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UNIVERSITY

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The Witan

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2006

2006-2007 School Year

St. Mary's University School of Law

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 1

August 28, 2006

By VMM

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

WELCOME BACK!

By Dean Bill Piatt

These are exciting times at St. Mary's University School of Law. Many of the critical matters upon which we have all been working will come to fruition during this academic year.

We dedicated the new facilities of our Center for Terrorism Law on August 22, 2006. Our Center is the first of its kind in the nation, and its work is a critical part of our very diverse offerings at St. Mary's. You will soon be hearing more good news regarding the Center.

On **September 1, 2006 at noon** we will celebrate the championship we won at the Texas Young Lawyers Association Moot Court competition. The Supreme Court of the State of Texas judged the final round of the competition which was held in conjunction with the State Bar Convention in June, 2006.

On **September 22, 2006** we will conduct an open house and preview of our 21st century courtroom. As you recall, we successfully raised 1.6 million dollars to create what is one of the most technologically-advanced courtrooms in the country. The courtroom will not be a museum to technology; rather, based upon my discussions with the Supreme Court of Texas, we expect to be able to begin carrying the live oral arguments of the Supreme Court of Texas over our facilities beginning in January, 2007. Those proceedings would be available worldwide on the internet. Our law school will take its place at the forefront of courtroom technology in this country.

Following the open house and preview of our courtroom, at **11:30 a.m on September 22** we will gather in the Alumni Room to unveil the portrait of one of our very distinguished alumni, Justice Karen Angelini of the 4th Court of Appeals. You are all invited to these celebrations on

September 1 and September 22.

In the meantime, we are off to a great start this academic year. We welcome the entering 1L class which graduates in 2009. We will soon begin accepting students for our new evening program to begin in 2007. And, we eagerly await the results of the July, 2006 Bar Exam which we expect will spotlight the accomplishments of our class of 2006.

There are many, many good things happening here. We are very proud of all of our students, and I am asking our faculty and staff to join me in assisting you in every way possible. Stay tuned for further updates!

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

Ms. Julia Vaughan of the Texas Board of Law Examiners will hold a **mandatory meeting** for all first-year students on **Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom Building rooms 101-102-103**. Ms. Vaughan 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, 2006; the cost is \$190. A late fee of \$150 is imposed if this deadline is not met.

COURSE CHANGES FOR FALL 2006 SEMESTER ONLY

Wednesday, August 30 and Thursday, August 31. 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 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 one hour 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.

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Computer Administration is pleased to announce the new entrance into our offices in the Raba Building (Law Faculty Building). Please utilize the hallway entrance to Computer Administration by entering the West or East end of the Raba Building. Our new office entrance is located between Sister Grace Walle and the Board of Advocates office. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Laptop configurations will be available all week beginning at 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. Laptops will not be accepted after 12:00 noon until the following day. Please allow Computer Administration until late afternoon for laptop pickups. Since we are unaware of the number of systems for first year students, the wait time for laptop configurations is unusually high during the first two weeks of the semester. Your patience is appreciated.

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 **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.

2006 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Presented by the Board of Advocates

The Board of Advocates ("BOA") is proud to announce that the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition will commence on **Monday, September 18th** at **6:00 p.m.** Larry Hyden was a member of St. Mary's Law Journal and graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in 1974. He served as briefing attorney for Judge Price Daniels of the Texas Supreme Court and worked as a trial lawyer in Corpus Christi, Texas for 28 years before retiring to serve as an Assistant District Attorney in Cuero, Texas.

Packets for the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition will be released on **Wednesday, September 13th**, and preliminary rounds will run from September 18th until September 21st. Elimination rounds will begin on September 25th culminating in a final round on September 28th. The winning team will receive a \$750 prize, and the second place team will receive a \$250 prize. Please sign-up at the BOA table in the foyer of the Law Classroom Building from September 5th until September 13th.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Longhorn Bar Association - Welcome all new Texas Exes to St. Mary's Law School, along with all returning law students that bleed orange. This fall semester the Longhorn Bar Association will be just as exciting as the 2006 Longhorn Football Schedule. We will be having tailgates for games in Austin, game watching parties for the Nebraska and Tech games, along

with a service project with other law student organizations. ALSO with Ohio State at home this year, we plan on having a great tailgate for that game! PLEASE PAY ATTENTION to the LBA Board in the Law Classroom Building for upcoming announcements. LBA will post flyers for our first meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions about LBA or Longhorn related events, you may contact me, Franklin Hopkins at ehopkins@stmarytx.edu . If anyone is interested in tailgating for the North Texas game in Austin, please contact the above listed e-mail address. Hope to see you at the North Texas Game and at our first meeting!

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;
- iv. On the exterior glass doors of the law classroom and law faculty buildings, no more than two calendar days before the 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

Commuter students can purchase affordable student health insurance by enrolling online at www.academichealthplans.com/stmarytx. The insurance plan brochure can be viewed online as well. All students residing on campus are automatically billed for the health insurance premium. Resident hall students wishing to remove the insurance premium from their student business accounts must submit a **completed waiver form** to the Student Health Center by **September 7th, 2006**. The deadline will not be extended. For further questions, please refer to the FAQ section or call the Student Health Center and ask for Lorraine Gomez, Insurance Enrollment Coordinator.

LIBRARY INSTALLS CAMERAS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY

This summer the library installed a camera system in order to provide better security in the library. The security system, which began operation on August 19, consists of multiple

cameras that work to monitor the facility on a 24-hour basis. The library staff and the police department will watch security through monitors and consoles. The system will allow the police to access and review continuously recorded tapes to help identify suspect(s) when an incident occurs in the library. With this system in place we hope to see improved security in the library. Please report to the Circulation Desk immediately, if you have any book(s) or personal item(s) stolen so that we may help the police catch the suspect(s). Thank you for your cooperation.

USE OF THE ALUMNI ROOM

Student Organizations wishing to use the Law Alumni Room in the Law Library must secure prior permission from the Law Library Director to serve food or to move furniture for any particular event. Beverages normally should be served and consumed only in spill-proof containers. These restrictions are established to minimize wear and tear and expensive repairs for this special venue. Food and Drink may be consumed in the student lounge and on the Law Library's patio. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

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 carrells.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Ms. Margaret Garza and Mrs. Norma Luna welcome all our students to a new academic year. We look forward to working with you and assisting you with the processing of your financial aid. Office hours for the Financial Aid Office are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the first two weeks of school, Ms. Garza will be available for walk-ins from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. except on Tuesday mornings; as well as from 1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Luna is available to answer questions at the front counter during the regular office hours. All charges will be posted by the Business Office to the student accounts on August 31, 2006. You may check with our office to verify that you do have sufficient funds for a refund after this date. Refund checks for funds in excess of institutional charges will be available from the Business Office after 1:30 p.m. on September 8, 2006.

WRITING COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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

The *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice*, a continuation of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring

2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email: bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, *Uniform Activities*. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 2

September 4, 2006

By VMM

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CLASSES TO BE HELD ON COLUMBUS DAY

Due to the late start this semester we will not have a Fall break. Therefore, classes will be held on Columbus Day, **Monday, October 9, 2006** and **Tuesday, October 10, 2006**.

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

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UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

Interfaith Resource Fair – Come on out on **Wednesday, September 13, 2006** to the Interfaith Resource Fair, **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in front of **University Ministry!** Displays will be set up by ministers of different faiths. You will have the opportunity to explore and ask questions on several faiths. So stop by and help cultivate your own spiritual and faith life and that of our St. Mary's community. For more information, contact University Ministry, 436-3213 or univmin@stmarytx.edu.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the Goelz room (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

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Building from September 5th until September 13th.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Women's Law Association** will hold its first general meeting on **Thursday, September 7, 2006** from **12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Law Library Alumni Room**. We will discuss our semester plans, mentor program, and will hold senator elections. Lunch will be provided.

St. Mary's University School of Law, Black Law Students Association and the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) invite the entire student body to attend our upcoming free academic retreat. The 2006 Regional Academic Retreat will be held **Saturday, September 9, 2006**, from **8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** at **Texas Wesleyan University School of Law**, 1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas. The retreat will have sessions that will focus on the success of 1L, 2L, and 3L students. Event flyer, schedule of events, and registration forms are posted on the BLSA bulletin board in the law classroom building. This free retreat is the first of many opportunities promoted by NBLSA to network with other law students, professors, and practicing attorneys in an effort to ensure successful academic performance in law school. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu.

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GREEHEY SCHOLAR PROGRAM

St. Mary's University Bill Greehey School of Business

The 1-Year MBA - from the Bill Greehey School of Business. This schedule enables a student who enters the MBA program with all prerequisite requirements satisfied – either by holding an undergraduate degree in business or by taking or testing out of required prerequisite courses prior to full admission – to complete the 30-hour General Management MBA curriculum in 12 months (or less). For more information, contact Dr. Richard Menger, MBA Director at rmenger@stmarytx.edu, or by calling (210) 431-2027. Other information is available at www.stmarytx.edu/business.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES

I. Organization Funding

- A. In order to receive funds from the law school, a student organization must:

- I. Be officially approved by the law faculty;
- II. Have submitted to the Office of the Dean a current list of officers and contact information; and
- III. Comply with the rules on fundraising, publicity, and use of facilities stated below.

All funding requests shall be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs with the appropriate form, which can be obtained in the Administration Building from Ms. Bebe Gonzales in room 105.

- B. **Initial Activity Grants.** Each semester, each officially approved student organization is entitled to receive an initial activity grant of \$150 to support an event on campus, open to the law school community, that contributes to the intellectual life of the law school, such as speakers, panels, and the like. The money may be used for refreshments to help draw a crowd or for other costs of the event. A closed meeting of organization membership or party does not qualify for a grant. Two or more organizations may pool their funds to sponsor an event, although amounts spent on food for an event ordinarily may not exceed \$150. An organization that uses less than \$150 of an initial activity grant may use the balance of the grant for similar purposes later in the semester. No entitlements are carried over from semester to semester or year to year. For all purposes of these guidelines, “contributing to the intellectual life of the law school” shall be construed broadly.
- C. **Additional Activity Grants.** Each semester a limited number of additional discretionary activity grants in the amount of \$150, for the purpose of supporting activities open to the law school community that contribute to the intellectual life of the law school, may be made to organizations that have already used their initial grants to support successful events. The merits of such applications will be judged not on the subject matter of the proposal, but on the basis of whether the event is well planned and not duplicative of other recent events.
- D. **Public Service Grants.** Each semester, 15 grants in the amount of \$150 will be available to support public service projects of student organizations. In an appropriate case, two or more organizations may receive grants to work on the same project.
- E. **Extraordinary Grants.** Limited funds may be available each semester to support extraordinarily meritorious student organization activities, including religious activities, that deserve financial support beyond that available through activity grants. Travel to conferences not involving participation in advocacy competitions will not be funded.
- F. **Banquet Funding.** The law school will contribute \$6000 (plus the cost of

faculty tickets) to an annual awards banquet organized and conducted under the auspices of the Board of Advocates. Awards eligible for presentation at the banquet include not only those relating to competitions sponsored by the Board of Advocates, but also any other advocacy competition in which St. Mary's law students participate.

Individual organization banquets will not be funded. However, organizations may hold banquets for their members, the costs of which may be financed through ticket sales, membership dues, sales of goods or services, and fundraising.

II Fundraising by Organizations

All fundraising by student organizations (including solicitation of banquet sponsorships) must obtain prior written approval from the Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations and Development (Al Hartman). This rule applies to solicitation of both cash and in-kind contributions. Failure to comply with this rule is a violation of university policy and subject to sanctions under the terms of the university Student Handbook. A request for approval of fundraising should identify with reasonable precision the nature of the fundraising activity, its magnitude, and the individuals, businesses, or firms who will be solicited.

III Publicity for Student Organization Events (Posting of Notices)

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

1. In *The Witan* (provide copy to Ms. Bebe Gonzales (bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) by noon Thursday);
2. On its organization bulletin board;
3. 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;
4. On the exterior glass doors of the law classroom and law faculty buildings, no more than two calendar days before the event.

Except as provided above, please 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.

IV. Use of Facilities

- A. With appropriate notice, housekeeping can be called upon to set up or take down chair and tables. The charges for these services will be paid by the law school,

rather than the organization, provided that the services requested are minimal. A request for services may be placed by contacting the Dean's Office.

- B. If members of an organization move furniture in connection with an event, they must return the furniture to its original location immediately after the event, unless other arrangements have been made.
- C. Organization members should exercise primary responsibility for ensuring that the venue of an event or meeting is left in a clean and orderly condition.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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) is accepting applications through **September 22, 2006** for scholarships. Several scholarships will be awarded at J. L. Turner's Annual Scholarship Banquet. JLTLA, the African-American bar association in Dallas, Texas, established its scholarship to provide financial assistance to minority law students who have a connection to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, and to expose students to the Dallas-Fort Worth legal community. For more information and/or application please stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration Building.

The **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice**, a continuation of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring 2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

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The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original, unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**. For more information please stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration Building.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 3

September 11, 2006

By VMM

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RESEARCH ASSISTANT WANTED

Professor Mather is seeking a research assistant for the current academic year and possibly the summer. Research is in the areas of property and wills and trusts law. Prefer strong academic record and excellent writing skills. Submit resume and short writing sample to Professor Mather or Bebe Gonzales in the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Office, Law Administration Building.

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as a trial lawyer in Corpus Christi, Texas for 28 years before retiring to serve as an Assistant District Attorney in Cuero, Texas.

Packets for the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition will be released on **Wednesday, September 13th**, and preliminary rounds will run from September 18th until September 21st. Elimination rounds will begin on September 25th culminating in a final round on September 28th. The winning team will receive a \$750 prize, and the second place team will receive a \$250 prize. Please sign-up at the BOA table in the foyer of the Law Classroom Building from September 5th until September 13th.

ASK A LAWYER CLINIC

WE'RE BACK! The next Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic will be **Thursday, September 28, 2006** at **St. Jude's Community Center**, 130 S. Augustine St., (behind St. Jude's Catholic Church on the SW corner of W. Commerce and General McMullen). This is a great opportunity for law students to put into practice what we've been learning in class and work with those who cannot afford an attorney. As student volunteers, we will prepare notes about the client's legal problem, discuss it with volunteer attorneys, then explain the advice to the client. This is also a great way to gain pro bono hours, which can allow you to earn the special "pro bono certification" upon graduation. The clinic typically runs from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, volunteers should be there around 5:30 pm for a quick run-through and refreshments. For more information and to sign-up, please email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 2007 JDs and LLMS

The *Application for Degree* cards have been placed in your student mail boxes. Your completion of this important document serves as official notice to the Law School of your intent to graduate in either **December 2006, May 2007, or August 2007** (August graduates are considered with the next years' class, Class of 2008, for graduation purposes). **Please return the completed form to Ms. Yvonne Olfers [LAB 123] by Friday, September 29, to ensure you have a diploma at your graduation.** If you did not have an *Application for Degree* card in your mailbox, you can pick one up from Ms. Olfers.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FALL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

We hope you will join the **American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division (LSD)** on **October 7, 2006** at Washington University-St. Louis School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri for the Fall Roundtable Conference. Additional information on the Conference can be found at http://www.abanet.org/lsd/fall_mtg/2006/stlouis/home.html. The meeting is open to all members of the ABA Law School Division. If you are not a member of the ABA-LSD, please visit http://www.abanet.org/join/lsd_enroll/lis_enroll.cfm or <http://www.abanet.org/lsd>. Questions? Contact Mike DeNuccio ('08) at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu.

CLASSES TO BE HELD ON COLUMBUS DAY

Due to the late start this semester we will not have a Fall break. Therefore, classes will be held on Columbus Day, **Monday, October 9, 2006** and **Tuesday, October 10, 2006**.

1st ANNUAL STUDENT/ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

The **St. Mary's Law Alumni Association** in partnership with the **Student Bar Association** is hosting its First Annual Student/Alumni Golf Outing on **Saturday, October 21, 2006** at The Golf Club of Texas. The tournament will be a 4-man/woman scramble format. Tee times begin at 1:00 p.m. St. Mary's School of Law alumni and students are invited, and novices are welcome. The cost is \$35 for students and \$75 for alumni and faculty, and includes GPS equipped cart, drinks, greens fees and hors d'oeuvre to wrap up the day. Prizes will be awarded to top finishing teams. Please contact R.C. Mosier at (210) 557-9686 or rc@abanet.org to sign up, or to learn more.

U.S.-MUSLIM WORLD RELATIONS

The Future of U.S. Muslim World Relations. **Monday, September 11, 2006, 12:20 p.m., University Center, Conference Room B.** An interfaith discussion by Judith Norman, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Trinity University, Fr. Charles Miller, SM, Professor of Theology, St. Mary's University, Imam O. Adib Shakir, Full-time imam with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and resident imam of Masjid Bilal Ibn Ra'bh. Free refreshments will be served. See www.aidemocracy.org for more information.

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Remembering September 11th - 5 years later. Let us gather as the St. Mary's Community pauses to remember the victims of the September 11th attacks and pray for peace in our world.

Monday, September 11, 2006.

10:10 a.m. - Quad Prayer

12:15 p.m. - Mass in Assumption Chapel

9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Prayer Service in Alumni Field

9:15 p.m. - Prayer Service - Marian Residence Hall

Law School Community - Acts of Charity in memory of September 11. A request from family survivors is for us to honor their memory with acts of charity. Think of this as you go through your day at school, work and home.

Reception For Clinical Students, Faculty & Staff - Please join us on **Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 4:30 p.m.** at the **Center For Legal and Social Justice** for information on the Marianist Sister Sharing Fund and Social Services Program. Presentation will be at 5:00 p.m. Food and refreshments will be served.

Interfaith Resource Fair – Come on out on **Wednesday, September 13, 2006** to the Interfaith Resource Fair, **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in front of **University Ministry!** Displays will be set up by ministers of different faiths. You will have the opportunity to explore and ask questions on several faiths. So stop by and help cultivate your own spiritual and faith life and that of our St. Mary's community. For more information, contact University Ministry, 436-3213 or univmin@stmarytx.edu.

Meet & Greet Lunch - for "Older, Wiser Law Students." **Wednesday, September 13, 2006.** Stop by anytime **between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** in the **Raba Faculty Building Foyer.** This is an opportunity to network, share information if you are a parent, find out about honorariums and the single parent fund. Sponsored by Sister Grace. Lunch will be served.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

LIBRARY INSTALLS CAMERAS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY

This summer the library installed a camera system in order to provide better security in the library. The security system, which began operation on August 19, consists of multiple cameras that work to monitor the facility on a 24-hour basis. The library staff and the police department will watch security through monitors and consoles. The system will allow the police to access and review continuously recorded tapes to help identify suspect(s) when an incident occurs in the library. With this system in place we hope to see improved security in the library. Please report to the Circulation Desk immediately, if you have any book(s) or personal item(s) stolen so that we may help the police catch the suspect(s). Thank you for your cooperation.

USE OF THE ALUMNI ROOM

Student Organizations wishing to use the Law Alumni Room in the Law Library must secure prior permission from the Law Library Director to serve food or to move furniture for any particular event. Beverages normally should be served and consumed only in spill-proof containers. These restrictions are established to minimize wear and tear and expensive repairs for this special venue. Food and drink may be consumed in the student lounge and on the Law Library's patio. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

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 carrells.

GREEHEY SCHOLAR PROGRAM
St. Mary's University Bill Greehey School of Business

The 1-Year MBA - from the Bill Greehey School of Business. This schedule enables a student who enters the MBA program with all prerequisite requirements satisfied – either by holding an undergraduate degree in business or by taking or testing out of required prerequisite courses prior to full admission – to complete the 30-hour General Management MBA curriculum in 12 months (or less). For more information, contact Dr. Richard Menger, MBA Director at rmenger@stmarytx.edu, or by calling (210) 431-2027. Other information is available at www.stmarytx.edu/business.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES

I. Organization Funding

- A. In order to receive funds from the law school, a student organization must:
 - I. Be officially approved by the law faculty;
 - II. Have submitted to the Office of the Dean a current list of officers and contact information; and
 - III. Comply with the rules on fundraising, publicity, and use of facilities stated below.

All funding requests shall be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs with the appropriate form, which can be obtained in the Administration Building from Ms. Bebe Gonzales in room 105.

