Twentieth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "Search and Seizure Arising from Motor Vehicle Stops." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The Planning & Law Division of the **American Planning Association** announces its twenty-fifth annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students and planning students, writing on a question of significance in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law. The winning entry will be awarded \$2,500 and will be submitted for publication in *The Urban Lawyer*. Second place prize is \$1,000 and two Honorable Mentions of \$250. **Deadline** to apply is **June 9, 2008**.

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, 2008**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or www.innsofcourt.org.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 27

March 17, 2008

By VMM

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

THANK YOU

A huge **thank you** to all who participated in the Blood Drive last week and contributed to it being a great SUCCESS. Your efforts exceeded our projections of anticipated donations! Also, **congratulations** to all the individual winners, and to the Women's Law Association for getting the most donation credits. So, everyone eat your spinach, and we will see you again next Fall. From the Health Law Association, Campus Ministry, Student Bar Association and Criminal Law Association.

TRYOUTS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP)

The application procedures for the **EAP Mock Trial** teams will begin shortly. If you are interested in being considered for the next year's mock trial teams, you should pick up an application from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) and turn it back in to him no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 28, 2008**. When you turn in your application, you will need to sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted from Monday, April 7th through Tuesday, April 15th.

Current members of the mock trial team who wish to participate again next year must also fill out an application and go through an interview.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process --- to be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th --- will be required to attend a multi-day mock trial "boot camp," to be held during the week of August 18th, before Fall semester classes begin. The boot camp will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter.

TRYOUTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (EAP)

If you are interested in being considered for next year's **EAP Negotiations team**, please pick up an application from Professor Scott (LFB 278) beginning March 24, 2008 and return it back to him no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2008**. When returning your application, you will need to sign up for a 10 minute interview and mock negotiation, which will be conducted by the negotiations coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews and mock negotiations will be conducted the week of April 7th. Those selected will be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Wayne Scott (ruarkg@aol.com) or Professor Allen Craddock (allen@ceasefire.org).

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory.

For an application, please visit the Office of Academic Excellence website, http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=acad_exc, or call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

MINI-BAR PREP SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Sunday, March 9	Con. Law II	1:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Sunday, April 6	Simulated MBE Test	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

JAMES DERRICK, III CONSTITUTIONAL LAW DEBATE 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. James 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. Members of Jimi's family continue their support of the contest. St. Mary's Law School joins with the family to continue Jimi's memory.

The prize money for this year's competition is \$3,000. This year the competition is a debate format thanks to the organizational work of two members of the Board of Advocates, Lindsey Beard and Krysta Popp. Our Constitutional Law professors were consulted and the final debate topic was outlined by Professor David Dittfurth. The following question is for debate: **Whether a terminally ill person has a fundamental constitutional right to possess and use marijuana when prescribed by a physician as a component of the patient's palliative care.** *Research will be provided. Students will not be required to research materials on the particular topic prior to the competition.*

1. Sign up will begin **Monday, March 10** through **Friday, April 4**. Please sign up at Sr. Grace's office door, Law Ministry, Raba building. **NO PARTNERS NEEDED!!!**
INDIVIDUAL DEBATES ONLY
2. Packet release: Monday, April 7. Only the materials in the packet will be the information necessary for the debate.
3. Pairings Release: Tuesday, April 8
4. Competitors Meeting: Friday, April 11
5. Competition Date: Saturday, April 12

For more information, contact Lindsey Beard (lindseybeard@yahoo.com) or Krysta Popp (kpoppp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

THE SCHOLAR: ST. MARY'S LAW REVIEW ON MINORITY ISSUES

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BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates (BOA)** is currently selling tickets for the annual Break Party Raffle, which will take place on **Thursday, March 27, 2008** at Fatso's after the First Year Moot Court rounds. Ticket prices are 1 ticket for \$3; 5 tickets for \$10; 10 tickets for \$15; and 20 tickets for \$20. Prizes include round trip tickets on Southwest Airlines, a GPS system, and a variety of gift cards to local restaurants. BOA will announce the First Year Moot Court teams that will move on to the break rounds. There will also be representatives from the advocacy organizations and teams to answer questions and provide information regarding advocacy programs.

Barristers' Ball tickets are also available for \$30 per ticket. Barristers' Ball will take place on Friday, April 18, 2008, Omni Hotel at the Colonnade. Raffle and Barristers' Ball tickets are available in the Law Classroom Building.

BOA membership applications are currently available on the BOA Twen site. BOA will accept applications from first and second-year students beginning March 31st through April 4th at the law library circulation desk. Please see Twen for more information or to fill out an application.

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PHI DELTA PHI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Phi Delta Phi – Tarlton Inn, St. Mary's Law School's only honors legal fraternity and the oldest legal fraternity in the Western Hemisphere, is currently soliciting applications from eligible students. **To be eligible**, a student must have ranked in the top 20% of their class during ANY individual semester. We look your rank every individual semester and not just cumulative grade point averages.

Invitation letters and application forms were placed in eligible students' mailboxes over the weekend. Please check your box if you think you are eligible. We were provided a list of individuals from the Dean's office, but names may have been mistakenly left off the list. If you think that you should have received a letter, please talk with Yvonne Olfers in the Dean's Office. She will provide Mike DeNuccio with your name if you are eligible.

Schedule of Events:

Monday, March 31 – Noon – LC 104 – Phi Delta Phi general meeting and New Members Informational meeting. New members may submit their application and payment in a sealed envelope to Mailbox #96 (Ezra Johnson) or bring their application and payment to the meeting.

Thursday, April 10 – Initiation Ceremony and new initiates reception at Cox Smith. Ceremony starts at 5:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Honorable Judge Leif A. Clark, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Western District of Texas. The Courtroom is located near the Alamo in the federal building at the corner of Alamo and Houston Streets. Directions were placed in initiates mailboxes and will be available at the March 31st meeting. A reception at the offices of San Antonio's largest law firm, Cox Smith, will be held immediately following the ceremony.