- B. **Initial Activity Grants.** Each semester, each officially approved student organization is entitled to receive an initial activity grant of \$150 to support an event on campus, open to the law school community, that contributes to the intellectual life of the law school, such as speakers, panels, and the like. The money may be used for refreshments to help draw a crowd or for other costs of the event. A closed meeting of organization membership or party does not qualify for a grant. Two or more organizations may pool their funds to sponsor an event, although amounts spent on food for an event ordinarily may not exceed \$150. An organization that uses less than \$150 of an initial activity grant may use the balance of the grant for similar purposes later in the semester. No entitlements are carried over from semester to semester or year to year. For all purposes of these guidelines, “contributing to the intellectual life of the law school” shall be construed broadly.
- C. **Additional Activity Grants.** Each semester a limited number of additional

discretionary activity grants in the amount of \$150, for the purpose of supporting activities open to the law school community that contribute to the intellectual life of the law school, may be made to organizations that have already used their initial grants to support successful events. The merits of such applications will be judged not on the subject matter of the proposal, but on the basis of whether the event is well planned and not duplicative of other recent events.

- D. **Public Service Grants.** Each semester, 15 grants in the amount of \$150 will be available to support public service projects of student organizations. In an appropriate case, two or more organizations may receive grants to work on the same project.
- E. **Extraordinary Grants.** Limited funds may be available each semester to support extraordinarily meritorious student organization activities, including religious activities, that deserve financial support beyond that available through activity grants. Travel to conferences not involving participation in advocacy competitions will not be funded.
- F. **Banquet Funding.** The law school will contribute \$6000 (plus the cost of faculty tickets) to an annual awards banquet organized and conducted under the auspices of the Board of Advocates. Awards eligible for presentation at the banquet include not only those relating to competitions sponsored by the Board of Advocates, but also any other advocacy competition in which St. Mary's law students participate.

Individual organization banquets will not be funded. However, organizations may hold banquets for their members, the costs of which may be financed through ticket sales, membership dues, sales of goods or services, and fundraising.

II Fundraising by Organizations

All fundraising by student organizations (including solicitation of banquet sponsorships) must obtain prior written approval from the Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations and Development (Al Hartman). This rule applies to solicitation of both cash and in-kind contributions. Failure to comply with this rule is a violation of university policy and subject to sanctions under the terms of the university Student Handbook. A request for approval of fundraising should identify with reasonable precision the nature of the fundraising activity, its magnitude, and the individuals, businesses, or firms who will be solicited.

III Publicity for Student Organization Events (Posting of Notices)

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

1. In *The Witan* (provide copy to Ms. Bebe Gonzales (bgonzales@stmarytx.edu) by noon Thursday);
2. On its organization bulletin board;
3. 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;
4. On the exterior glass doors of the law classroom and law faculty buildings, no more than two calendar days before the event.

Except as provided above, please 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.

IV. Use of Facilities

- A. With appropriate notice, housekeeping can be called upon to set up or take down chair and tables. The charges for these services will be paid by the law school, rather than the organization, provided that the services requested are minimal. A request for services may be placed by contacting the Dean's Office.
- B. If members of an organization move furniture in connection with an event, they must return the furniture to its original location immediately after the event, unless other arrangements have been made.
- C. Organization members should exercise primary responsibility for ensuring that the venue of an event or meeting is left in a clean and orderly condition.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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) is accepting applications through **September 22, 2006** for scholarships. Several scholarships will be awarded at J. L. Turner's Annual Scholarship Banquet. JLTLA, the African-American bar association in Dallas, Texas, established its scholarship to provide financial assistance to minority law students who have a connection to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, and to expose students to the Dallas-Fort Worth legal community.

The **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice**, a continuation of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring

2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, Uniform Activities. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2007 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 5, 2007**.

The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original, unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 4

September 18, 2006

By VMM

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

Courtroom Celebration By Dean Bill Piatt

A tremendous cooperative effort among our alumni, friends, supporters, faculty and staff has resulted in the creation of our \$1.6 million high tech courtroom. On **Friday, September 22nd at 10:30 a.m.** we will preview our courtroom at a gathering to which you are invited. The Board of Trustees of St. Mary's University, the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, our donors, faculty, staff and students are all invited. A highlight of the event will be a presentation by Justice Paul Green of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas. Justice Green graduated from our law school in 1977. The **preview** will take place in the **law classroom building** and I encourage all who do not have class during that time to attend. Immediately following the preview, we will move to the Alumni Room of the law library for the unveiling of the portrait of Justice Karen Angelini. Justice Angelini was honored as last year's distinguished law graduate, has served as President of the Law Alumni Association Board, has served on the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, and delivered the commencement address at our law school in May, 2006. Food and refreshments will be served at that event.

These events are an important opportunity for you to get to meet some of our alumni and local judges and attorneys together with University officials. I would encourage your attendance at these events and I look forward to introducing you to the overwhelming support you will enjoy as students and attorneys.

LOST AND FOUND

If you find **lost items** in the Classroom or Raba Buildings, please **take them** to the **SBA office** so the item may be united with the true owner. Items **found** in the **library** may be turned into the Circulation Desk.

FLU VACCINE

The Student Health Center will be offering the flu vaccine on **Tuesday, September 26, 2006** from **11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** in the **Law Faculty Building**. The \$20 fee may be made payable by cash or check or it may be billed to your student account.

NOVEMBER MPRE REVIEW COURSE INFORMATION

The Bar/Bri MPRE Review Course will be held at St. Mary's on Saturday, October 21, 2006. The **deadline to register is Tuesday, September 26, 2006**. Student representatives will be available at the Bar/Bri table in the Law Classroom Building on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to register students for this course. Please contact Lorilei Cronin (lcronin@stmarytx.edu) with any questions.

THE SCHOLAR

St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues



The Editorial Board of *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* is pleased to announce the following students have been selected as 2006-2007 Staff Writers:

David Y. Choi	Matthew Ormiston
Ana Liz De Leon	Gilbert Ramon
Joseph Phillippe Ellazar	Ann Alaniz Reeves
Arshil Kabani	Andrea Rodriguez
Cia M. Kamalipour	Terrence Rogers
Brooks Landgraf	Monica Saenz
Neda Mahoudzadeh	DeForest Sessoms
Jeffrey Walton Martin	Barrett Shipp
Matthew D. Massar	Chris Thompson
Talia Nye-Keif	Thomas C. Vaughn

We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year!

ST. MARY'S FAMILY LAW ASSOCIATION

St. Mary's Family Law Association presents Judge Rene Diaz, 224th District Court. Judge Diaz will address "The Changing Face of Family Law" and will discuss recent updates to case law. Please join us on **Monday, September 18th, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Lunch will be provided.

ATTENTION ALL INNSBRUCK PARTICIPANTS

Enter a photo contest for a free dinner! Submit your favorite Innsbruck picture and/or travel picture. You may submit up to 3 pictures by print, CD or by email to Sister Grace at (gwalles@stmarytx.edu) or to Emily Jirovec at (ejirovec@stmarytx.edu). The winner will receive a free dinner and the runner-up will receive a St. Mary's Bookstore Gift Certificate. **Deadline** to enter is **September 22, 2006**. The winner and runner-up will be announced on September 28th at 4:00 p.m. in front of the Raba Building. Refreshments will be provided.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT WANTED

Professor Mather is seeking a research assistant for the current academic year and possibly the summer. Research is in the areas of property and wills and trusts law. Submit resume and short writing sample to Professor Mather or Bebe Gonzales in the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Office, Law Administration Building.

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UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage – University Ministry invites the entire community to celebrate two bilingual Masses honoring our heritage and culture throughout the St. Mary's community, San Antonio, the Americas, and beyond. Celebrations will be held on **Sunday, September 17, 2006, 11:00 a.m. and at 9:00 p.m.**, Assumption Chapel, Bilingual Mass and on **Tuesday, October 12, 2006 at 12:00 15 p.m.**, Assumption Chapel, Feast Day of Nuestra Señora de Pilar, Bilingual Mass.

Red Mass - Mark your calendars to celebrate Red Mass on **Thursday, October 26, 2006** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** at **San Fernando Cathedral**. More information to be announced at a later date. Student's, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.

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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 2007 meeting of the College. Entries for the award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before December 1, 2006. 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 Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, *Uniform Activities*. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

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mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 5

September 25, 2006

By VMM

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

BAR/BRI MPRE REVIEW COURSE Sign Up On or Before the September 26 Deadline

Come by the BAR/BRI table by **September 26** to enroll in BAR/BRI's MPRE review course. You must complete the BAR/BRI MPRE review course enrollment application and only need to have \$175 paid toward your BAR/BRI bar review course tuition to receive:

- Comprehensive, four-hour review lecture
- Detailed and condensed outlines for the MPRE
- More than 300 practice questions
- Exclusive StudySmart®) Software

The written materials will be distributed at the review course. Enrolled students will receive a course confirmation, with software downloading instructions, during the week of October 9.

Remember that your BAR/BRI MPRE review course enrollment application must be turned into a BAR/BRI rep no later than September 26. If you have not registered to take the MPRE, be sure to visit www.ncbex.org. You cannot take the MPRE unless you register with the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

FLU VACCINE

The Student Health Center will be offering the flu vaccine on **Tuesday, September 26, 2006** from **11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** in the **Law Faculty Building**. The \$20 fee may be made payable by cash or check or it may be billed to your student account.

DALLAS ALUMNI STUDENT CHAPTER

Do you want to work in Dallas? Do you want to meet people from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area or who are interested in returning there? We would like to invite you to our first general meeting/happy hour on **Wednesday, September 27th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at **Hemmingway's** (8931 Wurzbach Road, between I-10 and Fredericksburg). There will be fantastic drink specials available. Please come prepared to pay your dues for the 2006-2007 school year. Membership is \$10 (cash or check). We will discuss be discussing our events for the Fall -- a happy hour with the Dallas Alums in Dallas in late October and a presentation regarding ways to find a job in Dallas. Hope to see you there!

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

WE'RE BACK! The next Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic will be **Thursday, September 28, 2006** at **St. Jude's Community Center**, 130 S. Augustine St., (behind St. Jude's Catholic Church on the SW corner of W. Commerce and General McMullen). This is a great opportunity for law students to put into practice what we've been learning in class and work with those who cannot afford an attorney. As student volunteers, we will prepare notes about the client's legal problem, discuss it with volunteer attorneys, then explain the advice to the client. This is also a great way to gain pro bono hours, which can allow you to earn the special "pro bono certification" upon graduation. The clinic typically runs from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, volunteers should be there around 5:30 pm for a quick run-through and refreshments. For more information and to sign-up, please email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com.

ATTENTION ALL INNSBRUCK PARTICIPANTS

The Innsbruck photo contest deadline has been **extended to Thursday, September 28th**, the same day of the reception. You still have time to submit your entry. Participants are encouraged to submit photos that capture the spirit of the Innsbruck program or of traveling around Europe. The best picture that depicts the Innsbruck program experience will win a free dinner. The winner of the best travel picture will win a gift certificate to the St. Mary's book store. All participants in the Innsbruck program, both past and recent present, students and professors, are encouraged to submit 3 pictures. Pictures may be submitted in either photo or CD form, or may be emailed to either Sister Grace (gwall@stmarytx.edu) or Emily Jirovec (ejirovec@stmarytx.edu). Don't forget to attend the reunion and picture sharing reception on **September 28th at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Raba Building**, at which time the winners will be announced. All Innsbruck participants are invited to attend.

CLASS OF 2007 JDs and LLMs

The *Application for Degree* cards have been placed in your student mail boxes. Your completion of this important document serves as official notice to the Law School of your intent to graduate in either **December 2006, May 2007, or August 2007** (August graduates are considered with the next years' class, Class of 2008, for graduation purposes). **Please return the completed form to Ms. Yvonne Olfers [LAB 123] by Friday, September 29, to ensure you have a diploma at your graduation.** If you did not have an *Application for Degree* card in your mailbox, you can

pick one up from Ms. Olfers.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FALL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Phi Alpha Delta - Phi Alpha Delta will be holding a member meeting **Tuesday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Law Faculty Building, Room 107**. For any students interested in learning more about Phi Alpha Delta, please join us at **5:30 p.m.** for an informational meeting. All interested students in becoming members are encouraged to attend. A fun social event has been planned following the meeting. Everyone is welcome! For more information or questions, please contact phialphadeltastmarys@gmail.com.

International Law Association (ILA) – The ILA will hold its first meeting on **Wednesday, September 27** in **Law Classroom 104** from **3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** At this informational meeting we will discuss international law resources and networking opportunities, as well as our plans for 2006-2007. Professor Robert Summers and Adjunct Professor Christine Weidenslauffer will be available to answer questions on international law, the LL.M. program, and the Jessup International Moot Court. The meeting is free to all. However, we will be accepting dues (\$15) for anyone that would like to join. Please contact Paul Townsend at (512) 853-0655 or paul.m.townsend@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Women's Law Association (WLA) – The WLA will hold its second general meeting on **Thursday, September 28**, from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Justice Sandee Bryan Marion of the Fourth Court of Appeals and Ms. Abi Ottmers will speak on balancing life and legal career. Please join us.

Legal Sports Society – Golf Anyone? The Legal Sports Society – Golf Division invites all students, faculty, staff and alumni to our first outing – **Thursday, September 28** at **6:30 p.m.** at Rolling Oaks Golf Center, www.rollingoaksgolfcenter.com. This is a family-friendly bar and grill with an attached driving range and putting greens – the perfect location for this inaugural event. For more information, visit TWEN and add the Legal Sports Society as a course. Then explore the Golf Files and Sign-Up Sheets to sign up. The cover charge at Rolling Oaks is two canned foods and supports the San Antonio Food Bank. There is no minimum or maximum golf skill level required. You don't even have to bring your own clubs. This is a social event combined with a Legal Sport. Questions? Contact Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu.

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Confirmation Preparation - Confirmation preparation classes begin this week. If you have been Baptized and received First Communion, and would like to be confirmed in your faith, call Carol Hewson, (210) 436-3065 or University Ministry (210) 436-3213 for details. Sessions will be offered on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 25 or Wednesday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. beginning September 27. Intercollegiate confirmation will take place on February 18, 2007.

RCIA - Inquiry sessions for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) are in full swing, in the University Ministry living room on Sunday's at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us – to refresh your faith or to complete or receive the Sacraments of Initiation, please call Carol Hewson at (210) 436-3065 or email at chewson@stmarytx.edu for more information.

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SHHH!

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WRITING COMPETITION, 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 **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice**, a continuation of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring 2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

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 2007 meeting of the College. Entries for the award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before December 1, 2006. 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 Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize

of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, Uniform Activities. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2007 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 5, 2007**.

The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original, unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 6

October 2, 2006

By VMM

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

2006 MOOT COURT COMPETITION SPONSORED by the FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION Presented by the Board of Advocates

The **Board of Advocates** (BOA) would like to announce that the 2006 Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the Federal Bar Association will commence with a packet release on **Wednesday, October 4, 2006**. This year's competition is open to all 2L and 3L students in good academic standing. 1Ls are encouraged to participate as bailiffs. **Please note: there will not be a brief requirement for this competition as in years past.** Preliminary rounds will begin the following week on Monday, October 16th and run through Thursday, October 19th. Elimination rounds will begin Monday, October 23rd and culminate in a final round on Wednesday, October 25th. The winning team will receive \$750 prize and the second place team will receive a \$250 prize. Please **sign up** at the BOA table in the foyer of the Law Classroom Building through October 3rd.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FALL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

We hope you will join the **American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division** (LSD) on **October 7, 2006** at Washington University-St. Louis School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri for the Fall Roundtable Conference. Additional information on the Conference can be found at http://www.abanet.org/lzd/fall_mtg/2006/stlouis/home.html. The meeting is open to all members of the ABA Law School Division. If you are not a member of the ABA-LSD, please visit http://www.abanet.org/join/lzd_enroll/lzd_enroll.cfm or <http://www.abanet.org/lzd>. Questions? Contact Mike DeNuccio ('08) at mduccio@stmarytx.edu.

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Approximate Price List in US dollars (subject to change without notice):

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Trousers/Slacks	US\$60	US\$70
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Tuxedo Suits	US\$220	US\$260
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<u>Women's</u>		
Jackets	US\$150	US\$190
Trousers	US\$60	US\$70
Skirts	US\$50	US\$60
Blouses	US\$45	US\$50
Suits		
Jkt. w/Trousers	US\$190	US\$250
Jkt. w/Skirt	US\$180	US\$240
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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Employment and Labor Law Association – ELLA will be having its first meeting of the year on **Thursday, October 5, 2006** in the Alumni Room from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in employment or labor law or if you don't know what they are, please join us. Professor Teeter and Professor Roberts will speak shortly on these areas of law. We will also be serving lunch. Everyone is welcome!

Student Bar Association – Are you interested in networking and being involved in your school and community? If so, there is an opening for a 2L/3L student to serve as the American Bar Association Rep-Elect. This is a one year position which serves as a liaison between SBA/St. Mary's and the ABA. Elections for this position will be held **October 11th and 12th**. If you are interested, you must contact Kristin Lee at kristinglee@hotmail.com by Friday, October 6th in order to run.

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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, 2007**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 7

October 9, 2006

By VMM

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

2006 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION Presented by the Board of Advocates

The Board of Advocates ("BOA") would like to congratulate the winners of the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition — **James Campbell** and **Tucker Royall**. We would also like to congratulate the runner-up team of **Ryan Anderson** and **William Bassett**. A special congratulation goes to James Campbell for being named the Best Advocate of the Final Round. This year's competition was the first to feature the newly renovated court room, which allowed the competition to be recorded on DVD and Sonic Foundry. BOA would also like to thank the supporters of the Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition, the competitors and volunteers, and the local attorneys, judges and law school staff that dedicated their time to promote advocacy.

ELECTIONS FOR ABA REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT POSITION WITH SBA

Attention all 2Ls and 3Ls! Please take the time to vote on **Wednesday, October 11th** and **Thursday, October 12th** for your ABA Representative-Elect. The Rep-Elect assists the Rep with all duties associated with representing the ABA on campus, which includes recruiting students to join the ABA, promoting ABA activities on and off campus, etc. If applicable, the Rep Elect may represent (or join) the Rep at ABA meetings, such as Roundtables and Conferences. Polls will be located in the LC Building and will be open from **8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Only those with their student IDs will be allowed to vote.

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Want to work in the Dallas/ Ft. Worth Area? This is a great Dallas networking opportunity! Get to know St. Mary's Law School Alums in Dallas. **The Dallas Alumni Student Chapter is having a joint happy hour with the Dallas Alumni Chapter in Dallas on October 27, 2006.** This is a great opportunity to network with Dallas area alums and meet people who are interested in working in the greater north Texas area.

In order to attend, make sure you are a member of the DASC and that you are current on your 2006-2007 school year dues. If interested, please contact Joy Meadows, Networking Chair, at jmherin@yahoo.com or pick up a membership form from our bulletin board in the Law Classroom Building.

If you are going to attend the Dallas Happy Hour, please drop off a resume inside Career Services **before noon on October 13, 2006**. Our alums want to know who is coming and have an opportunity to look through résumés before the happy hour.

It will be **Friday, October 27, 2006** from **5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** – location TBD. If you act now, there are a number of flight specials available with advanced purchase.

Hope to see you there!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hispanic Law Student Association – HLSA will be having its general meeting on **Tuesday, October 10, 2006** in the Law Alumni Room from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Food will be served at 12:15 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Marisol Perez from the Hispanic Law Alumni Association (HLAA) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). Please join us. Everyone is welcome!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

RCIA - Inquiry sessions for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) are in full swing, in the University Ministry living room on Sunday's at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us – to refresh your faith or to complete or receive the Sacraments of Initiation, please call Carol Hewson at (210) 436-3065 or email at chewson@stmarytx.edu for more information.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage – University Ministry invites the entire community to celebrate a bilingual Mass honoring our heritage and culture throughout the St. Mary's community, San Antonio, the Americas, and beyond. A celebration will be held on **Tuesday, October 12, 2006 at 12:00 15 p.m.**, Assumption Chapel, Feast Day of Nuestra Señora de Pilar, Bilingual Mass.

Red Mass - Mark your calendars to celebrate Red Mass on **Thursday, October 26, 2006** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** at **San Fernando Cathedral**. More information will be announced at a later date. Students, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to attend.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

LOST AND FOUND

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WRITING COMPETITION, 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 **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice**, a continuation of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring 2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

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 2007 meeting of the College. Entries for the award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before December 1, 2006. 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 Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, Uniform Activities. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2007 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 5, 2007**.

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The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original,

unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The **American Immigration Law Foundation** (AILF) is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

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

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers** (ASCAP) announces the 2007 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 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>.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 8

October 16, 2006

By VMM

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

EXAM SOFT

If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw to download the latest version on your laptop.

If you are a first time user of Exam Soft, please go to the above website and click on the Exam Takers icon located on the bottom of the page. **All users, first time or not**, will need to click on the New User Signup icon. After your information has been placed into the required fields, you can then download the latest copy of Soft Test onto your laptop. Please download this newer version of Soft Test. If you currently have an older version of Exam Soft on your system, please remove this program from your ADD/REMOVE icon located in your control panel prior to installation of the current version.