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 Friday, April 11, 2008**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

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Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
 Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! If you have questions please ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary’s that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
 Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
 Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com
 Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjelee@gmail.com

There are three (3) positions available for Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

HELP DESK TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has another “**Help Desk**” telephone number. The number is (210) 431-6721. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may still reach the Help Desk at extension 2667.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer 08 classes. If tax returns have not been completed the form allows for estimated income and asset information. In addition, the criteria for a large majority of our Law School Endowed Scholarships are based on academic merit, and also on financial need, so the timeliness of the FAFSA is critical since applications for the Scholarships are due in March.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year. However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans

available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2007: Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability or their Adjusted Gross Income through the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education will be available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970 as soon as IRS completes the new regulatory adjustments made by Congress in late fall 2007. When it does become available, use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Usually Appendix B of the publication has a good breakdown of the tax benefits. The tax benefits usually result in a greater tax refund or a reduction in the amount of taxes owed.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 08-09 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 3rd either by picking it up from the Financial Aid Office or by requesting it via email at nluna@stmarytx.edu. The deadline to submit the form and any attachments will be **4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2008**. Endowed scholarships are usually awarded to students in the upper 10% of their class and amounts range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet will be available on Wednesday, March 26, 2008. More information will be provided closer to date of availability. Deadline for forms is after registration for classes is complete.

Status of New Database: The Financial Aid Office went live on Banner in January. All results of the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 year are being drawn down in the new system. During this spring semester, our office will have many mini “go-live” events as each process within our module is completed. The implementation team, of which Ms. Garza is a member, is working on the award letters, the web self-service, and the loan processes to name a few. Ms. Garza is tentatively scheduled to be out of the office about 5 weeks of the semester. Her schedule is dependent on the consultant’s schedule as well as any necessary projects assigned to her. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of implementation.

KIMMELMAN CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Kimmelman Child Care Scholarship are now being accepted through **May 9, 2008**. The program is to help struggling families attain self-sufficiency by providing the critical element that is most often lacking in families – child care. Currently enrolled students who have children age 10 years and younger are encouraged to contact Sr. Grace. 210.436.3063.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

J.L. Turner Legal Association (JLTLA), the African-American bar association in Dallas, Texas will award a scholarship to a **third year law student** who will take the Texas bar exam during 2008. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for consideration. Applications and additional information about JLTLA can be found on the website located at www.jlta.org.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2008 Attorney-CPA Foundation Scholarships. Fourteen scholarships will be awarded. Two \$1,000 scholarships; Four \$500 scholarships; Eight \$250 scholarships. For criteria and application, please visit www.attorney-cpa.com/foundation. Application deadline is **April 15, 2008**.

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 \$1,000 will be awarded for one winning entry. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Third 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, 2008 and **May 1, 2008**. For contest guidelines please visit www.naela.org.

Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writers is pleased to announce its 2008 Brief-Writing Competition. The Scribes Brief-Writing Committee solicits winning briefs from national moot-court competitions and selects the finest of those winning briefs. The winning author will be recognized at the Scribes luncheon during the ABA's meeting in New York on

August 9, 2008. Plaques will be awarded to the author and his or her school. Deadline to submit briefs is **May 1, 2008**.

The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2008**.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Judges Association** (AJA) announces its Twentieth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "Search and Seizure Arising from Motor Vehicle Stops." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The Planning & Law Division of the **American Planning Association** announces its twenty-fifth annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students and planning students, writing on a question of significance in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law. The winning entry will be awarded \$2,500 and will be submitted for publication in *The Urban Lawyer*. Second place prize is \$1,000 and two Honorable Mentions of \$250. **Deadline** to apply is **June 9, 2008**.

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, 2008**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or www.innsofcourt.org.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 28

March 31, 2008

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Paula DeWitte**, 2L on receiving the **Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership Award**. Paula was presented with the award at the Fourth Court reception on March 5, 2008. A special thank you goes out to the Women's Law Association for co-hosting this event.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED

Professor Wayne Scott is looking for a research assistant. To apply, please contact Professor Scott at (210) 431-2271 or wscott@stmarytx.edu.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Please join St. Mary's University School of Law Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI) on **Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 5:30 p.m.**, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library **Alumni Room**. Guest speakers, Dr. Linda White and Dr. Michael Gilbert will address their experiences with Restorative Justice and its practical application as a system of jurisprudence. Current projects in Bexar County and surrounding counties will also be discussed. For more information, please visit www.stmarytxrji.org or contact Randy Langford at rll@rllangford.com or (512) 826-1593.

JUSTICE SCALIA TO VISIT ST. MARY'S

The Honorable Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, will be visiting the School of Law on **Thursday, April 3, 2008**. Justice Scalia will speak from **1:00 p.m. to approximately 2:15 p.m. in rooms 101-2-3 of the Law Classroom Building**. He will take questions about the Court's work, his understanding of the Court's role in American society, his approach to deciding cases and writing opinions and other issues related to

law. All students are invited to this program.

***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. and from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 2nd** in **LC104**. Two former *Journal* members—Caleb Rackley, an attorney currently with Cox Smith Matthews, and Shelayne Clemmer, the Briefing Attorney for Chief Justice Alma Lopez—will offer their perspectives on the practical benefits of membership on the *Journal*. Food will be served.

St. Mary's Law Journal is regarded as one of the most prestigious in the nation with a current ranking of 15th out of 888 journals. We need talented 1Ls 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 LC104 room between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., grab some lunch, and hear one of the informative presentations starting on the hour.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

***St. Mary's Law Journal* Write-on Competition**

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as Staff Writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who draft the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six Staff Writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 9**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Friday, May 30**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Friday, May 30 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than **seven (7)** days after Friday, May 30 to be considered for the competition.

Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to smithsj7@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emil Infante, Jr. Scholarship** was created by Mr. Infante to assist St. Mary's students who otherwise would find it financially difficult or impossible to attend the Law School's summer study program in **Innsbruck, Austria**. The annual scholarship awardees receive grants up to \$4,000 to defray some of the expenses of attending the program. Awards are not based on academic standing, but on the potential benefit the recipient might receive from participation. The selection committee may consider many factors, but is especially interested in whether the applicant has had prior international travel and living experiences, how the applicant believes he or she will benefit from attending the program, and the need of the applicant.