Apple users can now take their exams using Exam Soft. You must already have installed Windows on your Apple system. This is only possible with Apples running Intel Core Processors. **If you do not have Windows running on the day of the exam, you will not be able to use Exam Soft at the time of your final.** If you require additional information on how to download your copy of Boot Camp Windows for Apple computers, please visit <http://www.apple.com/macosx/bootcamp> for additional information.

Finally, all students who use USB flash devices will need to remove or delete all data stored in the device before the exam day. Flash devices must be free of any data. **All USB's that contain data will not be processed.**

WIRELESS INTERNET

Please note that Network Technology Services (NTS) will be disconnecting the wireless internet in the classrooms between **October 23** and **October 31** in order to accommodate closed book **midterm exams**.

SBA ELECTION RESULTS ABA Representative-Elect

What a great race we had this week for the ABA Representative-Elect position with the Student Bar Association. We had an overwhelming number of students come out and vote and the candidate campaigns were impressive. **Thank you** to all the candidates, students and volunteers for your time and enthusiasm. After counting the votes and reviewing the SBA Election Code, I am pleased to inform you that we will be having a run-off election between **DEREK HILLEY** and **KRISHNA REDDY**. The run off election will be on **Wednesday, October 18, 2006** from **8:00 a.m.** to **3:00 p.m.** in the **law classroom building**. Only 2Ls and 3Ls with valid student Ids will be permitted to vote. Look for election results to be published in *The Witan* next week. Thanks for voting!

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

MOSQUITOS AROUND THE LAW LIBRARY

Students have expressed increasing concern regarding the mosquitos between the Law Library and Classroom Buildings. The SBA Physical Plant Committee and the University Physical Plant Department are working together to eradicate these problem areas starting Friday, October 13 and in the coming weeks. Please let us know how we are progressing. We are also working on expanding our current recycling program to be more accessible to students. Please let us know your thoughts on these programs and suggest new ones at www.stmarytxsba.com.

2006 LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION Presented by the Board of Advocates

The Board of Advocates ("BOA") would like to congratulate the winners of the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition — **James Campbell** and **Tucker Royall**. We would also like to congratulate the runner-up team of **Ryan Anderson** and **William Bassett**. A special congratulation goes to James Campbell for being named the Best Advocate of the Final Round. This year's competition was the first to feature the newly renovated court room, which allowed

the competition to be recorded on DVD and Sonic Foundry. BOA would also like to thank the supporters of the Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition, the competitors and volunteers, and the local attorneys, judges and law school staff that dedicated their time to promote advocacy.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

In Honor of Domestic Violence Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness month, the **Women's Law Association (WLA)** will have an information table in the Law Classroom building on **Wednesday, October 18**, from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Support the cause and buy a t-shirt. WLA will donate \$1 from each sale to breast cancer research. WLA's third general meeting is **October 19th** at **noon** in the **Alumni Room**. Also, please join us at **251 Lovera Blvd.** at **6:00 p.m. the same day** and **BYOP** (bring your own pumpkin). Prizes will be awarded to the scariest, funniest, and most creative pumpkin.

The **St. Thomas More Society** will hold a general meeting on **Wednesday, October 18** from **2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library. Anyone interested in living out their Catholic faith in the context of legal study and practice is encouraged to attend. We will outline this year's activities, discuss upcoming speakers and events, and prepare for next week's Red Mass. For more information, please write to Jason Petty at jpetty@stmarytx.edu. Lunch will be provided.

Roe v. Wade and *Doe v. Bolton* – 33 years later: Why the Supreme Court Should Reconsider its Rulings. The **Christian Legal Society** and the **Federalist Society** will be hosting this **brown bag** discussion with Linda Schlueter of the Justice Foundation. She will cover the background of these cases and discuss the legal arguments to overturn them. Additionally, the assumptions made by the Supreme Court as compared to the real life experiences of post-abortive women will be presented, including a video excerpt of Sandra Cano's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sandra Cano is "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton*. Current legal efforts at the state, federal and international levels to warn women of the physical and psychological risk of abortion will also be presented. Please **join us** for this **informative discussion at noon** on **Friday, October 20, 2006** in the **Alumni Room**. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

The **Black Law Students Association** will meet **Friday, October 27th** at **3:30 p.m.** in the **Atrium** of the Law Administration building. There will be guest speakers, food, and door prizes. BLSA t-shirts are available for a \$20 donation.

NEW DATE FOR FLU VACCINE

The Student Health Center will be offering the flu vaccine on **Tuesday, October 17, 2006** from **11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** in the **Raba Building**. The \$20 fee may be made payable by cash or check or it may be billed to your student account.

1st ANNUAL STUDENT/ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

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JUDGES' FORUM

San Antonio Black Lawyers Association and the Mexican American Bar Association present the **Judges' Forum** at St. Mary's University School of Law, **Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in Law Classroom 103**. Judicial candidates will be present to speak about why they are running for office. This event is co-promoted by the united minority law students associations at St. Mary's University; Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, and Hispanic Law Student Association.

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ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS

If you are taking the **Winter Bar Review Course**, please be aware of the following information: (i) Invoices and general course information have already been mailed; (ii) **The enrollment/payment deadline is November 1, 2006. A \$75 late fee will be assessed on all accounts with a remaining balance after November 1.** Please either mail your final payment directly to Bar/Bri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing) or pay online at www.barbri.com (You will need your password. If you do not know it, please follow

the instructions to have it emailed to you within 24-hours. Please do not call the office); (iii) If you registered for the course and have not received an invoice, please call Bar/Bri (800) 392-5441 to verify course and/or address information.

1L FINGERPRINTING FOR THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

Fingerprinting for the **1L students** by Identix has been scheduled for **Wednesday and Thursday, November 15 and 16, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day, in the West Lobby (facing Parking Lot D) of the Law Classroom Building.** Law students who filed their Declarations by the October 1st filing deadline will have their names forwarded to Identix by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) staff; students are not eligible to have their prints taken until after they have filed a Declaration and after the BLE has reported their names to Identix.

Fingerprints are now handled through the Fingerprint Application Services of Texas (FAST), which collects and submits fingerprints electronically and eliminates the current process of using ink to transfer fingerprints to a card. Law students will be required to complete the FAST Print Pass, available with the BLE's on-line Declaration package, and bring it with them when they have their prints taken. Each student will be required to pay a fee of \$9.95 by credit card, certified check, or money order at the time the prints are taken. Checks and money orders should be made out to "IIS".

A photo will also be taken of each student and will be forwarded to the Texas DPS by Identix. DPS will keep the photo if the student has a record of any criminal history in Texas. If the student has no record, DPS will not keep the photo.

1L students who are not able to attend either of these group sessions will be responsible for contacting Identix individually to make appointments to have their prints taken at the nearest Identix facility. Likewise, late filers will also be required to contact Identix individually to make appointments to have their prints taken at the nearest Identix facility. Contact information for Identix is 1-888-467-2080, or www.identix.com/iis.

CLASS OF 2007 Graduation Items

The Herff Jones Graduation Center will be on-campus to take orders for **TAMS AND GOWNS** and **GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS** on **WEDNESDAY, November 15, and THURSDAY, November 16, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** in the **ATRIUM, LAW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.** If you are unable to make either of these times, you can contact them directly at 210-829-7393 to place your order.

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

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Mini Boo Bash – All students, faculty and staff and their children are invited to attend the Mini *Boo* Bash to be held in the **Law School Plaza** on **Friday, October 27**, from **4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** Hot dogs will be served along with games provided in a safe and fun environment. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food, fun games and guide the children. Please contact Sister Grace, 436-3063 for more information. This event is sponsored by the SBA and Law Ministry.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

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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 16, 2007**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 9

October 23, 2006

By VMM

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

54th ANNUAL RED MASS

Red Mass will be held on **Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **San Fernando Cathedral**, 115 Main Plaza.

The Most Rev. José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio, will preside and the Most Rev. Patrick J. Zurek, Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, will give the homily. Reflections will be given by The Honorable John Specia, Jr., 225th District Court Judge.

Red Mass is the solemn votive Mass that marks the beginning of the judicial year. Red Mass is celebrated in many cities throughout the country and world. 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 II 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 54 years ago. Participants in the procession will gather outside the Bexar County Courthouse at 5:45 p.m. and will walk to San Fernando Cathedral.

This event is sponsored by St. Mary's University School of Law and the Catholic Lawyers Guild. People of all faiths are welcome to attend. A reception will be held following the Mass at the Plaza Club, 100 W. Houston Street. Please join us!

CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Please join the Center for Terrorism Law's **Distinguished Speaker Series** in welcoming **Dr. Gábor Hamza**, Chair, Professor of the Department of Civil Law at the Eötvös Loránd University School of Law; President of the Civil Law and Comparative Law Section of the Academy of European Law; Advisor and Member of the Commission on European Integration Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament as he speaks on "**International Terrorism and the United Nations.**" Dr. Hamza will focus on the activity the United Nations (UN) has accomplished since September 11, 2001 in order to summarize to what extent repeated critical remarks against alleged incapacity of the UN are well founded or not. In his presentation, Dr. Hamza will make a distinction between treaty law and soft law norms. In the last part of his presentation, he will analyze the impact of the UN activity on the national anti-terrorism legislation in Eastern Europe. **Thursday, October 26, 2006, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Raba Building, LF 102B** (CTL's Seminar Room). Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at 431-2219 or mburnette@stmarytx.edu.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LIBRARY PHOTOCOPIERS

The library staff is in the process of adopting new photocopiers to lease. Are you happy with the features of the current copiers? Are there particular features you would like to see in the new copiers? All comments and suggestions are welcome. Please see Elizabeth Cadena or email ecadena@stmarytx.edu.

SBA ELECTION RESULTS ABA Representative-Elect

Congratulations to **Derek Hilley** as the new ABA Rep-Elect for the Student Bar Association. Thank you to all the candidates, students, volunteers and professors that supported the election process. The SBA looks forward to the Spring semester when we will have the Executive elections and general Senate elections.

EXAM SOFT

If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please visit www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw to download the latest version on your laptop.

If you are a first time user of Exam Soft, please go to the above website and click on the Exam Takers icon located on the bottom of the page. **All users, first time or not**, will need to click on the New User Signup icon. After your information has been placed into the required fields, you can then download the latest copy of Soft Test onto your laptop. Please download this newer version of Soft Test. If you currently have an older version of Exam Soft on your system,

you may remove the old program by clicking on their ADD/REMOVE icon located in the control panel prior to installation of the current version.

Apple users can now take their exams using Exam Soft. You must already have installed Windows on your Apple system. This is only possible with Apples running Intel Core Processors. **If you do not have Windows running on the day of the exam, you will not be able to use Exam Soft at the time of your final.** If you require additional information on how to download your copy of Boot Camp Windows for Apple computers, please visit <http://www.apple.com/macosex/bootcamp> for additional information.

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WIRELESS INTERNET

Please note that Network Technology Services (NTS) will be disconnecting the wireless internet in the classrooms between **October 23** and **October 31** in order to accommodate closed book **midterm exams**.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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MOSQUITOS AROUND THE LAW LIBRARY

Students have expressed increasing concern regarding the mosquitos between the Law Library and Classroom Buildings. The SBA Physical Plant Committee and the University Physical Plant Department are working together to eradicate these problem areas starting Friday, October 13 and in the coming weeks. Please let us know how we are progressing. We are also working on expanding our current recycling program to be more accessible to students. Please let us know your thoughts on these programs and suggest new ones at www.stmarytxsba.com.

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The **Federalist Society** will host **Doug Bandow**, Vice President of Policy for *Citizen Outreach* and former Senior Fellow at the *Cato Institute*, for a discussion on **Civil Liberties and National Security**. A question and answer session will follow his speech. This event is open to all. For more information about the Federalist Society, go to www.fed-soc.org or visit our TWEN site. **Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 4:30 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**.

The **Public Interest Law Association** will hold a general meeting on **Wednesday, October 25, 2006** from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the Law Administration building **Atrium**. The guest speaker will be **Ms. Leticia Cantu** from the Attorney General's Office: Child Support Division. Food and refreshments will be provided.

The **Black Law Students Association** will meet **Friday, October 27th** at **3:30 p.m.** in the **Atrium** of the Law Administration building. There will be guest speakers, food, and door prizes. BLSA t-shirts are available for a \$20 donation.

JUDGES' FORUM

San Antonio Black Lawyers Association and the Mexican American Bar Association present the **Judges' Forum** at St. Mary's University School of Law, **Wednesday, October 25, 2006** at **6:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 103**. Judicial candidates will be present to speak about why they are running for office. This event is co-promoted by the united minority law students associations at St. Mary's University; Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, and Hispanic Law Student Association.

DALLAS ALUMNI STUDENT CHAPTER

Want to work in the Dallas/ Ft. Worth Area? This is a great Dallas networking opportunity! Get to know St. Mary's Law School Alums in Dallas. **The Dallas Alumni Student Chapter is having a joint happy hour with the Dallas Alumni Chapter in Dallas on Friday, October 27, 2006.** This is a great opportunity to network with Dallas area alums and meet people who are interested in working in the greater north Texas area.

In order to attend, make sure you are a member of the DASC and that you are current on your 2006-2007 school year dues. If interested, please contact Joy Meadows, Networking Chair, at jmherin@yahoo.com or pick up a membership form from our bulletin board in the Law Classroom Building.

Friday, October 27, 2006, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., Republic Restaurant & Bar (on the corner of McKinney and Hall), 2922 N. Hall Street, Dallas, TX 75204. Valet parking is available as well as free garage parking across the street on Hall, just east of McKinney. Hope to see you there!

ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS

If you are taking the **Winter Bar Review Course**, please be aware of the following information: (i) Invoices and general course information have already been mailed; (ii) **The enrollment/payment deadline is November 1, 2006. A \$75 late fee will be assessed on all accounts with a remaining balance after November 1.** Please either mail your final payment directly to Bar/Bri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing) or pay online at www.barbri.com (You will need your password. If you do not know it, please follow the instructions to have it emailed to you within 24-hours. Please do not call the office); (iii) If you registered for the course and have not received an invoice, please call Bar/Bri (800) 392-5441 to verify course and/or address information.

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UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Mini Boo Bash – All students, faculty and staff and their children are invited to attend the *Mini Boo Bash* to be held in the **Law School Plaza** on **Friday, October 27, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** Hot dogs will be served along with games provided in a safe and fun environment. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food, fun games and guide the children. Please contact Sister Grace, 436-3063 for more information. This event is sponsored by the SBA and Law Ministry.

All Saints' Day Mass – Holy Day of Obligation will be held on **Wednesday, November 1, 2006, 10:20 a.m. to 11:25 a.m., Treadaway Hall Guadalupe Chapel.**

Feast of All Souls Mass – Law School Ministry will remember and pray for our family and friends who have gone before us. **November 2, 2006 12:00 noon, Raba building.** Fr. Richard Wosman, S.M. will be the homilist. A light lunch will be served following Mass.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

RCIA - Inquiry sessions for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) are in full swing, in the University Ministry living room on Sunday's at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us – to refresh your faith or to complete or receive the Sacraments of Initiation, please call Carol Hewson at (210) 436-3065 or email at chewson@stmarytx.edu for more information.

LOST AND FOUND

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office so the item may be united with the true owner. Items **found** in the **library** may be turned into the Circulation Desk.

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WRITING COMPETITION, 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 **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice**, a continuation of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal invites students and public interest practitioners of all disciplines to submit articles for consideration. The article selected for the award will be published in Spring 2007 and its author will receive \$500. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2006**. Please email bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

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 2007 meeting of the College. Entries for the award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before December 1, 2006. 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 Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, *Uniform Activities*. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 10

October 30, 2006

By VMM

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

RICHARD GOLDSTONE TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Former South African Constitutional Court Justice **Richard Goldstone** will speak on “The Future of International Criminal Justice” at **noon** on **Monday, November 6th** in the **Alumni Room** of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

Goldstone, a global visiting professor of law at New York University School of Law and chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, was the Distinguished Visiting Jurist at the St. Mary’s University Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria in the summer of 2005. Please join us.

2006 MOOT COURT COMPETITION Sponsored by the Federal Bar Association Presented by the Board of Advocates

The **Board of Advocates** (BOA) would like to **congratulate** the winners of the **2006 Moot Court Competition – Andrew Svor and Dawn Eminson**. We would also like to congratulate the runner-up team of **Ian Crawford and Carolyn Katz**. A special congratulation goes to **Ian Crawford** for being named the Best Advocate of the Final Round. This year’s competition was the third to feature the newly renovated court room, which allowed the competition to be recorded on DVD and Sonic Foundry. Currently, students can find a recording of the 2006 Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition on Docushare, and we anticipate that a recording of the 2006 Moot Court Competition will also be available shortly. BOA would also like to thank the **Federal Bar Association** for their generous support, the competitors and volunteers, and the local attorneys, judges and law school staff who dedicated their time to promote advocacy.

WOMEN'S LAW ASSOCIATION SILENT AUCTION

The **Women's Law Association** will be hosting its annual Silent Auction on **Thursday, November 2, 2006**, from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library. Proceeds from this year's auction will be donated to the Healy Murphy Center which provides alternative education for youths in crisis. Show your support by bidding on lunches/dinners with professors, gift baskets, gift vouchers, movie passes, a Westin La Cantera package, golf rounds, hunting trips, sporting event tickets, jewelry, home décor and much more!! Contact Sharon Chu (schu@stmarytx.edu) to make a donation or for more information.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Phi Alpha Delta and the **Student Bar Association** invite you to **"Support our Troops."** We are adopting a local marine recognition unit stationed in Iraq, to provide them with little comforts from home that they do not have access to in Iraq. There is no political motivation behind what we are doing; we are simply showing Americans like you and me that we are thinking about them and praying for their safe return. Here are examples of items that would brighten any soldiers day: magazines (no racy publications; they are stationed in an Islamic country), board or card games, lip balm, powdered drinks (lemonade, Kool-aid, hot chocolate, etc.), gum or hard candy (chocolate will melt in the desert), and beef jerky. We will also be accepting cash donations, which will be put directly towards providing little comforts to our troops abroad and covering the mailing expenses. There will be a table set up in the **Law Classroom building** the week of **October 30th** from **8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

2006 NEGOTIATIONS COMPETITION

Sponsored by Ceasefire
Presented by the Board of Advocates

The **Board of Advocates (BOA)** would like to **announce** that the **2006 Negotiations Competition**, which is sponsored by Ceasefire, will begin on **Monday, November 6th**. Preliminary rounds will begin Monday, November 13th and culminate in a final round on Wednesday, November 15th. The winning team will receive a \$750 prize, and the second place team will receive a \$250 prize. This year's competition is open to all 2L and 3L students in good academic standing, and 1Ls are encouraged to participate as volunteers. Please sign-up at the BOA table in the **foyer** of the **Law Classroom Building** from October 30th until November 3rd.

SAVE DARFUR

STMU's **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)** is joining chapters around the world in observing an International Day of Service, **November 9, 2006**. BLSA encourages members, and St. Mary's School of Law students and faculty to wear red on that Thursday in a sign of unity as the organization supports the launch of an educational and service campaign in recognition of those who have fallen victim to genocide in Darfur, Sudan. BLSA members will take

photographs of this visual display of support and will submit those pictures for publication by the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). Awareness efforts across the country include video presentations, legislative advocacy efforts, and letters to the editors of various newspapers urging increased coverage of the ongoing genocide in Darfur. Information on how you can support the effort will be available on November 9, or, you may contact STMU BLSA President, Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu for further information.

SPRING 2007 COURSE CHANGES

Spring 2007 **course changes** for 3L and 2L's will take place **November 16-17** from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on a first come first served basis. Completed forms should be turned in to Ms. Bebe Gonzales, LAB 105. Course change forms may not be faxed. Course change forms are available online and can be downloaded from <http://law.stmarytx.edu> click "Class & Exam Schedule." Changes may be verified on ATROX. Contact Catherine Mery at cmery@stmarytx.edu with any questions. Spring 2007 schedules for both upper level and first year classes are now available on the law school website at www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=stud_sched.

NEW COURSE ON COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

A new two-credit, graded course, entitled "Advanced Trial Advocacy: Courtroom Technology" will be offered for the first time in the Spring semester. This course is designed to familiarize students with emerging technology and how it can be used, and not used, in trial presentations. Students will learn how to use effectively equipment and software such as document cameras, video conferencing (for taking testimony from remote locations), DVD's, VCR's, digital cameras, "white boards", Powerpoint, and trial presentation software. The course will also address the strategy and tactics of using, or not using, technology in the courtroom. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite for the course. The course will be taught by Professor Schlueter and Judge John Specia. If you have any questions about the course, please contact Professor Schlueter.

2006 INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES

Students who participated in the 2006 Innsbruck program may obtain certificate of participation from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. Certificates that are not claimed will be mailed at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Buckley at 431-6878, or Professor Ariens at 431-2009.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Karla Pascarella, J.D. '01, Associate with Dunn & Lindberg, L.L.P. as she discusses experiences in International Commercial Litigation. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. **Thursday,**

November 9, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Townsend at paul.m.townsend@gmail.com.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LIBRARY PHOTOCOPIERS

The library staff is in the process of adopting new photocopiers to lease. Are you happy with the features of the current copiers? Are there particular features you would like to see in the new copiers? All comments and suggestions are welcome. Please see Elizabeth Cadena or email her at ecadena@stmarytx.edu.

SBA ELECTION RESULTS ABA Representative-Elect

Congratulations to **Derek Hilley** as the new ABA Rep-Elect for the Student Bar Association. Thank you to all the candidates, students, volunteers and professors that supported the election process. The SBA looks forward to the Spring semester when we will have the Executive elections and general Senate elections.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 11

November 6, 2006

By VMM

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INNSBRUCK INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Thursday, November 9, 2006**, at **12:00 noon** in **LCB 104**, co-directors Professors Michael Ariens and Mark Cochran will present information concerning the 2007 Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria, which will be held from July 2 - August 3, 2007. This year’s distinguished visiting jurist will be Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, who will be making his third visit to the Innsbruck program. Justice Scalia is an outstanding teacher, and will be at the program for its first two weeks. Profs. Ariens and Cochran will discuss financing your trip, travel to and from Europe and travel within Europe, and will discuss the benefits of taking advantage of this opportunity.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Student Bar Association** would like to congratulate the winners of the annual **Battle of the Rattles** 1L competition and the winners of the Halloween Party Costume contest. Congratulations to Section C for winning the Battle of the Rattles! Wear your Champion shirts with pride! Halloween Party Costume contest winners are as follow:

Couple: Papa Smurf & Smurfette – **Kathy Thomas** and **Luke Alsobrook**

Group: The Taliban – **Britton Brooks, Robert Almonte, David Munoz** and **Ryan Floyd**

Scariest: Fred Flintstone – **Kelly Dawson**

Most Creative: **Kelly Pittl** as Taylor Hicks

Funniest: **Amos Pardo** as Richard Simmons

Sexiest: **Kim Phillips** – Stewardess

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Karla Pascarella, J.D. '01, Associate with Dunn & Lindberg, L.L.P. as she discusses experiences in International Commercial Litigation. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. **Thursday, November 9, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library**. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Townsend at paul.m.townsend@gmail.com.

Phi Alpha Delta Octoberfest - Members of Phi Alpha Delta invite you to come out to Octoberfest on **Thursday, November 9th** at **Fatso's Beer Garden** at **4:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 and include beer and a T-shirt. Proceeds will go to benefit the San Antonio Humane Society. There will be tickets for sale at one of the tables in the LC all week. If you are thinking about joining Phi Alpha Delta, now is the time to do it because members will receive admission at no charge and a free T-shirt. Probst!

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Instructor of Law Roberto Rosas and Mr. Dennis Drake, J.D. '71 as they present a current case involving a conflict with a promissory note (Pagaré) between Mexican and American individuals. Mexican, American and International Law issues will be explored, particularly the Inter-American Convention on Letter Rogatory. The presentation will be held on **Wednesday, November 15, 4:00 p.m., Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library**. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Townsend at paul.m.townsend@gmail.com.

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Professor Rey Valencia** on receiving the **Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio 2006 Legal Professional Award**. The award will be presented to Professor Valencia at their awards dinner on Friday, December 8. Professor Valencia was the recipient of this award in 2004.

SPRING 2007 COURSE CHANGES

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NEW COURSE ON COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

A new two-credit, graded course, entitled "Advanced Trial Advocacy: Courtroom Technology" will be offered for the first time in the Spring semester. This course is designed to familiarize students with emerging technology and how it can be used, and not used, in trial presentations. Students will learn how to use effectively equipment and software such as document cameras, video teleconferencing (for taking testimony from remote locations), DVD's, VCR's, digital cameras, "white boards", Powerpoint, and trial presentation software. The course will also address the strategy and tactics of using, or not using, technology in the courtroom. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite for the course. The course will be taught by Professor Schlueter and

Judge John Specia. If you have any questions about the course, please contact Professor Schlueter.

2006 INNSBRUCK CERTIFICATES

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Apple users can now take their exams using Exam Soft. You must already have installed Windows on your Apple system. This is only possible with Apples running Intel Core Processors. **If you do not have Windows running on the day of the exam, you will not be able to use Exam Soft at the time of your final.** If you require additional information on how to download your copy of Boot Camp Windows for Apple computers, please visit <http://www.apple.com/macosex/bootcamp> for additional information.

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TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

1L FINGERPRINTING FOR THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

Fingerprinting for the **1L students** by Identix has been scheduled for **Wednesday and Thursday, November 15 and 16, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day, in the West Lobby (facing Parking Lot D) of the Law Classroom Building.** Law students who filed their Declarations by the October 1st filing deadline will have their names forwarded to Identix by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) staff; students are not eligible to have their prints taken until after they have filed a Declaration and after the BLE has reported their names to Identix.

Fingerprints are now handled through the Fingerprint Application Services of Texas (FAST), which collects and submits fingerprints electronically and eliminates the current process of using ink to transfer fingerprints to a card. Law students will be required to complete the FAST Print Pass, available with the BLE's on-line Declaration package, and bring it with them when they have their prints taken. Each student will be required to pay a fee of \$9.95 by credit card, certified check, or money order at the time the prints are taken. Checks and money orders should be made out to "IIS".

A photo will also be taken of each student and will be forwarded to the Texas DPS by Identix. DPS will keep the photo if the student has a record of any criminal history in Texas. If the student has no record, DPS will not keep the photo.

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UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

LOST AND FOUND

If you find **lost items** in the Classroom or Raba Buildings, please **take them** to the **SBA office** so the item may be united with the true owner. Items **found** in the **library** may be turned into the Circulation Desk.

SHHH!

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WRITING COMPETITION, 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 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 2007 meeting of the College. Entries for the award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2006**. 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 Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2007 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 5, 2007**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 12

November 13, 2006

By VMM

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

THANK YOU

Phil Alpha Delta thanks everyone who contributed cash and items to make the “**Support the Troops**” drive a success. Special thanks to Assistant Dean Al Hartman and the Alumni Board for their contributions and support.

FLU SHOT DRIVE

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Raba Building

\$20

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA)** will be holding the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) Moot Court team tryouts on **Tuesday, November 14, 2006**. Tryouts will be held in room 106, Law Library Media Room at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Arianna Garcia (stmu_hlsa@hotmail.com) for a packet. Moot court team requirements are as follow:

- Paid member of HLSA - if you are not a member, you may pay your dues at tryouts.
- 2L or 3L
- Submit a writing sample
- Present oral arguments

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Instructor of Law Roberto Rosas and Mr. Dennis Drake, J.D. '71 as they present a current case involving a conflict with a promissory note (Pagaré) between Mexican and American individuals. Mexican, American and International Law issues will be explored, particularly the Inter-American Convention on Letter Rogatory. The presentation will be held on **Wednesday, November 15, 4:00 p.m., Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library**. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Townsend at paul.m.townsend@gmail.com.

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Professor Gerald Reamey as he presents "The Winding Road from Nuremberg to The Hague: How America Became Estranged From its Own Creation in the Pursuit of International Criminal Justice." A question and answer session will follow the presentation on **Thursday, November 16, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Alumni Room, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library**. Please contact Paul Townsend at paul.m.townsend@gmail.com for more information.

The **Black Law Students Association** invites everyone, especially 1Ls to participate in the upcoming meeting on **Friday, November 17, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Atrium**. The focus of the November meeting is exam preparation, study tips and tools, and general test-taking advice. You can also learn more about the end-of-semester fundraiser featuring a CASH PRIZE to be awarded the first week of December. Proceeds will benefit the Books for BLSA Scholarship campaign. Contact Deforest Sessoms for more information at deforest.sessoms@gmail.com.

LIBRARY SECURITY

Although the security in the Library has improved in the last few months, it is still important to be vigilant about theft. Everyone is strongly urged to follow the "best practices" as outlined below:

- Do not leave personal property (books, laptops, etc.) unattended whether you study in your carrel or at a table. If you need to be away from study for a short

- while, ask someone you trust to watch your items.
- Lock up personal property in your carrel's file cabinet when you go to class or if you leave for the day.
 - Place unique marks (name, symbol, and so forth) on certain pages of personal books so that they can be easily identified if stolen.
 - Report suspicious persons or activities to the library staff or campus Police immediately at 436-3472.

**THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER
ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION
(For St. Mary's Law Students)**

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle.

Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006 Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

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UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

November Retreat – The Red Tent Experience – A Woman's Retreat, **November 17-19, 2006**. For all the women of St. Mary's students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and family. You are invited to register for this event as we examine how we are called to be women of faith. For more information, please contact University Ministry at 436-3213.

Thanksgiving – Law school students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate and pray for finals, bar prep and world peace on **Monday, November 20th, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Law**

Library Alumni Room. This event is sponsored by Law Ministry, the Christian Legal Society and St. Thomas More Society.

Donations for Needy Families – Donations are needed to assist families served by the Legal and Social Justice clinic for this coming Thanksgiving Holiday. We ask for canned goods, gift certificates, individual food baskets or group food baskets. All student groups are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I. at 436-3063 or Mary Mendez at 431-5702.

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University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, together with their co-sponsors, Dreyer, Babich, Buccola & Callahan, LLP, the ABA Section of Litigation, and the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court announce the second annual National Ethics Trial Competition to be held on March 15-17, 2007. Applications must be received by **December 1, 2006**. Applications are available online at www.mcgeorge.edu/ethics.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 13

November 20, 2006

By VMM

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LIBRARY HOURS AT THANKSGIVING

The **Sarita Kenedy East Law Library** will operate on special hours during the Thanksgiving Holiday. The schedule is listed below. The library staff wish everyone a great holiday!

Wednesday, November 22, 2006	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 23, 2006	Closed
Friday, November 24, 2006	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 25, 2006	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 26, 2006	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT by Associate Dean Victoria Mather and the Law School Honor Court Justices

Lawyers in practice are subject to professional discipline (e.g., reprimand, suspension, or disbarment) if they engage in misconduct. The same is true of law students at St. Mary's. The entire Code of Student Conduct is available on the website at http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2006_2007/StudentHandbook2006_2007.pdf

The Handbook defines academic misconduct as follows:

(a) An academic matter is any activity which may offer or in any way contribute to the satisfaction of requirements for graduation. Academic matters include, but are not limited to, examinations, research, or other class assignments.

(b) It is a violation of the Code for any student to engage in conduct which tends to gain that student or another unfair advantage in an academic matter. The following applications of this rule, offered to assist students in understanding the obligations imposed, are illustrative, not exhaustive.

1. In an examination, a student shall follow all instructions concerning its administration, shall not use any materials other than those specifically authorized by the professor, and shall not converse or communicate with any person(s) other than the person(s) administering the exam.
2. In research or other writing assignments, a student shall not use materials specifically forbidden by the instructor and must fairly identify passages or ideas from the work of others. The student shall make attribution by proper use of quotation marks, citations, or other forms of reference.
3. A student shall not submit or have submitted as his or her own, the work of another. Nor, except by permission of the instructor after full disclosure, shall a student submit in fulfillment of an assignment any work prepared, used, or submitted in another course or for a law journal, clinic, law firm, government agency, or any other organization.
4. A student shall not hide, mutilate, deface, or remove, without permission, library materials or the materials of another student.
5. A student shall not breach the security maintained for the preparation and storage of exam materials. If a student learns, even inadvertently, of information concerning an examination, other than that released or authorized by the professor, the student must notify the professor and shall not take the examination without the professor's permission.
6. A student shall not discuss an examination he or she has already taken with a student scheduled to take a deferred examination in the same course or with any other person under circumstances likely to endanger the security of examination questions.
7. During the course of and prior to the completion of any examination, research, or other assignment, a student shall not provide to, compare with, or obtain from another student any answer or part of an answer, unless authorized by the professor.

As finals approach, the Honor Court Justices would like to remind all students not to put themselves in a position in which they could be considered cheating or violating the Honor Code. Please be mindful of these provisions as you enter exam season.

PLAGIARISM
by Associate Dean Victoria Mather
and the Law School Honor Court Justices

At a meeting with Texas law school deans, the Texas Board of Law Examiners made clear that they regard plagiarism as theft, and that they will expect law schools to address seriously any allegation of plagiarism in a law school course. The Board also made clear that they will exercise *de novo* review with respect to any charge of plagiarism; even if the law school has determined that the student in question was not guilty. Consequently, the only advisable course for a student writing a paper or law journal comment is to observe such a high standard of conduct that no one would ever allege that plagiarism was committed. Otherwise, it is likely that the student in question would face both an investigation by the law school and a second investigation by the Texas Board of Law Examiners Character and Fitness Committee. Play it safe!

NO CELL PHONES DURING EXAMS

“During a non-take-home examination, a student may not use a cell phone without express permission from the professor administering the examination or the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.”

NOISE REDUCTION IN THE LIBRARY

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2. Lock up personal property in your carrel’s file cabinet when you go to class or if you leave for the day.
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4. Report suspicious persons or activities to the library staff or campus Police immediately at 436-3472.

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If you are a first time user of Exam Soft, please go to the above website and click on the Exam Takers icon located on the bottom of the page. **All users, first time or not**, will need to click on the New User Signup icon. After your information has been placed into the required fields, you can then download the latest copy of Soft Test onto your laptop. Please download this newer version of Soft Test. If you currently have an older version of Exam Soft on your system, you may remove the old program by clicking on their ADD/REMOVE icon located in the control panel prior to installation of the current version.

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UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Thanksgiving – Law school students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate and pray for finals, bar prep and world peace on **Monday, November 20th, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Law Library Alumni Room.** This event is sponsored by Law Ministry, the Christian Legal Society and St. Thomas More Society.

Donations for Needy Families – Donations are needed to assist families served by the Legal and Social Justice clinic for this coming Thanksgiving Holiday. We ask for canned goods, gift certificates, individual food baskets or group food baskets. All student groups are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I. at 436-3063 or Mary Mendez at 431-5702.

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The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is pleased to announce the **William J. Pierce** Writing Contest. The winning article, note, or comment will receive a prize of \$500, and will be eligible for publication in the NCCUSL quarterly newsletter, *Uniform Activities*. Other exceptional articles will also be considered for publication in the newsletter. Topic may be any article, note, or comment that addresses a uniform or model act, or an issue arising from a uniform act or model act promulgated by NCCUSL may be eligible. Entries are due by **December 31, 2006**.

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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, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 14

November 27, 2006

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS

The **Board of Advocates** would like to **congratulate** the Fall 2006 Ceasefire Negotiations Competition winning team of **Steven Fraley** and **Ema Garcia** and finalist team of **Gwen Jacobs** and **R.C. Mosier**. Thank you and all the competitors for your continued support of advocacy at St. Mary's. Our next competition will be the Mock Trial early next semester. Good luck on finals and have a good break!

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT by Associate Dean Victoria Mather and the Law School Honor Court Justices

Lawyers in practice are subject to professional discipline (e.g., reprimand, suspension, or disbarment) if they engage in misconduct. The same is true of law students at St. Mary's. The entire Code of Student Conduct is available on the website at http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2006_2007/StudentHandbook2006_2007.pdf

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- (b) It is a violation of the Code for any student to engage in conduct which tends to gain that student or another unfair advantage in an academic matter. The following applications of this rule, offered to assist students in understanding the obligations

imposed, are illustrative, not exhaustive.

1. In an examination, a student shall follow all instructions concerning its administration, shall not use any materials other than those specifically authorized by the professor, and shall not converse or communicate with any person(s) other than the person(s) administering the exam.
2. In research or other writing assignments, a student shall not use materials specifically forbidden by the instructor and must fairly identify passages or ideas from the work of others. The student shall make attribution by proper use of quotation marks, citations, or other forms of reference.
3. A student shall not submit or have submitted as his or her own, the work of another. Nor, except by permission of the instructor after full disclosure, shall a student submit in fulfillment of an assignment any work prepared, used, or submitted in another course or for a law journal, clinic, law firm, government agency, or any other organization.
4. A student shall not hide, mutilate, deface, or remove, without permission, library materials or the materials of another student.
5. A student shall not breach the security maintained for the preparation and storage of exam materials. If a student learns, even inadvertently, of information concerning an examination, other than that released or authorized by the professor, the student must notify the professor and shall not take the examination without the professor's permission.
6. A student shall not discuss an examination he or she has already taken with a student scheduled to take a deferred examination in the same course or with any other person under circumstances likely to endanger the security of examination questions.
7. During the course of and prior to the completion of any examination, research, or other assignment, a student shall not provide to, compare with, or obtain from another student any answer or part of an answer, unless authorized by the professor.

As finals approach, the Honor Court Justices would like to remind all students not to put themselves in a position in which they could be considered cheating or violating the Honor Code. Please be mindful of these provisions as you enter exam season.

PLAGIARISM
by Associate Dean Victoria Mather
and the Law School Honor Court Justices

At a meeting with Texas law school deans, the Texas Board of Law Examiners made clear that they regard plagiarism as theft, and that they will expect law schools to address seriously any allegation of plagiarism in a law school course. The Board also made clear that they will exercise *de novo* review with respect to any charge of plagiarism; even if the law school has determined that the student in question was not guilty. Consequently, the only advisable course for a student writing a paper or law journal comment is to observe such a high standard of conduct that no one would ever allege that plagiarism was committed. Otherwise, it is likely that the student in question would face both an investigation by the law school and a second investigation by the Texas Board of Law Examiners Character and Fitness Committee. Play it safe!

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 15

December 04, 2006

By VMM

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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 “[Semester] 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 431-4357) to correct the problem. The use of an incorrect exam number on a final exam 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 2006 Grades

The deadline for submission of grades by faculty members is one month after the final exam of the semester. For the Fall 2006 Semester, the grading deadline for the faculty is Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 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 2006-07*, pages 23 - 24) 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 “[Semester] Course Schedule”. Because the University is closed for the Christmas Break from December 22, 2006, through January 1, 2007, no Fall 2006 grades will be posted until the University reopens on January 2, 2007. Grades will be posted as they are received from the professors and processed by the Director of Student Records.

FACULTY KUDOS

Kudos to faculty members Bernard D. Reams, Jr. And Michael P. Forrest, on publishing *Intelligence Reform: A Legislative History of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, Public Law No. 108-458 (2004)*. Volume 1, Documents 1-9.

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2. In research or other writing assignments, a student shall not use materials specifically forbidden by the instructor and must fairly identify passages or ideas from the work of others. The student shall make attribution by proper use of quotation marks, citations, or other forms of reference.

3. A student shall not submit or have submitted as his or her own, the work of another. Nor, except by permission of the instructor after full disclosure, shall a student submit in fulfillment of an assignment any work prepared, used, or submitted in another course or for a law journal, clinic, law firm, government agency, or any other organization.

4. A student shall not hide, mutilate, deface, or remove, without permission,

library materials or the materials of another student.

5. A student shall not breach the security maintained for the preparation and storage of exam materials. If a student learns, even inadvertently, of information concerning an examination, other than that released or authorized by the professor, the student must notify the professor and shall not take the examination without the professor's permission.

6. A student shall not discuss an examination he or she has already taken with a student scheduled to take a deferred examination in the same course or with any other person under circumstances likely to endanger the security of examination questions.

7. During the course of and prior to the completion of any examination, research, or other assignment, a student shall not provide to, compare with, or obtain from another student any answer or part of an answer, unless authorized by the professor.

As finals approach, the Honor Court Justices would like to remind all students not to put themselves in a position in which they could be considered cheating or violating the Honor Code. Please be mindful of these provisions as you enter exam season.

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At a meeting with Texas law school deans, the Texas Board of Law Examiners made clear that they regard plagiarism as theft, and that they will expect law schools to address seriously any allegation of plagiarism in a law school course. The Board also made clear that they will exercise *de novo* review with respect to any charge of plagiarism; even if the law school has determined that the student in question was not guilty. Consequently, the only advisable course for a student writing a paper or law journal comment is to observe such a high standard of conduct that no one would ever allege that plagiarism was committed. Otherwise, it is likely that the student in question would face both an investigation by the law school and a second investigation by the Texas Board of Law Examiners Character and Fitness Committee. Play it safe!

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NOISE REDUCTION IN THE LIBRARY

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NEW COURSE ON COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

A new two-credit, graded course, entitled “Advanced Trial Advocacy: Courtroom Technology” will be offered for the first time in the Spring semester. This course is designed to familiarize students with emerging technology and how it can be used, and not used, in trial presentations. Students will learn how to use effectively equipment and software such as document cameras, video teleconferencing (for taking testimony from remote locations), DVD’s, VCR’s, digital cameras, “white boards”, Powerpoint, and trial presentation software. The course will also address the strategy and tactics of using, or not using, technology in the courtroom. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite for the course. The course will be taught by Professor Schlueter and Judge John Specia. If you have any questions about the course, please contact Professor Schlueter.