Applicants must **apply in writing** by **noon** on **April 18**. Applicants must submit a statement of no more than two pages addressing the factors mentioned above, along with any others the applicant wishes to have considered, and must include a request for a specific amount, along with an explanation of the use to which that award will be put. Applications must be submitted via e-mail, directed to Professor Gerald S. Reamey at greamey@stmarytx.edu and must include the applicant's full name, street address, e-mail address, and phone number. Questions should be directed to Professor Reamey via e-mail.

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2008 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 provided 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 cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 16, 2008. **No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.**

TRYOUTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (EAP)

If you are interested in being considered for next year's **EAP Negotiations team**, please pick up an application from Professor Scott (LFB 278) beginning March 24, 2008 and return it back to him no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2008**. When returning your application, you will need to sign up for a 10 minute interview and mock negotiation, which will be conducted by the negotiations coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews and mock negotiations will be conducted the week of April 7th. Those selected will be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Wayne Scott (ruarkg@aol.com) or Professor Allen Craddock (allen@ceasefire.org).

2008 PRO BONO CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following third year students who have earned a Pro Bono Certificate and will be recognized at graduation. If you believe you have been overlooked please have documentation of your pro bono hours and contact Joaquin Amaya at jamaya@stmarytx.edu or at (210) 431-5765.

Melanie Lynn Airey	Jordan Grace Forsythe	Molly Elizabeth Neck
Arthur John Allen	Andrew C. Froelich	Erin A. Oehler
Christina Marie Beckman	Angelina Isabel Garcia	Daniel A. Palmitier
Jennifer A. Boggs	Ramon Manuel Guerra	Yi-Hwa Jessica Park
Andria Elizabeth Brannon	Shawn E. Gunder	Gregory Jay Peterson
William Atwood Brooks	Ryan Warner Hill	Thomas Brian Price, Jr.
Adam Wade Burke	Candice Hinds	Jessica Diane Richard
Paola Camargo	Emily Lynn Jirovec	Jennifer E. Sanchez
Linda Sue Corley	Jeredith Elaine Jones	Deforest Umali Sessoms
Sareta Maria Davis	Genevieve A. Klein	Natasha Sherrod
Heather Marie Deppe	Jennifer Kay Loftin	Park D. Silkenson
Charles John deVilder, Jr.	Branden Lopez	Ryan M. Snider
Shawn J. Dow	Neda Mahmoudzadeh	Jeffrey K. Starnes
Thomas D. Duckworth, Jr.	Ana Mahrou	Susan Lynn Thompson
Roland Keith Eichman	Edwardo D. Martinez, III	Tom Charles Jerome Weisinger
Pamela S. England	Gregory Miller	Jason W. Whitney
Stephanie Ann Morse Fey	Frank Dean Mills, Jr.	

APPLICATIONS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP) — EXTENDED DEADLINE

The application procedures for the EAP Mock Trial teams are underway. If you are interested in being considered for the next year's mock trial teams, you should pick up an application from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) and turn it back in to him no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, April 7, 2008**. When you turn in your application, you will need to sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted from Tuesday, April 8th through Tuesday, April 15th.

In order to permit the First Year students to finish their moot court competition before filing those applications, the deadline for filing the applications has been extended from March 29th to April 7th.

Current members of the mock trial team who wish to participate again next year must also fill out an application and go through an interview.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process --- to be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th -- will be required to attend a multi-day mock trial "boot camp," to be held during the week of August 18th, before Fall semester classes begin. The boot camp

will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams. Tickets for the Barristers' Ball are available through the BOA. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter at (210) 431-2212.

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on **Tuesday, August 19, 2008** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory. For an application, please visit the Office of Academic Excellence website, http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=acad_exc, or call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. **Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.**

MINI-BAR PREP SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Sunday, April 6 Simulated MBE Test 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Law Classroom

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436-3541 or 210.436.4340 or academicexcellence@stmarytx.edu

JAMES DERRICK, III CONSTITUTIONAL LAW DEBATE
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. James 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. Members of Jimi's family continue their support of the contest. St. Mary's Law School joins with the family to continue Jimi's memory.

The prize money for this year's competition is \$3,000. This year the competition is a debate format thanks to the organizational work of two members of the Board of Advocates, Lindsey Beard and Krysta Popp. Our Constitutional Law professors were consulted and the final debate topic was outlined by Professor David Dittfurth. The following question is for debate: **Whether a terminally ill person has a fundamental constitutional right to possess and use marijuana when prescribed by a physician as a component of the patient's palliative care.** *Research will be provided. Students will not be required to research materials on the particular topic prior to the competition.*

1. Sign up will end **Friday, April 4**. Please sign up at Sr. Grace's office door, Law Ministry, Raba building. **NO PARTNERS NEEDED!!! INDIVIDUAL DEBATES ONLY**
2. Packet release: Monday, April 7. Only the materials in the packet will be the information necessary for the debate.
3. Pairings Release: Tuesday, April 8
4. Competitors Meeting: Friday, April 11
5. Competition Date: Saturday, April 12

For more information, contact Lindsey Beard (lindseybeard@yahoo.com) or Krysta Popp (kpopp@mail.stmarytx.edu).

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

Barristers' Ball tickets are available for \$30 per ticket. Barristers' Ball will take place on **Friday, April 18, 2008, Omni Hotel** at the **Colonnade**. Raffle and Barristers' Ball tickets are available in the Law Classroom Building.

BOA **membership applications** are currently available on the BOA Twen site. BOA will accept applications from first and second-year students beginning March 31st through April

4th at the law library circulation desk. Please see Twen for more information or to fill out an application.

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 applications will be available the week of March 3rd. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 18, 2008. 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 **Monday, March 31, 2008**.

PHI DELTA PHI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Phi Delta Phi – Tarlton Inn, St. Mary's Law School's only honors legal fraternity and the oldest legal fraternity in the Western Hemisphere, is currently soliciting applications from eligible students. **To be eligible**, a student must have ranked in the top 20% of their class during ANY individual semester. We look your rank every individual semester and not just cumulative grade point averages.

Invitation letters and application forms were placed in eligible students' mailboxes over the weekend. Please check your box if you think you are eligible. We were provided a list of individuals from the Dean's office, but names may have been mistakenly left off the list. If you think that you should have received a letter, please talk with Yvonne Olfers in the Dean's Office. She will provide Mike DeNuccio with your name if you are eligible.

Schedule of Events:

Monday, March 31 – Noon – LC 104 – Phi Delta Phi general meeting and New Members Informational meeting. New members may submit their application and payment in a sealed envelope to Mailbox #96 (Ezra Johnson) or bring their application and payment to the meeting.

Thursday, April 10 – Initiation Ceremony and new initiates reception at Cox Smith. Ceremony starts at 5:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Honorable Judge Leif A. Clark, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Western District of Texas. The Courtroom is located near the Alamo in the federal building at the corner of Alamo and Houston Streets. Directions were placed in initiates mailboxes and will be available at the March 31st meeting. A reception at the offices of San

Antonio's largest law firm, Cox Smith, will be held immediately following the ceremony.

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 Friday, April 11, 2008**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

WILL YOU BE AMERICA'S NEXT TOP LAWYER?

Come sign up to be a part of the second annual **Puttin' on the Writs!** For those that don't know, Puttin on the Writs is a legal variety show hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) where students develop and present their own unique talents. These can range from skits to musical performances parodying their law school experiences, etc. The **sign up sheet** is available on the SBA Bulletin Board in the Law Classroom building next to the Assignment boards. Please stop by and sign up. The show will be held on **April 11, 2008** at the **Josephine Theatre**. Let's see if you have what it takes to stop the show!

Pro Bono Opportunity — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteer interviewers are needed to assist the **Public Interest Law Program** and the Bill Greehey School of Business to conduct the **2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at the **St. Mary's Law School Center for Legal and Social Justice**. VITA is designed to assist low-income individuals and families prepare and file their 2007 federal income tax returns. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required.

The VITA site will operate on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through April 5th. **Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site.** To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer or email jrodriguez25@mail.stmarytx.edu with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

KAPLAN PMBR

Deadline – April 18th is the LAST day for 3L’s to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. **Remember**, the school is contributing \$300 to 3L’s who sign up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. It is also the last day for 1L’s and 2L’s to pay a deposit and lock in this year’s rate. 1L’s and 2L’s will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.

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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

ABA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Through the **ABA Law Student Division**, ABA members have the opportunity to gain leadership experience while still in law school. The Law Student Division offers something for every student at every level of their legal education.

1Ls – this is a great opportunity to get experience early in your law school “career”. Get involved early so you can move up in your third year.

2Ls – many current 3Ls got started as 2Ls, so it is not too late.

Information and applications are online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections>. Apply today! If you have questions please ask any of the ABA Representatives and Lt. Governors at St. Mary’s that have benefitted from these positions.

Mike DeNuccio, Executive Lieutenant Governor – mdenuccio@mail.stmarytx.edu
Ema Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, Communications – emaisabel36@yahoo.com
Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – sungjee@gmail.com

There are three (3) positions available for Vice-Chair/Student Bar Associations, Division Delegates. Deadline to apply is **June 1, 2008**.

KAPLAN PMBR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

1L's and 2L's – If you are interested in becoming a student representative, please send your resume to Bryan Shores at bshores@mail.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women's Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

HELP DESK TELEPHONE NUMBER

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College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year. However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest

rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2007: Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability or their Adjusted Gross Income through the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education will be available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970 as soon as IRS completes the new regulatory adjustments made by Congress in late fall 2007. When it does become available, use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Usually Appendix B of the publication has a good breakdown of the tax benefits. The tax benefits usually result in a greater tax refund or a reduction in the amount of taxes owed.

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WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please stop by Room 105 of the Law Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

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The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2008.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

The **American Judges Association** (AJA) announces its Twentieth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "Search and Seizure Arising from Motor Vehicle Stops." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The Planning & Law Division of the **American Planning Association** announces its twenty-fifth annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students and planning students, writing on a question of significance in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law. The winning entry will be awarded \$2,500 and will be submitted for publication in *The Urban Lawyer*. Second place prize is \$1,000 and two Honorable Mentions of \$250. **Deadline** to apply is **June 9, 2008**.

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, 2008**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or www.innsofcourt.org.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 29

April 7, 2007

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Julie Cuplin**, 2L who placed third in an essay competition for Embryo Donation and Adoption Awareness. Julie received \$1,000 in prize money for her essay on **Third Party Reproduction**. The essay competition is sponsored by Nightlight Christian Adoptions and supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL STUDIES

The law faculty **Committee on Legal Studies**, the university's International Relations Department and the International Law Association will conduct two identical informational sessions concerning the various opportunities to study international and comparative law and related subjects at St. Mary's. These sessions will be held in the **Law Alumni Room** of the Law Library on Wednesday and Thursday, **April 9 and 10** respectively from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** Food and beverage will be provided.

PUTTIN' ON THE WRITS

Puttin' on the Writs will be held **April 11, 2008** at the Josephine Theater, 339 W. Josephine Street. The show starts at 7:00 p.m.. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m.. Tickets for the show will be sold in the Law Classroom Building April 7-11 for \$10. If you are not able to buy tickets before then, you may purchase them at the door for \$15. T-Shirts will be available for purchase. There is a limited supply so make sure you get your T-shirt early. Josephine Theater does have a bar and drinks will be available throughout the performances. However, you may want to bring cash to facilitate the bartenders attending to a large crowd. If you need more information or have any questions, please contact Jeff Martin or Kristin Lee, the producers of Puttin' on the Writs. We hope to see you there!

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 Friday, April 11, 2008**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

FIESTA FAREWELL HONORING THE CLASS OF 2008

Please join us at Fiesta Farewell on **Monday, April 14, 2008** in the Law School Plaza. The program will begin at noon. Interim Dean Charles Cantú will give opening remarks and will be followed by service awards, graduation picture (wear business attire), and Blessings for third year students. Fiesta lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

THE BOARD OF ADVOCATES BARRISTERS' BALL

The **Board of Advocates (BOA)** is selling tickets to the **Barristers' Ball** to be held **Friday, April 18, 2008, Omni Hotel** at the Colonnade. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each. With your ticket you will get a delicious three course meal, two drink tickets and a champagne toast. New members for BOA, EAP Mock Trial and EAP Moot Court will be announced. **Tickets are selling out**, so please stop by the BOA table **TODAY** to purchase your tickets.