LIBRARY SECURITY

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1. Do not leave personal property (books, laptops, etc.) unattended whether you study in your carrel or at a table. If you need to be away from study for a short while, ask someone you trust to watch your items.
2. Lock up personal property in your carrel’s file cabinet when you go to class or if you leave for the day.
3. Place unique marks (name, symbol, and so forth) on certain pages of personal books so that they can be easily identified if stolen.
4. Report suspicious persons or activities to the library staff or campus Police immediately at 436-3472.

**THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER
ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION
(For St. Mary's Law Students)**

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle.

Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006 Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

EXAM SOFT

If you will be using Exam Soft during finals, please visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw to download the latest version on your laptop.

If you are a first time user of Exam Soft, please go to the above website and click on the Exam Takers icon located on the bottom of the page. **All users, first time or not**, will need to click on the New User Signup icon. After your information has been placed into the required fields, you can then download the latest copy of Soft Test onto your laptop. Please download this newer version of Soft Test. If you currently have an older version of Exam Soft on your system, you may remove the old program by clicking on their ADD/REMOVE icon located in the control panel prior to installation of the current version.

Apple users can now take their exams using Exam Soft. You must already have installed Windows on your Apple system. This is only possible with Apples running Intel Core Processors. **If you do not have Windows running on the day of the exam, you will not be able to use Exam Soft at the time of your final.** If you require additional information on how to download your copy of Boot Camp Windows for Apple computers, please visit <http://www.apple.com/macosx/bootcamp> for additional information.

Finally, all students who use USB flash devices will need to remove or delete all data stored in the device before the exam day. Flash devices must be free of any data. **All USB's that contain data will not be processed.**

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

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Donations for Needy Families – Donations are needed to assist families served by the Legal and Social Justice clinic for the Christmas season. We ask for canned goods, gift certificates, individual food baskets or group food baskets. All student groups are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I. at 436-3063 or Mary Mendez at 431-5702.

Completion of Legal Studies - All family, friends and classmates are invited to attend the ceremony for the December Completion of Legal Studies to be held on **Friday, December 15, 2006** in the Raba building. The ceremony will **begin at 4:00 p.m.** and will include remarks from Dean Bill Piatt and Judge John Specia, J.D.'75; The welcome address will be given by a member of the Law Alumni Association; Reflections will be offered by Ms. Sarah R. Tasker, a third-year law student; "Roll Call" of students who are finishing their studies will be announced; a Blessing will be given followed by the reception. The formal commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2007. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

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Habitat for Humanity – Plan ahead for “Spring Break 2007.” Join us for Habitat for Humanity the week of **March 12-15, 2007** in Taos, New Mexico. Habitat for Humanity in Taos, New Mexico offers a unique building experience as we build with vigas and adobe, a traditional southwestern style of architecture. Students build homes and have fun while working to further the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Most food costs will be provided. Contact Mike Forrest, 436-3512 or Mike Martinez, 436-3435 ext. 1374 for more information. Sponsored by Law Ministry and Dean Bill Piatt.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary’s undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

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The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) presents its 2007 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 5, 2007**.

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Southern Trial Lawyers Association is sponsoring a prize essay contest of \$2,000 to any student that wins the contest, for the best essay on the subject, “The Value of the Civil Justice System.” Deadline for submission is **January 15, 2007**.

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 16, 2007**.

The 2007 Annual **LatCrit Student Scholar Program**, in partnership with the University of California – Berkley School of Law (Boalt Hall) 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, January 26, 2007**.

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, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 16

December 11, 2006

By VMM

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

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be held on **Tuesday, December 12, 2006** from **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** at the **St. Mary's Center For Legal and Social Justice** Clinic (CLSJ). The Reverend Charles "Kip" Stander will preside. Music and lunch will follow. The CLSJ is located near the corner of 36th Street and Woodlawn Avenue. The Santa Maria Justice Award will be presented to the individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of legal and social justice. Everyone is welcome!

COMPLETION OF LEGAL STUDIES

You are cordially invited to join friends and family of the *December 2006 Law Graduates* at a ceremony and reception for the Completion of Legal Studies. **Friday, December 15, 2006** in the Raba building. The ceremony will **begin at 4:00 p.m.** and will include remarks from Dean Bill Piatt and Judge John Specia, J.D.'75; The welcome address will be given by a member of the Law Alumni Association; Reflections will be offered by Ms. Sarah R. Tasker, a third-year law student; "Roll Call" of students who are finishing their studies will be announced; a Blessing will be given followed by the reception. The formal commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2007. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

MICROFORM COLLECTION AT THE LAW LIBRARY: A GOLD MINE

The Law Library has a substantial collection of materials of all sorts on microfiche or microfilm. Examples of the collection include 19th Century Legal Treatises, Texas Supreme Court Papers and Briefs, Public Papers of Presidents of the U.S., Code of Federal Regulations,

Congressional Record, Federal Register, and old *State Session Laws*. In fact, the microform collection is the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of book volumes. In the past year, the library staff has worked hard to catalog, update and reorganize this collection to make it accessible. We have compiled multiple lists to assist you as you use this resource. Copies of a short list of the major titles in the collection are available in the display rack across from the Circulation Desk. All the librarians will be happy to assist you.

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 “[Semester] 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 431-4357) to correct the problem. The use of an incorrect exam number on a final exam 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 2006 Grades

The deadline for submission of grades by faculty members is one month after the final exam of the semester. For the Fall 2006 Semester, the grading deadline for the faculty is Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 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 2006-07*, pages 23 - 24) 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 “[Semester] Course Schedule”. Because the University is closed for the Christmas Break from December 22, 2006, through January 1, 2007, no Fall 2006 grades will be posted until the University reopens on January 2, 2007. Grades will be posted as they are received from the professors and processed by the Director of Student Records.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT **by Associate Dean Victoria Mather** **and the Law School Honor Court Justices**

Lawyers in practice are subject to professional discipline (e.g., reprimand, suspension, or disbarment) if they engage in misconduct. The same is true of law students at St. Mary’s. The entire Code of Student Conduct is available on the website at http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2006_2007/StudentHandbook2006_2007.pdf

The Handbook defines academic misconduct as follows:

(a) An academic matter is any activity which may offer or in any way contribute to the satisfaction of requirements for graduation. Academic matters include, but are not limited to, examinations, research, or other class assignments.

(b) It is a violation of the Code for any student to engage in conduct which tends to gain that student or another unfair advantage in an academic matter. The following applications of this rule, offered to assist students in understanding the obligations imposed, are illustrative, not exhaustive.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 17

January 8, 2007

By VMM

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

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY COMPETITIONS COURSE CREDIT

This past fall semester the faculty approved a new second and third-year course entitled Regional and National Advocacy Competitions. Students selected to compete at EAP Mock Trial, EAP Moot Court, HLSA, and BALSAs competitions are eligible for course credit for satisfactorily competing in a national or regional competition.

To obtain credit the students must have been members of, or brief writers for, a competition team and the teams participation must have been approved by the School of Law. Students may not receive more than one hour of credit in any one semester and total credit for all external advocacy competitions is three (3) hours. To receive credit following a competition, students must present a statement signed by the coach (or faculty advisor) for the competition team and Professor Schlueter, the Director of Advocacy Programs, certifying that the student demonstrated satisfactory practice skills and legal analysis in a competition. Professor Schlueter will inform Ms. Catherine Mery of the satisfactory completion and she will in turn will add the course LW 7196 to the student's current course schedule and will send an email to the student and business office informing them of the course addition.. The student will have the responsibility of paying the necessary tuition for that course, in order to receive credit.

Credit for this course will be based on a pass/fail basis and is subject to the schools rules concerning the maximum number of pass/fail credits that may be counted toward graduation. Participation in a competition does not constitute an excused absence from any other class meeting.

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Law Students who used USB Flash key (memory sticks, jump drive) devices to save exams need to pick up their devices before **January 15, 2007** in the Computer Administration office located downstairs in the Raba building. We have accumulated a large amount of USBs through several semesters and need to clear out the current inventory. Any USBs not picked up by January 15, 2007 will be disposed.

MS. JD AN ONLINE FORUM

Ms. JD is an online forum for women in all arenas of the legal profession. Ms. JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community coordinated by law students for the entire legal community. The site is administered by an advisory board of women law students who represent schools nationwide. The Ms. JD Board of Directors invites you to visit their website, <http://www.ms-jd.org>. In addition, Ms. JD and Yale Law Women are hosting a launch conference for Ms. JD on March 3, 2007 at Yale Law School. More information about the conference is available at <http://www.legallyfemale.org>. For more information please contact outreach@ms-jd.org.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Professor Ariens is looking for two research assistants interested in engaging in legal history research for several projects. He is working on a book on Texas legal history and a book on the history of the American legal profession. You will be expected to work 15 hours per week, and will write short memoranda on many of your assignments. If you are interested, please put your resume in his mailbox or e-mail him at mariens@stmarytx.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
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Tuition is \$95 and the **deadline** for enrollment is **Friday, January 26, 2007**. Students should contact a Bar/Bri representative to enroll in this course— Lorolei Cronin- lcronin@stmarytx.edu; Scott Davis- sdavis3@stmarytx.edu; Ivan Ramirez- iramirez1@stmarytx.edu; Nick Sisoian- nsisoian@stmarytx.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 436-3541 or 436-4340.

MICROFORM COLLECTION AT THE LAW LIBRARY: A GOLD MINE

The Law Library has a substantial collection of materials of all sorts on microfiche or microfilm. Examples of the collection include 19th Century Legal Treatises, Texas Supreme Court Papers and Briefs, Public Papers of Presidents of the U.S., Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Record, Federal Register, and old *State Session Laws*. In fact, the microform collection is the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of book volumes. In the past year, the library staff has worked hard to catalog, update and reorganize this collection to make it accessible. We have compiled multiple lists to assist you as you use this resource. Copies of a short list of the major titles in the collection are available in the display rack across from the Circulation Desk. All the librarians will be happy to assist you.

THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006** Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Continuing The Heritage Service Day - Each semester more than 200 students, faculty and staff work side by side with 18+ nonprofit and charitable organizations from around the city. Volunteers engage in brush pick-up, graffiti cleanup, stocking food pantries, painting, visiting the elderly and sick, etc. Help us reach our goal of 1,000 service hours! Please volunteer your time, talent and energy on **Saturday, January 27, 2007**, 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sign up is easy. The first 300 volunteers will receive a free T-shirt with an original art design by our artist-in-residence, Brother Cletus Behlman, S.M. To register and for information on volunteer site and project descriptions please go online to www.stmarytx.edu/continuingtheheritage.

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

Habitat for Humanity – Plan ahead for “Spring Break 2007.” Join us for Habitat for Humanity the week of **March 12-15, 2007** in Taos, New Mexico. Habitat for Humanity in Taos, New Mexico offers a unique building experience as we build with vigas and adobe, a traditional southwestern style of architecture. Students build homes and have fun while working to further the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Most food costs will be provided. Contact Mike Forrest, 436-3512 or Mike Martinez, 436-3435 ext. 1374 for more information. Sponsored by Law Ministry and Dean Bill Piatt.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

WRITING COMPETITION, 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 & Writing Competition. Twenty-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 25 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2007**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

Southern Trial Lawyers Association is sponsoring an essay contest. This year's prize will be the sum of \$2,000 for the best essay on the subject, "The Value of the Civil Justice System." Deadline for submission is **January 15, 2007**.

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 16, 2007**.

The 2007 Annual **LatCrit Student Scholar Program**, in partnership with the University of California – Berkley School of Law (Boalt Hall) 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, January 26, 2007**.

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, 2007**.

The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original, unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**.

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The 2007 Bert W. Levit Essay Contest, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 16, 2007**. Contest rules and information are posted online at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

Applications for the **ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund** for the 2007-2008 academic year are now being accepted. The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. Twenty awards will be made to entering first-year students and may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during each student's time in law school. The application may be downloaded from <http://www.abanet.org/fje>. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The **Rhode Island Bar Foundation** presents the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is a one year, non-renewable award for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents entering their first year of law school. Deadline for filing the application is **March 6, 2007**. Applications may be picked up in LAB 105.

The **American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)** is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 18

January 22, 2007

By VMM

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FACULTY CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

On **Tuesday, January 23**, Celeste Pagano, a candidate for a **faculty position** at the Law School, will be interviewing on campus. Interested students may meet with her in the **Atrium from 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.** Nick Sisoian, Student Bar Association President, has a copy of her resume.

CONTINUING THE HERITAGE

Everyone is invited to participate in *Continuing The Heritage!* St. Mary's University School of Law is joining *Continuing The Heritage* on **Saturday, January 27, 2007** beginning at **10:00 a.m.** We will assist on this day of service to help refurbish and paint the Center for Legal and Social Justice building. The Center for Legal and Social Justice is located at 2507 N.W. 36th Street. Please volunteer your time, talent and energy on this day. A BBQ social will follow at the end of the workday. This event is co-sponsored by the Student Bar Association, Delta Theta Phi and Law Ministry. For more information, please contact Rachel at (210) 381-4772 or visit www.stmarytx.edu/continuingtheheritage.

LAW SCHOOL COURTROOM DEDICATION SET

Please join Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., president of St. Mary's University, and Bill Piatt, dean of the School of Law, for the Courtroom Dedication Ceremony at **10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2007**. Supreme Court Justice Paul Green, J.D. '77, as well as representatives of the AT&T Foundation, which made a \$300,000 gift to the courtroom project, will be on hand to formally dedicate the new facility. Professor David Schlueter and several law students will give a demonstration of the courtroom's technological capabilities. A reception will follow in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

The next Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic will be held on **February 8, 2007** at a new location, **St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 535 New Laredo Highway, San Antonio, 78211**. This is a great opportunity for us to put into practice what we've been learning in class and work with those who cannot afford an attorney. As student volunteers, we will prepare notes about the client's legal problem, discuss with volunteer attorneys, then explain the advice to the client. This is also a great way to gain pro bono hours, which can allow you to earn the special "pro bono certification" upon graduation. The clinic runs from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers should arrive at **5:30 p.m.** for a quick run-through and refreshments. For more information and to sign-up, please email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Christian Legal Society** meets weekly on Friday's in the Atrium at noon. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

The **Federalist Society** will host J. David Breemer of the Pacific Legal Foundation to speak on the topic of Property Rights & The Texas Open Beaches Act. The presentation will begin at **5:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, January 24th** in the **Alumni Room**. Pizza and sodas will be available. This event is open to members and non-members alike.

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The **Rhode Island Bar Foundation** presents the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is a one year, non-renewable award for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents entering their first year of law school. Deadline for filing the application is **March 6, 2007**. Applications may be picked up in LAB 105.

The **American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)** is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 19

January 29, 2007

By VMM

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

JULY 2007 BAR FILING DEADLINE

The **deadline** for filing an application to take the July 2007 Texas Bar Exam is **January 30, 2007**. The filing fee is \$300 (\$150 application fee + \$75 examination fee + \$75 investigation fee). A late filing fee of an additional \$150 is imposed on any application filed after the January 30, 2007 deadline but prior to the absolute deadline of March 30, 2007. Copies of the application are available online at www.ble.state.tx.us.

LAW SCHOOL COURTROOM DEDICATION SET

Please join Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., president of St. Mary's University, and Bill Piatt, dean of the School of Law, for the Courtroom Dedication Ceremony at **10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2007**. Supreme Court Justice Paul Green, J.D. '77, as well as representatives of the AT&T Foundation, which made a \$300,000 gift to the courtroom project, will be on hand to formally dedicate the new facility. Professor David Schlueter and several law students will give a demonstration of the courtroom's technological capabilities. A reception will follow in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

The thirteenth annual **People's Law School** will be held **Saturday, February 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** The People's Law School is a free public seminar featuring local attorneys who are experts in their fields. This year's agenda includes presentations in Elder Law, Family Law and Business Law. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., St. Mary's University School of Law, Law Classroom Building. This event is co-sponsored by the San Antonio Bar Foundation and St. Mary's University School of Law. Volunteers are needed for set up, as well as before, during and after the event. For more information please contact Andrea Koch at akoch@stmarytx.edu.

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

The next Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic will be held on **February 8, 2007** at a new location, **St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 535 New Laredo Highway, San Antonio, 78211**. This is a great opportunity for us to put into practice what we've been learning in class and work with those who cannot afford an attorney. As student volunteers, we will prepare notes about the client's legal problem, discuss with volunteer attorneys, then explain the advice to the client. This is also a great way to gain pro bono hours, which can allow you to earn the special "pro bono certification" upon graduation. The clinic runs from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers should arrive at **5:30 p.m.** for a quick run-through and refreshments. For more information and to sign-up, please email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com.

MS. JD AN ONLINE FORUM

Ms. JD is an online forum for women in all arenas of the legal profession. Ms. JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community coordinated by law students for the entire legal community. The site is administered by an advisory board of women law students who represent schools nationwide. The Ms. JD Board of Directors invites you to visit their website, <http://www.ms-jd.org>. In addition, Ms. JD and Yale Law Women are hosting a launch conference for Ms. JD on March 3, 2007 at Yale Law School. More information about the conference is available at <http://www.legallyfemale.org>. For more information please contact outreach@ms-jd.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, February 4, 2007	10:00 - 4:00	LC 101, 102, 103	** LIVE ESSAY ADVANTAGE WORKSHOP
Sunday, February 11, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Contracts III
Sunday, February 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts I
Sunday, March 4, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts II
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	UC Conf. Rm A	Constitutional Law I
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	UC Conf. Rm A	Constitutional Law II

****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!

On **Sunday, February 4, 2007**, 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 Bar Exam- the Texas Essay Examination. This workshop is open to St. Mary's students who will take the February 2007 or July 2007 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.

The workshop will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will last until approximately 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Students who attend the workshop will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination, submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence for review, and make an appointment for one-on-one feedback.

Because part of this cost has been generously underwritten by Dean Piatt and the Law Alumni Association, tuition is only \$45. Students should contact a Bar/Bri representative to enroll in this course— Lorilei Cronin- lcronin@stmarytx.edu; Scott Davis- sdavis3@stmarytx.edu; Ivan Ramirez- iramirez1@stmarytx.edu; Nick Sisoian- nsisoian@stmarytx.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 436-3541 or 436-4340.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Christian Legal Society** meets weekly on **Friday's** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

MICROFORM COLLECTION AT THE LAW LIBRARY: A GOLD MINE

The Law Library has a substantial collection of materials of all sorts on microfiche or microfilm. Examples of the collection include 19th Century Legal Treatises, Texas Supreme Court Papers and Briefs, Public Papers of Presidents of the U.S., Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Record, Federal Register, and old *State Session Laws*. In fact, the microform collection is the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of book volumes. In the past year, the library staff has worked hard to catalog, update and reorganize this collection to make it accessible. We have compiled multiple lists to assist you as you use this resource. Copies of a short list of the major titles in the collection are available in the display rack across from the Circulation Desk. All the librarians will be happy to assist you.

THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006** Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write **"We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."**

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

Habitat for Humanity – Plan ahead for “Spring Break 2007.” Join us for Habitat for Humanity the week of **March 12-15, 2007** in Taos, New Mexico. Habitat for Humanity in Taos, New Mexico offers a unique building experience as we build with vigas and adobe, a traditional southwestern style of architecture. Students build homes and have fun while working to further the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Most food costs will be provided. Contact Mike Forrest, 436-3512 or Mike Martinez, 436-3435 ext. 1374 for more information. Sponsored by Law Ministry and Dean Bill Piatt.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

WRITING COMPETITION, 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 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, 2007**.

The **Federal Bar Association** Section of Taxation hosts its annual writing competition and invites students of the law school to participate. First prize paper will receive \$1,500 cash prize and second place will receive \$750 cash prize. Students may submit any original, unpublished, paper concerning federal income taxation. Paper must be no longer than twenty pages and must be postmarked by **February 1, 2007**.

Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law announces its 2006-2007 Trandafir International Business Writing Competition. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded. Winning essay will also be published in *Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*, a Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. Entry deadline is **February 1, 2007**. For more information and contest rules please see <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp/trandafir.php>.

The 2007 Bert W. Levit Essay Contest, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 16, 2007**. Contest rules and information are posted online at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

Applications for the **ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund** for the 2007-2008 academic year are now being accepted. The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. Twenty awards will be made to entering first-year students and may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during each student's time in law school. The application may be downloaded from <http://www.abanet.org/fje>. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2007**.