INTERVIEWS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP)

The interviews for next year's EAP Mock Trial teams will begin on **April 9th** and continue through April 15th. **The interviews will be held in Law Classroom 103**. Please be prompt for your interview.

If you are interested in being considered for the next year's mock trial teams, you should pick up an application from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) and turn it back in to him no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7th**. When you turn in your application, you will need to sign

up for a 10-minute interview.

Current members of the mock trial team who wish to participate again next year must also fill out an application and go through an interview.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process – to be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th – will be required to attend a multi-day mock trial “boot camp,” to be held during the week of August 18th, before Fall semester classes begin. The boot camp will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter.

APPLICATIONS FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS (EAP) — EXTENDED DEADLINE

The application procedures for the EAP Mock Trial teams are underway. If you are interested in being considered for the next year's mock trial teams, you should pick up an application from Professor Schlueter (LFB 270) and turn it back in to him no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, April 7, 2008**. When you turn in your application, you will need to sign up for a 10-minute interview, which will be conducted by the mock trial coaches and assistant coaches. Interviews will be conducted from Tuesday, April 8th through Tuesday, April 15th.

In order to permit the First Year students to finish their moot court competition before filing those applications, the deadline for filing the applications has been extended from March 29th to April 7th.

Current members of the mock trial team who wish to participate again next year must also fill out an application and go through an interview.

Those selected to go on to the next stage of the selection process --- to be announced at the Barristers' Ball on April 18th -- will be required to attend a multi-day mock trial “boot camp,” to be held during the week of August 18th, before Fall semester classes begin. The boot camp will familiarize students with basic litigation techniques and styles. Following the boot camp, brief tryouts will be held to select the mock trial teams. Tickets for the Barristers' Ball are available through the BOA. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Dave Schlueter at (210) 431-2212.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED

Professor Wayne Scott is looking for a research assistant. To apply, please contact Professor Scott at (210) 431-2271 or wscott@stmarytx.edu.

2008 PRO BONO CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following third year students who have earned a Pro Bono Certificate and will be recognized at graduation.

Anthony H. Castillo	Melissa Erin Mazur
Ana Liz De Leon-Vargas	Jennie Palacios
Mack T. Harrison	Ericha Michelle Ramsey
Arshil A. Kabani	Philip Christopher Reeves
Andrea Marie Koch	Nicholas DuBlon Robinson
Stephanie Lynn Martin	Christopher M. Spinner

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as Staff Writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who draft the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six Staff Writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 9**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Friday, May 30**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Friday, May 30 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than **seven (7)** days after Friday, May 30 to be considered for the competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emil Infante, Jr. Scholarship** was created by Mr. Infante to assist St. Mary's students who otherwise would find it financially difficult or impossible to attend the Law School's summer study program in **Innsbruck, Austria**. The annual scholarship awardees receive grants up to \$4,000 to defray some of the expenses of attending the program. Awards are not based on academic standing, but on the potential benefit the recipient might receive from participation. The selection committee may consider many factors, but is especially interested in

whether the applicant has had prior international travel and living experiences, how the applicant believes he or she will benefit from attending the program, and the need of the applicant.

Applicants must **apply in writing** by **noon on April 18**. Applicants must submit a statement of no more than two pages addressing the factors mentioned above, along with any others the applicant wishes to have considered, and must include a request for a specific amount, along with an explanation of the use to which that award will be put. Applications must be submitted via e-mail, directed to Professor Gerald S. Reamey at greamey@stmarytx.edu and must include the applicant's full name, street address, e-mail address, and phone number. Questions should be directed to Professor Reamey via e-mail.

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2008 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 provided 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 cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 16, 2008. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BAR STUDY GRANTS

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 **May 2, 2008**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by **email attachment to mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu**. 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 May 10, 2007 at the Marriot Plaza Hotel, South Alamo Street, SAT, cocktails at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. The honoree is: Congressman Charles Gonzalez. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to:

Mike Martinez, Jr.
Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor
The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 436-3436 ext. 1374
(210) 317-9398 Cell

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on **Tuesday, August 19, 2008** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory. For an application, please visit the Office of Academic Excellence website, http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=acad_exc, or call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

DEADLINE NEARING FOR KAPLAN PMBR

Deadline – **April 18th** is the LAST day for 3L's to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. **Remember**, the school is contributing \$300 to 3L's who sign up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. It is also the last day for 1L's and 2L's to pay a deposit and lock in this year's rate. 1L's and 2L's will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.

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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores

David Munoz

Andrew Froelich

Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

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OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Texas Education Grant (TEG) is a state grant that is currently being awarded under two sets of criteria; one for students who received these grants prior to 9/1/05 and another for those who received the grant after 9/1/05. We have identified those students who were in attendance at St. Mary’s prior to the 9/1/05 for funding under the “old rule”; however, there may be a number of students who attending other private institutions in the State of Texas who received the TEG from those institutions prior to 9/1/05. If you did, and you can provide that documentation (e.g. copy of bill showing credit of TEG to account), we will be able to qualify you for TEG under the old rule which is more flexible and lenient as it pertains to GPA. We are now in the process of selecting students for TEG as we received additional funding last week, so it would be to your benefit to get that information to us as soon as possible. If your information comes in after we have spent those funds, we can use that documentation to request additional funds from the State.

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer

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NEW - The **Federal Bar Association, Southern District of Texas Chapter** is accepting applications for the BLASK/FBA Fellowship Grants for summer federal interns. Grants are available for law students who serve as interns for at least 30 hours/week for a minimum of six weeks during the summer of 2008. Last year eight grants of \$2,000 each were awarded. The final number of grants this year will depend on the number and quality of applicants. **Deadline to apply is Friday, April 18, 2008.**

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The **College Labor and Employment Lawyers** is pleased to announce their 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. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2008.

The ABA Section of Family Law is pleased to present its **Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest**. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. Additional information can be found at www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml. **Deadline** to apply is **May 15, 2008**.

NEW - The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fifteenth annual Brown Award to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. The stipend for the winner is \$10,000. This year there is no page limitation or topic restriction except that the writing must be on a legal subject. Entry must be postmarked no later than **May 16, 2008**.

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The Planning & Law Division of the **American Planning Association** announces its twenty-fifth annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students and planning students, writing on a question of significance in planning,

planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law. The winning entry will be awarded \$2,500 and will be submitted for publication in *The Urban Lawyer*. Second place prize is \$1,000 and two Honorable Mentions of \$250. **Deadline** to apply is **June 9, 2008**.

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NEW - 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. Deadline to enter is September 30, 2008.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 30

April 14, 2007

By VMM

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

FIESTA FAREWELL HONORING THE CLASS OF 2008

Please join us at **Fiesta Farewell** on **Monday, April 14, 2008** in the **Law School Plaza**. The program will begin at noon. Interim Dean Charles Cantú will give opening remarks and will be followed by service awards, graduation picture (wear business attire), and Blessings for third year students. Fiesta lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The **Federalist Society** invites you to a video presentation, "A Conversation on the Constitution with Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Antonin Scalia." The video is a discussion between Justices Breyer and Scalia on their interpretations of the Constitution. The showing will take place on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008** beginning at **noon until two o'clock** in the Law Library **Alumni Room**. Food and beverages will be provided. To learn more about the Federalist Society please visit www.fed-soc.org. If you have any questions about this event or the Federalist Society, please contact Justin Fischer at justinfischer03@yahoo.com.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES

The **Board of Advocates** (BOA) would like to congratulate **Sarah Minter** and **Carolyn Rangel**, winners of the 2008 First Year Moot Court. Congratulations also to **Sara Berkeley** and **Nicole Bombara**, finalists in the competition and to Ms. Bombara for being named best speaker. The BOA would also like to thank everyone who assisted with the competition and congratulates all of the 1Ls for their hard work in preparing for and competing in the event.

The BOA is selling tickets to the **Barristers' Ball** to be held **Friday, April 18, 2008, Omni Hotel** at the Colonnade. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each. With your ticket you will get a delicious three course meal, two drink tickets and a champagne toast. New members for BOA, EAP Mock Trial and EAP Moot Court will be announced. **Tickets are selling out**, so please stop by the BOA table **TODAY** to purchase your tickets.

2008-2009 STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION SENATORS

Congratulations to the new 2008-2009 Student Bar Association Senators:

<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>
Bryan Abraham	Jeremy Baker
Matt Hill	Kate Bennett
Isaiah Jackson	Kyle Dufour
Sung Je Lee	Amanda Hernandez
Jillian Rowlett	Daniel Palmer
Pim Skulkaew	Megan Schad

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as Staff Writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who draft the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six Staff Writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 9**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Friday, May 30**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Friday, May 30 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than **seven (7)** days after Friday, May 30 to be considered for the competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNSBRUCK

The **Emil Infante, Jr. Scholarship** was created by Mr. Infante to assist St. Mary's students who otherwise would find it financially difficult or impossible to attend the Law School's summer study program in **Innsbruck, Austria**. The annual scholarship awardees receive grants up to \$4,000 to defray some of the expenses of attending the program. Awards are not based on academic standing, but on the potential benefit the recipient might receive from participation. The selection committee may consider many factors, but is especially interested in whether the applicant has had prior international travel and living experiences, how the applicant believes he or she will benefit from attending the program, and the need of the applicant.

Applicants must **apply in writing** by **noon** on **April 18**. Applicants must submit a statement of no more than two pages addressing the factors mentioned above, along with any others the applicant wishes to have considered, and must include a request for a specific amount, along with an explanation of the use to which that award will be put. Applications must be submitted via e-mail, directed to Professor Gerald S. Reamey at greamey@stmarytx.edu and must include the applicant's full name, street address, e-mail address, and phone number. Questions should be directed to Professor Reamey via e-mail.

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2008 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 provided 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 cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 16, 2008. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BAR STUDY GRANTS

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 **May 2, 2008**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by **email attachment to mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu**. 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 May 10, 2007 at the Marriot Plaza Hotel, South Alamo Street, SAT, cocktails at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. The honoree is: Congressman Charles Gonzalez. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to:

Mike Martinez, Jr.
Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor
The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 436-3436 ext. 1374
(210) 317-9398 Cell

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on **Tuesday, August 19, 2008** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory. For an application, please visit the Office of Academic Excellence website, http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=acad_exc, or call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

DEADLINE NEARING FOR KAPLAN PMBR

Deadline – **April 18th** is the LAST day for 3L's to sign up and/or pay your remaining balance. **Remember**, the school is contributing \$300 to 3L's who sign up for the comprehensive or 6-day courses. It is also the last day for 1L's and 2L's to pay a deposit and lock in this year's

rate. 1L's and 2L's will also receive study aids when your deposit is made.

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.

KaplanPMBR Reps:

Bryan Shores	David Munoz	Andrew Froelich
Raj Aujia	Kennedy Granger	Derek Hilley
Joe Ellazar	Mayella Gonzalez	Gema Lopez
Sung Je Lee		

KaplanPMBR Table Schedule:

Mon: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Tue: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wed: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Thu: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

HELP DESK TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has an additional “**Help Desk**” telephone number. The number is **(210) 431-6721**. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may contact the Help Desk at extension 2667.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women’s Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Texas Education Grant (TEG) is a state grant that is currently being awarded under two sets of criteria; one for students who received these grants prior to 9/1/05 and another for those who received the grant after 9/1/05. We have identified those students who were in attendance at St. Mary’s prior to the 9/1/05 for funding under the “old rule”; however, there may be a number of students who attending other private institutions in the State of Texas who received the TEG from those institutions prior to 9/1/05. If you did, and you can provide that documentation (e.g. copy of bill showing credit of TEG to account), we will be able to qualify you for TEG under the old rule which is more flexible and lenient as it pertains to GPA. We are now in the process of selecting students for TEG as we received additional funding last week, so it would be to your benefit to get that information to us as soon as possible. If your information comes in after we

have spent those funds, we can use that documentation to request additional funds from the State.