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The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 20

February 5, 2007

By VMM

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

CELEBRATION OF MARIANIST HERITAGE

Dean Bill Piatt and Sr. Grace Walle, F.M.I. invite you to lunch and blessing on the Spring semester in celebration of our Marianist Heritage on **Thursday, February 8, 2007**. Lunch will be served at **11:45 a.m.** and remarks will be given at noon in the **Law Alumni Room**. Dean Bill Piatt will deliver his State of the Law School address. Come meet the Marianist Family – Brothers, Priests, Sisters and Laity who serve at St. Mary's University. SBA information and Law Ministry information will be available, including information about Innsbruck Travel Scholarships Writing Contest. This event is sponsored by Dean Bill Piatt, SBA and Law Ministry.

ILSA LUNCH & LECTURE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CHINESE LEGAL SYSTEM

Professor Xinqiang Sun of Jinan, China will speak on recent developments in the Chinese Legal System on **Friday, February 9, 2007** in the **Alumni Room** from **noon to 12:50 p.m.** Professor Sun is a visiting professor at Vanderbilt University this semester, and is also speaking at the University of Chicago and Emory University. In the 2000 Innsbruck program, Professor Sun taught a course on Introduction to the Chinese Legal System. His article on "Reform of China's State-Owned Enterprises" appeared at 31 *St. Mary's Law Journal* 19-47 (1999), and has been cited in various works, including journals at the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University. Professor Sun's lecture is sponsored by the International Law Student Association. Refreshments will be provided.

**BLACK ALLIED LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION (BALSA)
TEAM HEADED BACK TO NATIONALS**

St. Mary's University School of Law students took 2nd place at the Rocky Mountain Regional competition of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in Tulsa, Oklahoma. There were 13 teams from four different states – Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

From January 25-28th the St. Mary's Balsa Mock Trial Team of Patricia Aguayo, Keaton Kirkwood, Marc LaHood and Sonja Simms beat teams from TSU, UT and University of Houston on their way to the championship round. St. Mary's will now compete in the national competition in Atlanta, Georgia from March 21-25, 2007! This is the second year in a row St. Mary's has gone to nationals. The team is coached by Adjunct Professor Martin J. Phipps and former students and graduates Ken Bell and Darryl Harris, both with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office.

Good luck at nationals!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in Continuing the Heritage Service Day. We were able to paint and refurbish areas of the Center For Legal and Social Justice building. The Center is well utilized by our law school as well as other public organizations who assist low income families with legal needs. Appreciation is extended to Justin Fohn of Delta Theta Phi and Nick Sisoian and the Student Bar Association for their financial contribution. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this event a success in collaboration with the University-wide Day of Service.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MEETING

There will be an **informational meeting** on **Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room** for those students who signed up for the Habitat for Humanity New Mexico trip. Please see Mike Martinez or Mike Forrest if you are unable to attend.

**EAP MOCK TRIAL TEAM
HEADED TO NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION**

The External Advocacy Program (EAP) Mock Trial Team is heading to Baton Rouge, Louisiana this weekend to participate in the 32nd Annual National Trial Competition (NTC). St. Mary's will compete against all the law schools in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. NTC is the most prestigious mock trial tournament in the country and is sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and TYLA. St. Mary's will be represented by Scott Davis (3rd), Hailey Mullican (3rd), Jeff Starnes (2nd), Brian Lewis (3rd), Rebecca Lively (3rd) and Jessica Baruch (3rd). The EAP Mock Trial Team is coached by Adjunct Professor Martin J. Phipps.

Please wish the students luck in their quest to bring another national championship to St. Mary's!

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

The next Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2007** at a new location, **St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 535 New Laredo Highway, San Antonio, 78211.** This is a great opportunity to put into practice what you've been learning in class and work with those who cannot afford an attorney. As student volunteers, you will prepare notes about the client's legal problem, discuss them with volunteer attorneys, then explain the advice to the client. This is also a great way to gain pro bono hours, which can allow you to earn the special "pro bono certification" upon graduation. The clinic runs from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers should arrive at **5:30 p.m.** for a quick run-through and refreshments. For more information and to sign-up, please email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal's Sixth Annual Symposium* on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility will be held on **Friday, February 23, 2007** at the **Plaza Club** downtown. Registration begins at **9:00 a.m.** The Symposium has been approved for 5 CLE Ethics Credits. To register please contact Guadalupe Valdez, Business Manager, 436-3525 or for more information about the symposium please contact rmcgregor@stmarytx.edu or 431-1220.

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

Mark your calendar. The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FREE KAPLAN/PMBR COURSES?

Kaplan/PMBR is recruiting three 2Ls to be representatives. For job details and incentives, please contact Head Representative, Juvie Cruz at jubes_12@hotmail.com for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
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The **Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA)** will have its first meeting of the Spring semester on **Tuesday, February 6, 2007** from **12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium**. Donna Harvey from Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid will be the guest speaker and will discuss internship opportunities. Food will be provided. We will also discuss several events to be held throughout the upcoming months. HLSA t-shirts will be distributed. Please join us.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 12, 2007 at the Bright Shawl. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

MICROFORM COLLECTION AT THE LAW LIBRARY: A GOLD MINE

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CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from Macways Export Co. Ltd. will return to the law school on **Wednesday, February 14th and Thursday, February 15th**, to conduct fittings for both male and female law and business students as well as law alumni 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 included on the next page.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will also donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund that goes towards assisting Sister Grace's mission of service to others.

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 twenty-four 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 or ask a question, please e-mail Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu. Appointments last about **20 minutes**.

Approximate Price List in US dollars (subject to change without notice):

	Men's Classic Line	Exclusive Line
2-Piece Suits	\$210	\$250
Sport Coat/Blazer	\$160	\$190
Trousers/Slacks	\$60	\$70
Shirts		\$50

Waist Coats	\$50	\$65
Tuxedo Suits	\$220	\$260
Tuxedo Shirt		\$60

Women's

Suits		
Jacket w/ Trousers	\$210	\$250
Jacket w/ Skirt	\$210	\$250
Jacket w/ Trousers & Skirt	\$250	\$290
Jacket	\$160	\$190
Trousers	\$60	\$70
Skirt	\$55	\$65
Blouse		\$50

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

Prices are inclusive of all mailing charges and include a free upgrade to delivery via EMS (Express Mail Service), which guarantees delivery within five business days.

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 contains only the top pure wool fabrics. Similarly, the Exclusive Line shirts are made from top natural fabrics such as pure cottons, linen, and silk among others.

Please Note: Due to the wool content in the suits, some parcels may be randomly selected and be subjected to some duties when being cleared through customs. Macways has no control over this process.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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 2007 **Bert W. Levit Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 16, 2007**. Contest rules and information are posted online at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html.

ICC Institute of World Business Law **announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iceprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is February 28, 2007.**

Applications for the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund for the 2007-2008 academic year are now being accepted. The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. Twenty awards will be made to entering first-year students and may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during each student's time in law school. The application may be downloaded from <http://www.abanet.org/fje>. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2007.

The American College of Trial Lawyers is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by March 1, 2007. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation presents the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is a one year, non-renewable award for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents entering their first year of law school. Deadline for filing the application is March 6, 2007. Applications may be picked up in LAB 105.

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The **Paralyzed Veterans of American** (PVA) is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 21

February 12, 2007

By VMM

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

EFFECTIVELY MANAGING STUDENT LOANS

Please join us on **Monday, February 12th** from **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**, as Jeff Wanic, Harvard Business School, will present ways to “Effectively Manage Your Student Loans: Best Practices for Law Students.” Food and refreshments will be provided. Students, please feel free to arrive late or depart early as not all schedules permit lunchtime meetings. The presentation will cover topics such as:

- overview of student loans, regulatory changes, and key insights on effective debt management
- how to select the most appropriate loans and which loans to avoid
- is consolidation still a viable option?
- what impact will your credit score have on future purchasing decisions?

This event is sponsored by the American Bar Association - Law Student Division, Student Bar Association and the Office of Financial Aid.

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CLINICAL PROGRAM

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

- Immigration/Human Rights
- Criminal Justice

- Civil Justice
 - Family Law
 - Social Security and,
 - Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

CUSTOM TAILORING RETURNS TO ST. MARY’S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from Macways Export Co. Ltd. will return to the law school on **Wednesday, February 14th and Thursday, February 15th**, to conduct fittings for both male and female law and business students as well as law alumni 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 included on the next page.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate 10% of all sales to the Cantú Fund that goes towards assisting Sister Grace’s mission of service to others.

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 twenty-four 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 or ask a question, please e-mail Mike DeNuccio at mdenuccio@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	\$210	\$250
Sport Coat/Blazer	\$160	\$190
Trousers/Slacks	\$ 60	\$ 70
Shirts		\$ 50
Waist Coats	\$ 50	\$ 65
Tuxedo Suits	\$220	\$260
Tuxedo Shirt		\$ 60
 <u>Women’s</u>		
Suits		
Jacket w/Trousers	\$210	\$250
Jacket w/Skirt	\$210	\$250
Jacket w/Trousers & Skirt	\$250	\$290
Jacket	\$160	\$190
Trousers	\$ 60	\$ 70

Skirt	\$ 55	\$ 65
Blouse		\$ 50

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

Prices are inclusive of all mailing charges and include a free upgrade to delivery via EMS (Express Mail Service), which guarantees delivery within five business days.

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. Similarly, the Exclusive Line shirts are made from top natural fabrics such as pure cottons, linen, and silk among others.

Please Note: Due to the wool content in the suits, some parcels may be randomly selected and be subjected to some duties when being cleared through customs. Macways has no control over this process.

EAP MOCK TRIAL TEAM WINS REGIONALS!

The **External Advocacy Program** (EAP) Mock Trial Team of **Jessica Baruch** (3L), **Rebecca Lively** (3L) and **Brian Lewis** (3L) won the National Regional Championship at the 32nd Annual National Trial Competition (NTC) held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In addition, the EAP team of **Haily Mullican** (3L) and **Scott Davis** (3L) also did very well, reaching the semi-final round before losing by a single point on one ballot. At the competition, the St. Mary's Team beat all Texas and Louisiana schools. The **St. Mary's EAP Mock Trial Team** will now head to the National Competition to compete against champions from regions for the National title. The competition will be held in Houston at the end of March. Nationals is the **largest** and most **prestigious** mock trial competition in the United States, with 240 law schools competing from across the country. **Congratulations** to our students and coaches on this well deserved victory!

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS IN SAN ANTONIO

Semesters: Summer 2007, Fall 2007, and Spring 2008

Deadline: Noon Tuesday, February 20, 2007

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 Tuesday, February 20**. 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

The United States District Court

At the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, one position each semester is likely to 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008). 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

Applications

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson. Please give your application materials to Ms. Caroline Buckley 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. Buckley 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.

INNSBRUCK INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Tuesday, February 20**, at **noon** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library, Professors Mark Cochran and Michael Ariens, Co-Directors of the Institute on World Legal Problems, will hold an informational meeting concerning this year's program in Innsbruck. **The Institute on World Legal Problems** will feature **Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Antonin Scalia** as our Distinguished Visiting Jurist. The program will begin on Monday, July 2 and end on Friday, August 3. We will provide information on courses, housing, transportation and travel opportunity. If you have questions about the program and are unable to make the meeting, please see either Director. Food and refreshments will be served.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

LAW LIBRARY OFFERS ACCESS TO OTHER TEXAS LIBRARIES

We are pleased to announce that after a brief hiatus, the Law Library has joined the TexShare card program. TexShare is a state-wide library cooperative program run by the Texas State Library with hundreds of participating academic and public libraries. As a member, patrons of our library, (including law students, faculty and staff members) can get a TexShare card to borrow library items from any TexShare member library in the state. Each member library sets its own policy and rules on loans. This card will be particularly handy when you are out of town and need to borrow from another library. For information about participating libraries, visit the website at <http://www.texshare.edu/>. Mr. Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor, is our TexShare manager, and Ms. Sara Paz is the assistant. If you need a TexShare card or have questions about this program, please see Mr. Vasquez at the Circulation Desk.

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 or Law 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, March 2, 2007**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

ST. MARY’S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary’s Law Journal’s Sixth Annual Symposium* on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility will be held on **Friday, February 23, 2007** at the **Plaza Club** downtown. Registration begins at **9:00 a.m.** The Symposium has been approved for 5 CLE Ethics Credits. To register please contact Guadalupe Valdez, Business Manager, 436-3525 or for more information about the symposium please contact rmcgregor@stmarytx.edu or 431-1220.

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

Mark your calendar. The Scholar: St. Mary’s Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

**INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FREE
KAPLAN/PMBR COURSES?**

Kaplan/PMBR is recruiting three 2Ls to be representatives. For job details and incentives, please contact Head Representative, Juvie Cruz at jubes_12@hotmail.com for more information.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!**

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SUBJECT
Sunday, February 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts I
Sunday, March 4, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts II
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law I
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law II

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Dallas Alumni Student Chapter (DASC)** will meet on **Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Office elections will be conducted and a short meeting to discuss Spring '07 events will be held. All DASC members in addition to all rising 3Ls and 2Ls are welcome to attend. A mock trial competition is scheduled this same evening, but for any participants wishing to run for a position, the meeting will be a quick one. For information regarding the open officer positions, please contact Rebecca Lively Oehlers at livelybecca@hotmail.com or check the DASC bulletin board in the Law Classroom building. See you on Tuesday!

The **Employment & Labor Law Association (ELLA)** will meet on **Friday, February 16, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Manuel Pelaez, Senior Legal Counsel for Toyota will be joining us. Lunch will be served.

**KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM**

Join the St. Mary's School of Law Team in the Komen Race for the Cure, to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the Student Bar Association, the Legal Sports Society, and the Women's Law Association. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 12, 2007 at the Bright Shawl. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006** Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law

issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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 2007 **Bert W. Levit Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association is now accepting entries. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$5,000. Postmark deadline for entries is **February 16, 2007**. Contest rules and information are posted online at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

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Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is

\$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 22

February 19, 2007

By VMM

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

INNSBRUCK INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Tuesday, February 20**, at **noon** in the **Alumni Room** of the Law Library, Professors Mark Cochran and Michael Ariens, Co-Directors of the Institute on World Legal Problems, will hold an informational meeting concerning this year's program in Innsbruck. **The Institute on World Legal Problems** will feature **Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Antonin Scalia** as our Distinguished Visiting Jurist. The program will begin on Monday, July 2 and end on Friday, August 3. Information on courses, housing, transportation and travel opportunity will be provided. If you have questions about the program and are unable to make the meeting, please see either Director. Food and refreshments will be served.

MARDI GRAS TUESDAY

Law Ministry, in conjunction with the Student Bar Association, will host a **Mardi Gras** party on **Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** in the **Law Plaza**. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday." Its roots lie in the Christian calendar as the "last hurrah" before Lent on Ash Wednesday. The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are purple (symbol for justice), green (symbol for faith) and gold (symbol for power). The practice of Lent has been in the Christian tradition since the mid-4th century. It symbolizes the forty days of fasting in the wilderness that Jesus experienced following his Baptism.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Please join us for **Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 21 at 12:00 noon** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Lent begins on this day. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving over the next forty days are part of the disciplines of Lent that help us grow in spiritual life. Everyone is welcome!

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal's Sixth Annual Symposium* on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility will be held on **Friday, February 23, 2007** at the **Plaza Club** downtown. Registration begins at **9:00 a.m.** The Symposium has been approved for 5 CLE Ethics Credits. To register please contact Guadalupe Valdez, Business Manager, 436-3525 or for more information about the symposium please contact rmcgregor@stmarytx.edu or 431-1220.

STUDENTS NEEDED Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.)

The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary's Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When: Saturday's (January 27th through April 7th)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Where: The Center for Legal and Social Justice

BOARD OF ADVOCATES BREAK PARTY RAFFLE

The annual **Board of Advocates Raffle** will be held at the 1L Moot Court Break Party on **Friday, March 2, 2007**. Tickets may be purchased in the Law Classroom building beginning Tuesday, February 20, 2007 through Friday, March 2, 2007. **Ticket prices** are 1 ticket for \$3, 5 tickets for \$10, 10 tickets for \$15, or 20 tickets for \$20. Prizes include a night at the Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio, an iPod Shuffle and various gift certificates for local establishments. Get your tickets for a chance to win one of these or other great prizes! A list of all prizes will be provided at the raffle table. Checks and cash will be accepted. Please contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) with any questions.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Learn more! **March 6, 2007** at **11:30 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Lunch will be served. Join John Byrd from UTSA and Charyl Naron, director of social services with the Travis County Sheriff's Office for a presentation on Restorative Justice. Learn more about key principles of Encounter, Amends, Reintegration and Inclusion and how they apply in the legal field. For more information, please contact Randy Langford at rlangford@stmarytx.edu. Sponsored by St. Mary's University Law Ministry.

**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CLINICAL PROGRAM**

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

1. Immigration/Human Rights
2. Criminal Justice
3. Civil Justice
 - Family Law
 - Social Security and,
 - Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

**FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS
IN SAN ANTONIO**

Semesters: Summer 2007, Fall 2007, and Spring 2008

Deadline: Noon Tuesday, February 20, 2007

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 Tuesday, February 20**. 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

The United States District Court

At the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, one position each semester is likely to 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008). 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 2007, fall 2007, and spring 2008).

Applications

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson. Please give your application materials to Ms. Caroline Buckley 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. Buckley 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.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

LAW LIBRARY OFFERS ACCESS TO OTHER TEXAS LIBRARIES

We are pleased to announce that after a brief hiatus, the Law Library has joined the TexShare card program. TexShare is a state-wide library cooperative program run by the Texas State Library with hundreds of participating academic and public libraries. As a member, patrons of our library, (including law students, faculty and staff members) can get a TexShare card to borrow library items from any TexShare member library in the state. Each member library sets its own policy and rules on loans. This card will be particularly handy when you are out of town and need to borrow from another library. For information about participating libraries, visit the website at <http://www.texshare.edu/>. Mr. Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor, is our TexShare manager, and Ms. Sara Paz is the assistant. If you need a TexShare card or have questions about this program, please see Mr. Vasquez at the Circulation Desk.

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 or Law 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, March 2, 2007**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

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

Mark your calendar. The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FREE KAPLAN/PMBR COURSES?

Kaplan/PMBR is recruiting three 2Ls to be representatives. For job details and incentives, please contact Head Representative, Juvie Cruz at jubes_12@hotmail.com for more information.

PMBR

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!

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Brian Carter	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Rebecca Frazier	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday:	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Wednesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Thursday:	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, February 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts I
Sunday, March 4, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts II
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law I

**KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM**

Join the St. Mary's School of Law Team in the Komen Race for the Cure, to be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2007**. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the Student Bar Association, the Legal Sports Society, and the Women's Law Association. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 12, 2007 at the Bright Shawl. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

**THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER
ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION
(For St. Mary's Law Students)**

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters

as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle.

Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006 Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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 07-08 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 1st 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 20, 2007. 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 21st.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On those particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time. The next training session that Ms. Garza will be attending will begin on Tuesday, February 20th and end on Thursday, February 22nd, and both Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna will be at the Friday training on February 16th.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza’s walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

Applications for the **ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund** for the 2007-2008 academic year are now being accepted. The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. Twenty awards will be made to entering first-year students and may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during each student's time in law school. The application may be downloaded from <http://www.abanet.org/fje>. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The **Rhode Island Bar Foundation** presents the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is a one year, non-renewable award for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents entering their first year of law school. Deadline for filing the application is **March 6, 2007**. Applications may be picked up in LAB 105.

The **American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)** is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American** (PVA) is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 23

February 26, 2007

By VMM

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

MEXICO – U.S. MIGRATION: WORKING TOGETHER FOR REAL SOLUTIONS A BI-NATIONAL FORUM

Please join us on **Friday, March 2, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.** in the **Atrium** for this Bi-National Forum. Dean Bill Piatt will provide opening remarks. Our panel of speakers will be Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández, President of the National Commission for Human Rights, México; Mr. Lionel Sosa, Founder of MATT.org, Voted “One of the 25 most influential Hispanics in America” by Time Magazine in 2005; United States Congressman Charles Gonzalez (D-Texas), and Instructor of Law Roberto Rosas (moderator).

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The **Student Bar Association** and the **Special Olympics of Texas**, Area 20, seek volunteers for their annual basketball competition to be held on **Friday, March 2, 2007** and **Saturday, March 3, 2007 at Randolph Air Force Base**. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of Special Olympic Athletes, please come out and support this event. Make it an all day affair or choose a shift. Two shifts are available: 8:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the Special Olympics Office at (210) 530-9898.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Learn more! **March 6, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Lunch will be served. Join John Byrd from UTSA and Charyl Naron, director of social services with the Travis County Sheriff's Office for a presentation on Restorative Justice. Learn more about key principles of Encounter, Amends, Reintegration and Inclusion and how they apply in the legal field. For more information, please contact Randy Langford at rlangford@stmarytx.edu. Sponsored by St. Mary's University Law Ministry.