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer 08 classes. If tax returns have not been completed, the form allows for estimated income and asset information.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year. However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2007: Students may be eligible to reduce their tax liability or their Adjusted Gross Income through the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Complete information on all types of tax benefits for education will be available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970 as soon as IRS completes the new regulatory adjustments made by Congress in late fall 2007. When it does become available, use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Usually Appendix B of the publication has a good breakdown of the tax benefits. The tax benefits usually result in a greater tax refund or a reduction in the amount of taxes owed.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet are now available. Priority deadline for forms is April 16th. Meeting this

deadline assures that your loan application will be processed by your first class day, but does not guarantee that your loan funds will be available the first day of class.

Status of New Database: The Financial Aid Office went live on Banner in January. All results of the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 year are being drawn down in the new system. During this spring semester, our office will have many mini “go-live” events as each process within our module is completed. The implementation team, of which Ms. Garza is a member, is working on the award letters, the web self-service, and the loan processes to name a few. Ms. Garza is tentatively scheduled to be out of the office about 5 weeks of the semester. Her schedule is dependent on the consultant’s schedule as well as any necessary projects assigned to her. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of implementation.

KIMMELMAN CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Kimmelman Child Care Scholarship are now being accepted through **May 9, 2008**. The program is to help struggling families attain self-sufficiency by providing the critical element that is most often lacking in families – child care. Currently enrolled students who have children age 10 years and younger are encouraged to contact Sr. Grace. 210.436.3063.

WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2008 Attorney-CPA Foundation Scholarships. Fourteen scholarships will be awarded. Two \$1,000 scholarships; Four \$500 scholarships; Eight \$250 scholarships. For criteria and application, please visit www.attorney-cpa.com/foundation. Application deadline is **April 15, 2008**.

The **Federal Bar Association, Southern District of Texas Chapter** is accepting applications for the BLASK/FBA Fellowship Grants for summer federal interns. Grants are available for law students who serve as interns for at least 30 hours/week for a minimum of six weeks during the summer of 2008. Last year eight grants of \$2,000 each were awarded. The final number of grants this year will depend on the number and quality of applicants. **Deadline** to apply is **Friday, April 18, 2008**.

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. **The prize money has been raised to \$2,500**. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2008**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Third 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, 2008 and **May 1, 2008**. For contest guidelines please visit www.naela.org.

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National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights has **extended their deadline to May 16, 2008**. 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>.

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By VMM

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STUDENT LOCKER RENEWAL

It is time to **renew** your rental locker agreement. Stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration building to renew your agreement. The **2008-2009** 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 **Friday, May 23, 2008**. Checks for any key **not returned will be deposited for payment** and lockers will be emptied. Third year students who need their locker for bar purposes, please email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu so that your locker items are not discarded nor your check cashed.

ARE YOU MOVING OR DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING?

If so, donations of household items, books, clothing or food is being accepted by Law Ministry. Please bring your donations to the Law Ministry office located in the Law Faculty building, room 105. If you would like to schedule a pick-up, please call Sr. Grace Walle at 210.436.3063. All items will be donated to families in need.

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Mike Martinez, Jr.
Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor
The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 436-3436 ext. 1374
(210) 317-9398 Cell

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OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Texas Education Grant (TEG) is a state grant that is currently being awarded under two sets of criteria; one for students who received these grants prior to 9/1/05 and another for those who received the grant after 9/1/05. We have identified those students who were in attendance at St. Mary's prior to the 9/1/05 for funding under the "old rule"; however, there may be a number of students who attending other private institutions in the State of Texas who received the TEG from those institutions prior to 9/1/05. If you did, and you can provide that documentation (e.g. copy of bill showing credit of TEG to account), we will be able to qualify you for TEG under the old rule which is more flexible and lenient as it pertains to GPA. We are now in the process of selecting students for TEG as we received additional funding last week, so it would be to your benefit to get that information to us as soon as possible. If your information comes in after we have spent those funds, we can use that documentation to request additional funds from the State.

FAFSA time again: The 2008-2009 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2008** as well as the **fall and spring 2008-2009** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. While the priority deadline of February 15th has passed, it is important to process as soon as possible, especially for those students who are considering attending summer 08 classes. If tax returns have not been completed, the form allows for estimated income and asset information.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL in the last academic year. However, the Coordinating Board does establish institutional allocations. At present, the allocation for the 08-09 year has not been set, but we may have to cap loan requests in order to allow access to these funds to more students. Until further notice, loan requests for the CAL program should not exceed \$20,000 for the year. If allocations are lower than anticipated, we may not be able to approve loans for more than \$15,000. Coordinating Board rules require that we consider that maximum Stafford Loan eligibility, whether taken by the student or not, prior to consideration of the CAL loan. The loan is limited to Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 6%. It is the lowest interest rate of the alternative loans.

Alternative Loans: If you have unmet need (budget minus financial aid = amount greater than zero), you may want to process an alternative loan. You may visit our office to get the amount of remaining eligibility and to pick up the information sheet listing the loans available. You may choose to process any amount up to the maximum eligibility.

Special Condition Form: If your financial aid equals your budget, you may want to review the Special Condition Form to see if any of the categories fit your situation and which may then be able to increase your budget with the appropriate documentation. Once a decision is made and if your budget is increased, you may then choose to process one of the alternative loans for the amount approved.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet are now available. Priority deadline for forms is April 16th. Meeting this deadline assures that your loan application will be processed by your first class day, but does not guarantee that your loan funds will be available the first day of class.

Status of New Database: The Financial Aid Office went live on Banner in January. All results of the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 year are being drawn down in the new system. During this spring semester, our office will have many mini “go-live” events as each process within our module is completed. The implementation team, of which Ms. Garza is a member, is working on the award letters, the web self-service, and the loan processes to name a few. Ms. Garza is tentatively scheduled to be out of the office about 5 weeks of the semester. Her schedule is dependent on the consultant’s schedule as well as any necessary projects assigned to her. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of implementation.

KIMMELMAN CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

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WRITING COMPETITIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu.

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. **The prize money has been raised to \$2,500.** All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, April 25, 2008**. Submit Entries to: Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. For more information, please call: (574) 631-6749.

The **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** Mary Moers Wenig 2008 Student Writing Competition. First prize \$5,000; second prize \$3,000; and third prize \$1,000. Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.actec.org. Deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

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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, 2008**. For more information or questions, please contact Cindy Dennis at (800) 233-3590, ext. 104 or www.innsofcourt.org.

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. Deadline to enter is **September 30, 2008**.

WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 32

April 28, 2007

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students who are recipients of the Center for Legal and Social Justice Clinical program awards:

Criminal Justice Clinic

Abby A. Loudermilk
Jeffrey K. Starnes

Francisco Leos Award

Civil Justice Clinic

Emily L. Jirovec
Agatha L. Rode

Immigration/Human Rights Clinic

Nicole E. Merritt

Marianist Green Award

Thomas Duckworth
Amanda L. Rivas
Madhavi G. Kasbekar

EAP MOCK TRIAL BOOT CAMP

The names of those students selected to attend the **2008 Mock Trial Boot Camp** were announced at the Barristers' Ball on Friday, April 18th. If you missed the event, you can read the list of those selected on Professor Schlueter's office door (LFB 120). This year's Boot Camp will be held the week before Fall semester classes begin. The **first session** is currently scheduled to **begin on Sunday afternoon, August 17th**. The sessions will continue through Wednesday, August 20th. In preparation for the Boot Camp, please purchase a copy of the book, "Mock Trials: Preparing, Presenting and Winning Your Case" (NITA 2001), which will be available shortly in the University Bookstore. There will be reading assignments in this text.

Congratulations to those students selected to advance to the next stage of the selection process.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

St. Mary's University will **no longer** be participating as a lending institution of **Federal Stafford Loans**. Students who had previously selected St. Mary's as their lender must now select a new lender. You must complete a new Master Promissory Note for the lender of your choice. If you select Sallie Mae as the lending institution, you can apply electronically by accessing the St. Mary's Financial Aid Assistance website, www.stmarytx.edu/finaid. Students who apply through Sallie Mae for their Federal Stafford Loans by **May 1st** will not be required to pay origination fees. These fees will be applicable for any applications received after that date. Should you decide to choose other lenders, the Law School Financial Aid Office is electronically connected to Access Group and CitiBank and you may access their website respectively at www.accessgroup.org and at www.studentloan.com/law. Any other lender chosen will require a paper Master Promissory Note from that lender and turned in to the Law School Financial Aid Office.

SUMMER LAW PROGRAM – MADRID MAY 24 - JULY 13, 2008

Saint Louis University's **Summer Law Program** in Madrid is ideal for those wishing to study law in one of the most exciting, historical and culturally rich settings in Europe. Students can **earn up to six credit hours** of comparative law with foreign and American professors who have extensive experience in the fields of foreign and American criminal law, civil law and global human rights. The program offers students the opportunity to advance their legal education while absorbing the sights, sounds and culture unique to Madrid and Spain. While in Madrid, students can experience enticing nightlife, regional and ethnic cuisine and world-renowned museums while enjoying an absorbing and fulfilling academic experience. For an application, course description, schedule, tuition, housing information and more, please click here: <http://law.slu.edu/cicl/madrid/Summer2008MadridBrochure.pdf>.

MS-150 BIKE RIDE

The **Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society** will host a charity bike ride from San Antonio to Corpus Christi on **October 4-5, 2008** with a rider goal of 3,500 and a donation goal of \$1.75M. The money raised from this ride will go to support education, research, and support services. **St. Mary's Law School students** are establishing a bike team as active members of both the San Antonio and the Marianist communities. Support could include being rides, providing sag support, cheering along the way, meeting the riders at camp on Saturday night, or financially contributing. The **MS-150 is a bike ride** and not a bike race. Participants range from young teens through senior citizens. Bikers range from weekend pleasure riders to serious athletes. The differences do not matter, because all the riders have one thing in common: They ride for those who can't. If you are **interested in joining the team** as yet another way to demonstrate that what makes St. Mary's students unique, please contact Paula deWitte at paula.dewitte@gmail.com. This event is open to all law students, faculty and staff.

ARE YOU MOVING OR DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING?

If so, donations of household items, books, clothing or food is being accepted by Law Ministry. Please **bring your donations** to the Law Ministry office located in the Law Faculty building, room 105. If you would like to schedule a pick-up, please call **Sr. Grace Walle** at 210.436.3063. All items will be donated to families in need.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as Staff Writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who draft the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six Staff Writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 9**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Friday, May 30**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Friday, May 30 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than **seven (7)** days after Friday, May 30 to be considered for the competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BAR STUDY GRANTS

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 **May 2, 2008**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment to mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu. 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 May 10, 2007 at the Marriot Plaza Hotel, South Alamo Street, SAT, cocktails at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. The honoree is: Congressman Charles Gonzalez. Any questions regarding the application process for either the scholarships or the grant should be directed to:

Mike Martinez, Jr.
Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor
The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 436-3436 ext. 1374
(210) 317-9398 Cell

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2008 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 provided 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 cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 16, 2008. No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.

STUDENT LOCKER RENEWAL

It is time to **renew** your rental locker agreement. Stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration building to renew your agreement. The **2008-2009** 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 **Friday, May 23, 2008**. Checks for any key **not returned will be deposited for payment** and lockers will be emptied. Third year students who need their locker for bar purposes, please email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu so that your locker items are not discarded nor your check cashed.

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 the first-year courses during the 2008-2009 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.

There will be an Orientation on **Tuesday, August 19, 2008** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Attendance is mandatory. For an application, please visit the Office of Academic Excellence website, http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=acad_exc, or call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

HELP DESK TELEPHONE NUMBER

Computer Administration located in the Raba Building, Room 101A has an additional “**Help Desk**” telephone number. The number is **(210) 431-6721**. You may reach the Help Desk at this new number when off campus. If you are on campus, you may contact the Help Desk at extension 2667.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Legal Society presents SELAH (Women’s Bible Study) every Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email Natasha at selah.biblestudy@gmail.com for more information and directions.

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