PUTTIN' ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE

On **March 22, 2007** from **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, **The State Bar of Texas** and the **Student Bar Association** proudly present “Puttin’ on the Writs – A Law Revue” to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary’s students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary’s Center for Legal and Social Justice**. For more information or if you have any questions, please email Kristin Lee at kristinglee@hotmail.com or Jeff Martin at jeffreywaltonmartin@hotmail.com.

TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Needed – Two St. Mary’s students to intern with the civil legal service providers located in East Texas, South Texas, and El Paso with Lone Star Legal Aid, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. This is a great way to get hands-on legal experience, work with experienced attorneys and help low-income Texans. John Grisham and the State Bar of Texas will provide a stipend of \$1,100 and St. Mary’s will match the offer for a total of \$2,200. For more information, visit www.texasatj.org/internship or contact the Director of Public Interest Law Program, Joaquin Amaya at (210) 431-5765.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary’s University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pnbr.com/courses/schedules.html>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Brian Carter	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez			

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

BOARD OF ADVOCATES ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Spring 2007 Renna and Jeff Embry Mock Trial Competition was an overwhelming success. The **Board of Advocates** would like to congratulate the winning team of **Allison Skipper** and **Ezra Johnson** and the finalist team of **Dayna Jones** and **Robert Almonte**. A **special congratulations to Ezra Johnson**, recognized as the **Best Oral Advocate** in the final round. Thanks to all of the advocates who helped to make this a great tournament!

First year Moot Court - Student Judges Needed! 1L Moot Court is upon us. The preliminaries begin on **Tuesday, February 27 and will last until Friday, March 2.** (No rounds on Wednesday, February 28). All EAP, Clinic, Journal and Law Review members should email Barrett Shipp at barrettshipp@gmail.com if you are interested in judging a preliminary round(s). The evenings will be longer than usual (four rounds per evening from 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.) Judges will need to volunteer a majority of their evening. If enough students sign-up to volunteer, we can work in shifts and the load will lighten. Thank you in advance for your time. The Board of Advocates will contact you regarding a general judges meeting within the week.

The annual **Board of Advocates Raffle** will be held at the 1L Moot Court Break Party on **Friday, March 2, 2007.** Tickets may be purchased in the Law Classroom building beginning Tuesday, February 20, 2007 through Friday, March 2, 2007. **Ticket prices** are 1 ticket for \$3, 5 tickets for \$10, 10 tickets for \$15, or 20 tickets for \$20. Prizes include a night at the Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio, an iPod Shuffle and various gift certificates for local establishments. Get your tickets for a chance to win one of these or other great prizes! A list of all prizes will be provided at the raffle table. Checks and cash will be accepted. Please contact Mo Heinrichs (maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com) with any questions.

**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 by Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 29, 2007. 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.

STUDENTS NEEDED
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.)

The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary's Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When: Saturday's (January 27th through April 7th)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Where: The Center for Legal and Social Justice

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CLINICAL PROGRAM

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

Immigration/Human Rights
Criminal Justice
Civil Justice
– Family Law

- Social Security and,
- Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

LAW LIBRARY OFFERS ACCESS TO OTHER TEXAS LIBRARIES

We are pleased to announce that after a brief hiatus, the Law Library has joined the TexShare card program. TexShare is a state-wide library cooperative program run by the Texas State Library with hundreds of participating academic and public libraries. As a member, patrons of our library, (including law students, faculty and staff members) can get a TexShare card to borrow library items from any TexShare member library in the state. Each member library sets its own policy and rules on loans. This card will be particularly handy when you are out of town and need to borrow from another library. For information about participating libraries, visit the website at <http://www.texshare.edu/>. Mr. Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor, is our TexShare manager, and Ms. Sara Paz is the assistant. If you need a TexShare card or have questions about this program, please see Mr. Vasquez at the Circulation Desk.

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 or Law 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, March 2, 2007**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

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

Mark your calendar. The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, March 4, 2007	1:00 - 5:00	LC 102	Torts II
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law I
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law II

KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM

Join the **St. Mary's School of Law Team** in the **Komen Race for the Cure**, to be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2007**. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the **Student Bar Association**, the **Legal Sports Society**, and the **Women's Law Association**. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 12, 2007 at the Bright Shawl. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

St. Mary's University School of Law and Law Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the annual James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition. The award (\$1,000) will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006** Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

Information on James Derrick - The Family of James Derrick III has established a

memorial Constitutional Law Essay contest as a tribute to their son who was a second-year law student and died in 2002. James was one who enjoyed great debates about constitutional law issues and, in remembrance of their son's interests, the family has provided the financial assistance to help a St. Mary's law student who wants to sharpen their own legal, analytical and writing skills through participation in this essay contest. In their tribute to their son, they write "We wish for you what we believe Jim would have wished for you: a life of wondrous and glorious adventure, lived passionately every day, filled to overflowing with love for and from your family and friends, replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need."

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal

Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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 07-08 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 1st 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 20, 2007. 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 21st.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On those particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time. The next training session that Ms. Garza will be attending will begin on Tuesday, February 20th and end on Thursday, February 22nd, and both Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna will be at the Friday training on February 16th.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza’s walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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.

ICC Institute of World Business Law announces a prize for excellence in international law research. The institute will award a prize of €10,000. The prize is designed to recognize excellent legal writing in the field of international commercial law, including arbitration. Contest details may be viewed at www.iccinstituteprize.org or by writing to the following web mail address: iccprize@iccwbo.org. Closing date for entries is **February 28, 2007**.

Applications for the **ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund** for the 2007-2008 academic year are now being accepted. The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. Twenty awards will be made to entering first-year students and may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during each student’s time in law school. The application may be downloaded from <http://www.abanet.org/fje>. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2007**.

The **American College of Trial Lawyers** is sponsoring an essay contest for law students

on the topic of Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers Doctrine. The first prize winner will receive \$10,000 and the second prize winner will receive \$5,000. Essays should be approximately 5,000 words in length. All students at U.S. law schools are eligible to compete. Essays are due by **March 1, 2007**. Submit essay by email: essaycontest@actl.com or send a hard copy to Dennis J. Maggi, Executive Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, National Headquarters, 19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 610, Irvine, California 92612.

The **Rhode Island Bar Foundation** presents the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is a one year, non-renewable award for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents entering their first year of law school. Deadline for filing the application is **March 6, 2007**. Applications may be picked up in LAB 105.

The **American Immigration Law Foundation** (AILF) is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American** (PVA) is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court

with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 24

March 5, 2007

By VMM

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

ST. MARY'S MOOT COURT TEAM WINS ABA REGIONALS!

Congratulations to the team of Kimberly Phillips (3L) and James Rodriguez (2L) who went undefeated in the competition, beating another undefeated team from the University of Washington in the Final Round to gain the title Regional Champion and qualify for the finals in Chicago. The team of Halina Radchenko (3L), Jennifer McCullough (2L) and Jason Petty (2L) reached the finals of the competition, beating a Minnesota team in the sem-finals that had placed second at ABA Nationals last year before losing on a split ballot to a Georgia team that broke as the top seed at the competition. James Rodriguez and Halina Radchenko were individually recognized as the sixth and ninth best oralists, respectively, in the preliminary rounds of the competition, while Jason Petty received the Fifth Best Brief Award. In addition, this is Kimberly Phillips second ABA Regional Championship, making her one of only two students (Beth Watkins Squires being the other) in the history of the law school that have won back-to-back ABA Regionals for St. Mary's. Out of the last seven years, St. Mary's EAP Moot Court Teams have won their region five times, claiming the National Championship in 2002. Congratulations to our students and coaches who have worked hard. Best of luck to Kim and James representing St. Mary's at the National Finals in Chicago!

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Learn more! **March 6, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Lunch will be served. Join John Byrd from UTSA and Charyl Naron, director of social services with the Travis County Sheriff's Office for a presentation on Restorative Justice. Learn more about key principles of Encounter, Amends, Reintegration and Inclusion and how they apply in the legal field. For more information, please contact Randy Langford at rlangford@stmarytx.edu. Sponsored by St. Mary's University Law Ministry.

**DEADLINE DRAWING NEAR FOR
THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER
ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION
(For St. Mary's Law Students)**

The **deadline** is drawing near for submission of the **James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition**. A \$1,000 award will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2006** Topic: Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

**2007/2008 SBA EXECUTIVE
AND REP-ELECT ELECTIONS**

Attention all law students! Do not forget to vote this week for your 2007/2008 SBA Executive and ABA, SAYLA, and ABOT Rep-Elects. The election polls will be open from **8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 8, 2007** respectively. All law students, including 3Ls and LLM's are allowed and encouraged to vote with proof of identification. The election results will be announced at the SBA Texas Independence Day Party (date and time to be announced). Good luck to all the candidates!

EAP MOOT COURT TRY-OUTS

The St. Mary's EAP Moot Court Team will be conducting try-outs **March 20-22, 2007**. The team is looking for motivated first-year law students to represent the school in the most exciting advocacy competitions in the country! Student may audition as oralists, brief writers, or both. Oralists need only be prepared to give the ten minute arguments they presented for First-Year Moot Court. Brief writers need to bring a copy of the brief. To sign up, please stop by carrel 120 in the first floor of the law library. Questions may be directed to Kimberly Phillips at kphillips3@stmarytx.edu.

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 2007-2008 Editorial Board:

Brooks Langraf
Editor-in-Chief

Monica Saenz
Executive Articles Editor

David Choi
Managing Editor

Andrea Rodriguez
Executive Comments Editor

Jeffrey Martin
Comments Editor

Matt Massar
Comments Editor

Neda Mahmoudzadeh
Comments Editor

Arshil Kabani
Articles Editor

Ann Liz De Leon
Articles Editor

Joe Ellazar
Articles Editor

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Editorial Board

SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE!

The *Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* will soon be holding an informational session addressing the write-on application process available to 1L and 2L students. Applications will be available **March 7, 2007** in the *Scholar* office, LL217. If you have a question please contact the Scholar at (210) 431-4229.

ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS

If you are taking the Summer Bar Review Course, please be aware of the following information: (i) Invoices and general course information have already been mailed; (ii) **The enrollment/payment deadline is April 1. A \$75 late fee will be assessed on all accounts with a remaining balance after April 1.** Please either **mail** your final payment directly to Bar/Bri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing) or pay **online** at www.barbri.com (You will need your password. If you do not know it, please follow the instructions to have it emailed to you within 24 hours. Please do not call the office.) (iii) If you registered for the course but have not received an invoice, please call Bar/Bri (800-392-5441) to verify course and/or address information.

PUTTIN' ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE

On **March 22, 2007** from **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, **The State Bar of Texas** and the **Student Bar Association** proudly present “Puttin’ on the Writs – A Law Revue” to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary’s students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary’s Center for Legal and Social Justice**. For more information or if you have any questions, please email Kristin Lee at kristinglee@hotmail.com or Jeff Martin at jeffreywaltonmartin@hotmail.com.

SAN ANTONIO CHOSEN FOR ABA SECTION OF LITIGATION 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The **ABA Section of Litigation 2007 Annual Conference** will be held in San Antonio, Texas **April 11-14, 2007** at the downtown **San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter**. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from and network with more than 800 litigators from across the nation. Come listen to nationally known speakers, enjoy special networking opportunities and demonstrations, lectures, and mock trial sessions covering hot trial practice issues. To learn more about the 2007 Annual Conference or to **register**, only **\$10 for law students**, please visit www.abanet.org/litigation/sectionannual/. For general information on the American Bar Association - Law Student Division go to <http://www.abanet.org/lstd>. Annual membership fee is only \$20.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA)** will be having its annual **Silent Auction** on **Wednesday, March 7, 2007** from **10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Come by and bid for Spurs tickets, Rampage tickets, lunches with Professors, jewelry and much more!

The **Sports & Entertainment Law Society** is sponsoring a presentation by legendary and world-renowned Literary and Film Agent Peter Miller, from **5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 7, 2007** in the **Alumni Room** in the **Law Library**. Among Peter's many clients over the years is Vincent T. Bugliosi, who successfully prosecuted Charles Manson (and others) for murder in the early 1970s, and who published a bestselling book entitled *Helter Skelter*, about those gruesome murders. Peter is representing Mr. Bugliosi in the publication of his new book, *Reclaiming History*, an exhaustive examination of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Another client of Mr. Miller's is Jay Bonansinga, a novelist and filmmaker who came to speak at St. Mary's last March, and who subsequently won the prestigious Sports & Entertainment Law Society's Guest Speaker of the Year Award for the academic year 2005-2006. Peter Miller has represented countless national and worldwide bestselling authors, and currently has over two dozen film and television projects under active development. He has authored two books on how to get a novel published and a screenplay produced into a movie, his most recent being entitled, *Author! Screenwriter!*, which will be available for sale at Peter's presentation. In addition, a **free screening** of Peter's new movie, *Author! Screenwriter!*, based on his book of the same title, will take place on **Thursday, March 8, 2007**, in **Law Classroom 102**, at **6:00 p.m.** or immediately after the Moot Court finals. This free screening is open not only to law students but undergraduates as well. Free dinner will be offered to members of the Sports & Entertainment Law Society at Peter's presentation on March 7, 2007. Annual membership in the Sports & Entertainment Law Society is \$25.00. Membership includes a T-shirt, free dining at all Sports & Entertainment Law Society events, and admission to the Spring Semester Sports & Entertainment Law Society Party. At least two other presentations are being sponsored by the Society this semester. Please come to learn about the legal aspects of the entertainment world as related to publishing and filmmaking this **Wednesday and Thursday, March 7-8**.

TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Needed – Two St. Mary's students to intern with the civil legal service providers located in East Texas, South Texas, and El Paso with Lone Star Legal Aid, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. This is a great way to get hands-on legal experience, work with experienced attorneys and help low-income Texans. John Grisham and the State Bar of Texas will provide a stipend of \$1,100 and St. Mary's will match the offer for a total of \$2,200. For more information, visit www.texasatj.org/internship or contact the Director of Public Interest Law Program, Joaquin Amaya at (210) 431-5765.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pnbr.com/courses/schedules.html>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Brian Carter	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez			

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday:	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Wednesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Thursday:	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**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.

1. Mentors other law students, teens, and/or children during their academic career or in previous employment.
2. Demonstrates a commitment to public service, especially through involvement in pro bono activities in the community or at the law school.
3. Develops or supports programs that help law students achieve success.
4. Provides advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered and abused women and children.

5. Maintains honor, integrity and personal integrity in educational pursuits, personal life and career goals.
6. Demonstrates academic accomplishments and personal financial need.

The nomination panel must receive all nominations by Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

Please submit nominations to Sr. Grace Walle. The award recipient will be honored at the Women's History Month celebration at the Law School on March 29, 2007. 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.

**STUDENTS NEEDED
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.)**

The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary's Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When: Saturday's (January 27th through April 7th)
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Where: The Center for Legal and Social Justice

**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CLINICAL PROGRAM**

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

Immigration/Human Rights

Criminal Justice

Civil Justice

- Family Law
- Social Security and,
- Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

LAW LIBRARY OFFERS ACCESS TO OTHER TEXAS LIBRARIES

We are pleased to announce that after a brief hiatus, the Law Library has joined the TexShare card program. TexShare is a state-wide library cooperative program run by the Texas State Library with hundreds of participating academic and public libraries. As a member, patrons of our library, (including law students, faculty and staff members) can get a TexShare card to borrow library items from any TexShare member library in the state. Each member library sets its own policy and rules on loans. This card will be particularly handy when you are out of town and need to borrow from another library. For information about participating libraries, visit the website at <http://www.texshare.edu/>. Mr. Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor, is our TexShare manager, and Ms. Sara Paz is the assistant. If you need a TexShare card or have questions about this program, please see Mr. Vasquez at the Circulation Desk.

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 or Law 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, March 2, 2007**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

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

Mark your calendar. The *Scholar*: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law I
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law II

KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM

Join the **St. Mary's School of Law Team** in the **Komen Race for the Cure**, to be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2007**. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the **Student Bar Association**, the **Legal Sports Society**, and the **Women's Law Association**. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on **April 12, 2007** at the **Bright Shawl**. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Sarah Thompson Memorial Fund - In honor of Sarah Thompson's memory, the School of Law is providing two \$1,500 - \$2,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2007 Innsbruck Program. Sarah Thompson attended the Innsbruck program in 2004. Sarah enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her participation, so her family, friends, and fellow students have chosen to continue her memory with this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Law students who wish to apply for a scholarship must write an essay and address (1) how you will benefit from international legal studies and (2) how you contribute to making this a better world. For more information, please contact Sr. Grace at 436-3603.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as

the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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 07-08 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 1st 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 20, 2007. 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 21st.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On those particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time. The next training session that Ms. Garza will be attending will begin on Tuesday, February 20th and end on Thursday, February 22nd, and both Ms. Garza and Mrs. Luna will be at the Friday training on February 16th.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza’s walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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 Immigration Law Foundation** (AILF) is sponsoring their 24th Annual Edward L. Dubroff Memorial Legal Writing Contest. Unpublished scholarly manuscripts on any respect of American immigration and nationality law may be submitted for competition. The winning author will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. Past winners are not eligible to participate. Submission deadline is **March 12, 2007**.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association** (IABA) announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year

IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

The **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys** is pleased to present the Second 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, 2007 and **May 1, 2007** to editor@naela.org. For contest guidelines please visit www.naela.org.

The **American Judges Association** (AJA) announces its Nineteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of “The Rule of Law in Times of Conflict.” First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2007**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The **National Association of Counsel for Children** (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2007 Law Student Essay Competition. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and be given a scholarship to the NACC Law Conference in Keystone, Colorado. Essays must be received by **June 1, 2007**. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 25

March 12, 2007

By VMM

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

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Professor Chen Huiping, Chinese Fulbright Scholar, Xiamen University and Visiting Professor, Georgetown University Law School. Professor Huiping will speak on “**Human Rights in China**” on **Monday, March 19, 2007, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, in the **Atrium**. Lunch will be served.

TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The **Public Interest Law Program** is offering an opportunity to two law students to spend seven weeks of their summer doing public interest legal work. Participating organizations include Lone Star Legal Aid, Texas Civil Rights Project, and RioGrande Legal Aid. Students can choose field placements in South Texas, East Texas, or El Paso. John Grisham and the State Bar of Texas will provide a stipend of \$1,100 and St. Mary's will match the offer for a total of **\$2,000**. **Deadline** to apply is **March 16, 2007**. For more information, visit www.texasatj.org/internship, contact the Director of the Public Interest Law Program, Joaquin Amaya at jamaya@stmarytx.edu or call 431-5765.

DEADLINE IS NEXT WEEK FOR THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

The **deadline** for submission of the **James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition** is next week **Monday, March 19, 2007**. A \$1,000 award will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of

constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Topic:** Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS REGISTRATION AND COURSE SELECTION

Dean Mather, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, will present an **informational session** on course selection and registration **for first year students**. The registration process, tips for course selection, core requirements and bar courses will be covered. Professor Ariens and Ms. Catherine Mery, Director of Student Enrollment will also present information and answer questions. The sessions are offered on **Tuesday, March 27, 2007** at **10:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**. First year students should attend one of the sessions.

EAP MOOT COURT TRY-OUTS

The St. Mary's EAP Moot Court Team will be conducting try-outs **March 20-22, 2007**. The team is looking for motivated first-year law students to represent the school in the most exciting advocacy competitions in the country! Student may audition as oralists, brief writers, or both. Oralists need only be prepared to give the ten minute arguments they presented for First-Year Moot Court. Brief writers need to bring a copy of the brief. To sign up, please stop by carrel 120 in the first floor of the law library. Questions may be directed to Kimberly Phillips at kphillips3@stmarytx.edu.

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.

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PUTTIN' ON THE WRITS – A LAW REVUE

On **March 22, 2007** from **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, **The State Bar of Texas** and the **Student Bar Association** proudly present "Puttin' on the Writs – A Law Revue" to be held at the **Josephine Theatre**, 339 West Josephine Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. The **Law Revue** is a variety show featuring musical performances, comedic acts, skits, etc. by our own St. Mary's students. Tickets will be on sale soon in the Law Classroom building. All proceeds raised from the Law Revue will be **donated** to the **St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice**. For more information or if you have any questions, please email Kristin Lee at kristinglee@hotmail.com or Jeff Martin at jeffreywaltonmartin@hotmail.com.

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

The *Scholar*: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the **encouragement of oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order—which is open only to third-year law students—provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten new members each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application** form from **Professor Dave Schlueter**, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, **LFB 270**. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the **Barristers' Ball on April 20th**. 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 Thursday, March 29, 2007**.

KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM

Join the **St. Mary's School of Law Team** in the **Komen Race for the Cure**, to be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2007**. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the **Student Bar Association**, the **Legal Sports Society**, and the **Women's Law Association**. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS

If you are taking the Summer Bar Review Course, please be aware of the following information: (i) Invoices and general course information have already been mailed; (ii) **The enrollment/payment deadline is April 1. A \$75 late fee will be assessed on all accounts with a remaining balance after April 1.** Please either **mail** your final payment directly to Bar/Bri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing) or pay **online** at www.barbri.com (You will need your password. If you do not know it, please follow the instructions to have it emailed to you within 24 hours. Please do not call the office.) (iii) If you registered for the course but have not received an invoice, please call Bar/Bri (800-392-5441) to verify course and/or address information.



The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Editorial Board for Volume 38 is proud to announce the Editorial Board for Volume 39:

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Kristi L. Tonn
Alyson M. Vrana

THE 4 MILE TRIAL

St. Mary's University School of Law and **Phi Delta Phi** are pleased to announce that this year's **4 Mile Trial** will take place on **Saturday, April 7, 2007 at St. Mary's University School of Law campus at 9:00 a.m.** The 4 Mile Trial is a four mile fun run/walk to benefit the Center for Legal and Social Justice and other various charities. Registration is **FREE** for St. Mary's Law students, faculty and staff who either walk or run the four mile course, thanks to a generous donation by Dean Bill Piatt. Every participant will receive a race day t-shirt and the registration fee will be donated to the Center on the participants behalf! There will also be food, entertainment and door prizes! Registration for non-students is \$15 in advance and \$20 on race day and includes a t-shirt. Come out and enjoy the fun! Send questions to fourmiletrial@gmail.com.

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The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

PART-TIME STUDENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The **Law Library** is now accepting applications for **part-time student positions**, which will be available as soon as April. Typical duties include: staff the Circulation Desk, answer the phone, check books in and out, and close the library. The hours are flexible. Law students who can work on evening and weekend shifts are preferred. Required qualifications are a good academic standing and a willingness to learn and serve others using the library. If interested please inquire with Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary’s University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pnbr.com/courses/schedules.html>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Joe Ellazar	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez	Kelly Muldoon		

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Wednesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Thursday:	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STUDENTS NEEDED Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.)

The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary’s Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When:	Saturday’s (January 27 th through April 7 th)
Time:	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Where:	The Center for Legal and Social Justice

**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CLINICAL PROGRAM**

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

Immigration/Human Rights

Criminal Justice

Civil Justice

- Family Law
- Social Security and,
- Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!**

The Sunday School/ Mini Bar Prep Program is back for the spring semester, and we invite the entire 3L class to join us for the following review sessions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, March 18, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law I
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law II

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Hispanic Law Alumni Association** is proud to announce the availability of law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are **due on March 21, 2007**, no later than **5:00 p.m.**, by email attachment. Recipients of the awards and grants will be selected shortly thereafter by committee process and award monies will be disbursed at the annual **Henry B. Gonzalez Awards Dinner**. This year the dinner will take place on April 12,

2007 at the Bright Shawl. The **honorees** are: Rosa Rosales, President of LULAC, and the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program. 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

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Fiesta Farewell - Mark your calendars for **Fiesta Farewell**. Graduation picture, fiesta lunch, award ceremony, and blessing of almost graduates. **April 12, 2007, 12:00 noon, Law Plaza**. Everyone is invited.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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 07-08 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 1st 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 20, 2007**. 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 21st**.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On these particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza’s walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA’s Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 26

March 19, 2007

By VMM

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

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

The **International Law Association** is proud to present Professor Chen Huiping, Chinese Fulbright Scholar, Xiamen University and Visiting Professor, Georgetown University Law School. Professor Huiping will speak on “**Human Rights in China**” on **Monday, March 19, 2007, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, in the **Atrium**. Lunch will be served.

THE JAMES DERRICK STUDENT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW COMPETITION (For St. Mary's Law Students)

The **deadline** for submission of the **James Derrick Student Paper on Constitutional Law Competition** is **Monday, March 19, 2007**. A \$1,000 award will be given to a law student whose paper is chosen by the Dean from those recommended by the professors of constitutional law. In order to be eligible, the author of the paper must be a second- or third-year law student (one having completed at least two semesters as a full-time student), and the paper must concern the constitutional law topic chosen each year by the professors. The paper must be in printed form, and be at least 15 pages in length but no more than 25 pages, not including footnotes. The author shall not indicate his or her identity on the paper. All papers must be personally submitted before the deadline to Sister Grace Walle. **Topic:** Even when a terminally ill patient in Texas demands (or his/her Advance Directive requests) the provision or continuation of life-sustaining treatment, section 166.046(e) of the Texas Health & Safety Code allows a physician to refuse or to withdraw that medical treatment. In section 166.045(d) of the Code, Texas extends legal immunity to a physician who makes such a decision, and that legal protection should count as state action. Question: Do sections 166.04(e) and 166.045(d) of the Texas Health & Safety Code violate the Constitution by providing legal immunity to a physician who refuses life-sustaining treatment to a patient who demands it?

ST. MARY'S WEBCASTING OF THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT'S ARGUMENTS

Starting on **Tuesday, March 20th**, the law school will be providing live webcasts of the oral arguments at the **Supreme Court of Texas**. Dean Piatt first proposed this arrangement to Justice Paul Green. The Court agreed, and for the last year, the School has been working with the Court to provide this invaluable service to the public. Under the agreement between the Law School and the Texas Office of Court Administration, the School has provided cameras, audio controls, video capture recorders, and the personnel to record and monitor the live streaming over the internet. The **video recordings** will be **transmitted live from the Court** to the **Law School** and then out on the **internet**. Once the arguments have been completed, the video will be archived by the law school for later viewing. St. Mary's is one of only a few schools in the nation that provides this service.

The **Supreme Court** typically holds three days of oral arguments each month. On each day of arguments, the Court typically hears three cases, and each case takes approximately one hour.

You can see what arguments will be held during a particular session, by going to the Law School's **webcast link**, <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/webcasts/>, which will also include a brief description of the parties and issues involved.

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

The *Scholar*: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues will host its 9th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, March 24, 2007** at the **Double Tree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410 @ McCullough**. Our special guest will be Texas State Representative Senfronia Thompson. For more information please contact Francisca Perez, (210) 431-4229 or fperez1@stmarytx.edu.

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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

LAST MINI BAR PREP CLASS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
Sunday, March 25, 2007	1:00 - 5:15	LC 102	Constitutional Law II

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS REGISTRATION AND COURSE SELECTION

Dean Mather, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, will present an **informational session** on course selection and registration **for first year students**. The registration process, tips for course selection, core requirements and bar courses will be covered. Professor Ariens and Ms. Catherine Mery, Director of Student Enrollment will also present information and answer questions. The sessions are offered on **Tuesday, March 27, 2007** at **10:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**. First year students should attend one of the sessions.

ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS

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www.abanet.org/litigation/sectionannual/. For general information on the American Bar Association - Law Student Division go to <http://www.abanet.org/ltd>. Annual membership fee is only \$20.

**ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR!**

Before spring break, you should have received an e-mail from Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas about your simulated essay exam opportunities. The Office of Academic Excellence has prepared three (3) essay questions to help you prepare for your upcoming bar examination. These questions are taken from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination. Once you have answered the questions, please contact Brian Stevens at bstevens1@stmarytx.edu to schedule an appointment with a member of the Office of Academic Excellence for an individual review session. The last day for a review is **Friday, April 13, 2007**. If you have any questions, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for current 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for the position of Academic Scholar (formerly known as tutor) in the 2007-2008 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are **due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2007**.

Applicants 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 subject.
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

Academic Scholars are expected to attend each class session of the course for which they are selected and hold weekly sessions. In exchange, they will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour.

If you are selected, you will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at Professor Thomas' home. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at

bsquires@stmarytx.edu

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

PART-TIME STUDENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The **Law Library** is now accepting applications for **part-time student positions**, which will be available as soon as April. Typical duties include: staff the Circulation Desk, answer the phone, check books in and out, and close the library. The hours are flexible. Law students who can work on evening and weekend shifts are preferred. Required qualifications are a good academic standing and a willingness to learn and serve others using the library. If interested please inquire with Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

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PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
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The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary's Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When: Saturday's (January 27th through April 7th)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Where: The Center for Legal and Social Justice

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CLINICAL PROGRAM

2007 Interest Forms Now Due

Clinical Courses

Immigration/Human Rights
Criminal Justice
Civil Justice
– Family Law
– Social Security and,
– Community Lawyering for the Homeless

Learn substantive law and practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. You are the Attorney! For more information, contact The Center for Legal and Social Justice (CLSJ), 2507 N.W. 36th Street, (210) 431-5762 or (210) 431-5713.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Smoking is prohibited in all law school buildings. Please refrain from the use of all other tobacco products in the library and in the classrooms. Chewing tobacco, in particular, can stain

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Fiesta Farewell - Mark your calendars for **Fiesta Farewell**. Graduation picture, fiesta lunch, award ceremony, and blessing of almost graduates. **April 12, 2007, 12:00 noon, Law Plaza**. Everyone is invited.

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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.

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Endowed Scholarship Applications for 07-08 year: Scholarship applications will be available on March 1st 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 20, 2007**. 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 21st**.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On these particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time.

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WRITING COMPETITION, 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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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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 27

March 26, 2007

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 JENKENS & GILCHRIST FIRST-YEAR MOOT COURT COMPETITION WINNERS

The **Board of Advocates** would like to **congratulate Christopher Karl** and **Jessica Perroni**, the **winners** of the 2007 Jenkins & Gilchrist First-Year Moot Court Competition. We would also like to **congratulate** the finalist team of **Anna and Craig Brunkenhoefer**. A special congratulations to **Anna Brunkenhoefer** who was **named Best Advocate** of the final round. In addition, the Board would like to thank all of the students, attorneys, and justices that volunteered their time and helped make this year's competition an incredible success. The Board would like to especially thank Professor Roberts, Assistant Professor Forrest, and Instructor Piatt for their leadership and guidance. Finally, the Board would like to recognize the generous support that we have received all year long from Dean Piatt and his staff.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS REGISTRATION AND COURSE SELECTION

Dean Mather, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, will present an **informational session** on course selection and registration **for first year students**. The registration process, tips for course selection, core requirements and bar courses will be covered. Professor Ariens and Ms. Catherine Mery, Director of Student Enrollment will also present information and answer questions. The sessions are offered on **Tuesday, March 27, 2007** at **10:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** in **Law Classroom 104**. First year students should attend one of the sessions.

CHINESE LAW IN A NUTSHELL

Please join the **International Law Association** for lunch and a presentation by **Doctor Robert Hu**, St. Mary's University School of Law, "**Chinese Law in a Nutshell**" on **Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium**. Lunch will be provided.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Please join us for the **Women's History Month** celebration as **Chief Justice Alma Lopez** will present the **Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Student Leadership** award. The reception will be held on **Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Law Alumni Room**. Everyone is invited!

ORDER OF BARRISTERS APPLICATIONS

The **Order of Barristers** is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the **encouragement of oral advocacy and brief writing skills**. The Order —which is open only to third-year law students — provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. St. Mary's School of Law is permitted to select ten new members each year. If you are interested in being considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an **application** form from **Professor Dave Schlueter**, Chairman of the faculty Advocacy Committee, **LFB 270**. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 20th. 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 **Thursday, March 29, 2007**.

KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM

Join the **St. Mary's School of Law Team** in the **Komen Race for the Cure**, to be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2007**. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. To register go to www.sakomen.org. Click on "register here," then click on "Join a Team." Type our team name "St. Mary's School of Law Team." This year our Team Captain is Joy Meadows. The team is sponsored by the **Student Bar Association**, the **Legal Sports Society**, and the **Women's Law Association**. Make sure you wear your St. Mary's Law School t-shirt on Race Day. After the race we will meet at Aldaco's in Sunset Station to enjoy breakfast tacos! Questions? Email Niki Baker at nicoleabaker@hotmail.com or Mo Heinrichs at maurine.heinrichs@gmail.com or check out our TWEN site.

ATTENTION 3L STUDENTS

If you are taking the Summer Bar Review Course, please be aware of the following information: (i) Invoices and general course information have already been mailed; (ii) **The enrollment/payment deadline is April 1. A \$75 late fee will be assessed on all accounts with a remaining balance after April 1.** Please either **mail** your final payment directly to Bar/Bri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing) or pay **online** at www.barbri.com (You will need your password. If you do not know it, please follow the instructions to have it emailed to you within 24 hours. Please do not call the office.) (iii) If you registered for the course but have not received an invoice, please call Bar/Bri (800-392-5441) to verify course and/or address information.

THE 4 MILE TRIAL

St. Mary's University School of Law and **Phi Delta Phi** are pleased to announce that this year's **4 Mile Trial** will take place on **Saturday, April 7, 2007 at St. Mary's University School of Law campus at 9:00 a.m.** The 4 Mile Trial is a four mile fun run/walk to benefit the Center for Legal and Social Justice and other various charities. Registration is **FREE** for St. Mary's Law students, faculty and staff who either walk or run the four mile course, thanks to a generous donation by Dean Bill Piatt. Every participant will receive a race day t-shirt and the registration fee will be donated to the Center on the participants behalf! There will also be food, entertainment and door prizes! Registration for non-students is \$15 in advance and \$20 on race day and includes a t-shirt. Come out and enjoy the fun! Send questions to fourmiletrial@gmail.com.

ABA SECTION OF LITIGATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 11-14, 2007

The **American Bar Association Section of Litigation** invites all law students interested in Litigation (Commercial, Civil, Appellate, etc. to attend any and all aspects of its Annual Conference. The conference is being held at the **Marriott Rivercenter Hotel** in downtown San Antonio, **April 11-14, 2007.**

FREE for St. Mary's Law Students - Dean Bill Piatt has offered to pay for students to attend this conference (including conference registration fee (\$10) and the receptions (\$65 & \$85).

Members of Section's Young Lawyer Leadership Program have volunteered to meet with students from St. Mary's, introduce them to others in the Section and show them the ropes.

All you have to do is complete the registration form in the brochure, which is available from your ABA-Reps at carrel #114 or mailbox #296 and return the forms to one of these

locations by April 1st.

Highlights:

- Nationally known speakers including **Kathryn Ruemmler** and **Daniel Petrocelli** (Enron Task Force), **Barry Sabin** (U.S. Counterterrorism Section), and **Rusty Hardin** (Rusty Hardin & Associates, P.C.)
- Hill Harper from CSI New York speaking on the CSI effect
- Special networking opportunities including receptions, committee breakfast meetings, luncheons, and dinners
- Demonstrations, lectures, and mock trial sessions covering hot trial practice issues from the use of electronic discovery to the debate over attorney-client privilege.

Questions? Contact your ABA Representatives

Mike DeNuccio, ABA Representative - mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu or (210) 325-4442

Derek Hilley, ABA Representative - derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee, ABA Representative-Elect, 2007-2008 - sungjee@gmail.com

Additional information is available online at www.abanet.org/litigation/sectionannual.

**ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR!**

Before spring break, you should have received an e-mail from Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas about your simulated essay exam opportunities. The Office of Academic Excellence has prepared three (3) essay questions to help you prepare for your upcoming bar examination. These questions are taken from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination. Once you have answered the questions, please contact Brian Stevens at bstevens1@stmarytx.edu to schedule an appointment with a member of the Office of Academic Excellence for an individual review session. The last day for a review is **Friday, April 13, 2007**. If you have any questions, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for current 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for the position of Academic Scholar (formerly known as tutor) in the 2007-2008 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are **due by 4:00 p.m.** on **Friday, April 13, 2007**.

Applicants 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 subject.
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

Academic Scholars are expected to attend each class session of the course for which they are selected and hold weekly sessions. In exchange, they will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour.

If you are selected, you will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at Professor Thomas' home. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 28

April 2, 2007

By VMM

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

2007 - 2008 STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Congratulations to the new officers and representatives of the 2007-2008 Student Bar Association.

R. C. Mosier - President
Mike DeNuccio - Vice-President
Matt Wade - Secretary
Russell Lorfing - Treasurer

2L Senators

Kat Thomas
Matt Hill
Lysette Rios
Catherine Murawski
Jillian Rowlett
Elliott Nixon
Bryan Abraham
Keith McMahan

3L Senators

Mo Heinrichs
Marshall White
Andrew Froelich
Lauren Christoffel
Wes Giesecke
Nathan Stallworth
Lona German
Steven Fraley

2L Honor Court Justice

Javier Rocha

3L Honor Court Justice

Jeffrey W. Martin

2L Special Prosecutor

Chris Wood

3L Special Prosecutor

Kristin Lee

**DALLAS ALUMNI STUDENT CHAPTER
2007-2008 OFFICERS**

Congratulations to the new officers for the Dallas Alumni Student Chapter (DASC) for the 2007-2008 year:

**Joy Meadows, President
Ericha Ramsey, Vice President
Kathryn Jentry, Social Chair
Allison Vrana, Networking Chair**

These individuals are a dedicated team who look forward to continued growth and success of the DASC. They plan to expand networking and job seeking capabilities with the DFW alumni.

ALUMNI ROOM

This is a reminder to students to please be considerate of others studying in the Alumni Room (and elsewhere in the Library). There are designated places in the Library such as the Student Lounge and patio, for holding conversations and social interactions. Your consideration is appreciated by all.

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2007 who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 123. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The **price for each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with **either cash or check**. No credit cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 18, 2007. **No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.**

EAP MOCK TRIAL HEADING TO NATIONALS

The **External Advocacy Program (EAP) Mock Trial Team** will be competing in the National Finals of the National Trial Competition sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers. This is the 32nd year of the competition with over 289 law schools from across the country competing. **St. Mary's won** the Regional Championship in February allowing us to represent all the Texas and Louisiana law schools. This is the second time in four years we have won the regional championship but only the second time in school history. Please send your support to the EAP team of **Jessica Baurch (3L)**, **Rebecca Lively (3L)** and **Brian Lewis (3L)** who will be representing St. Mary's at **Nationals**. The EAP Mock Trial Team is coached by Adjunct Professor Martin J. Phipps. Lets win another national title!

HISPANIC LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The **Hispanic Law Student Association** (HLSA) will have a meeting on **Thursday, April 5, 2007** from **12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Alumni Room**. Annette Wilson, Director of Career Services will be speaking about resumes and job fairs. Food will be provided. As a reminder, HLSA Scholarship applications are due April 2, 2007 in Box 139.

ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENTS

Are you still looking for a job? Do you wish you knew more lawyers in the San Antonio area? The St. Mary's Law Alumni Association invites you to a networking happy hour.

3L-EBRATION The Celebration of the 3L

**Thursday, April 5, 2007
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
La Margarita, Terraza Room
120 Produce Row
in Market Square Downtown**

Hundreds of graduates of St. Mary's Law School have been invited, so come join us and have some drinks on us! The Law Alumni Association will provide light hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets to all third-year law students. Parking is available on Dolorosa and San Saba Streets. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

EAP MOCK TRIAL TEAM TRY-OUTS

What is it? The External Advocacy Mock Trial Program (EAP) represents St. Mary's Law School across Texas and the Nation in external advocacy competitions. EAP's purpose is to select and train St. Mary's top advocates to compete against the best from other law schools.

Who runs? Adjunct Professor Martin J. Phipps is responsible for the EAP Mock Trial Teams along with assistant coaches and former EAP graduates Chuck Shattles, Sandrine Shelton and Mannie Pelaez. Martin is a partner with **ADAMI, GOLDMAN & SHUFFIELD, INC.** Practicing insurance defense. He specializes in handling first party bad faith suits against insurers. He has tried dozens of cases throughout South Texas and the Valley.

How does it work? The EAP Mock Trial Team is selected from a try-out process. Each student is required to conduct a cross-examination of a witness. Students trying-out for the team do not need to know evidence or federal or civil procedure. These topics are taught to members of the team. Students are chosen on a wide variety of factors including intelligence, ability to think and react quickly, advocacy talent, work ethic, ability to follow direction, ability to work

with others and potential.

How many on a team? The EAP Mock Trial Team will have approximately fifteen new members selected from open try-outs. There will be up to four alternates on the team.

Try-outs? EAP Mock Trial Team try-outs will begin **Tuesday, April 9, 2007**. Students are scheduled for 15-minute intervals. Students will cross-examine a witness from a packet that will be available on **Thursday, April 4, 2007** starting at **10:00 a.m.** at the desk of Profs. Phipps' secretary, **Becky Adams**, in the **second floor** of the **Raba Building**. **YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR A TIME TO TRY-OUT WHEN YOU PICK UP A PACKET FROM BECKY ADAMS.** Students are expected to be prepared for a hostile witness but do not have to have any knowledge of procedure or evidence. Students are to wear proper trial attire. An easel will be provided.

Success? EAP Mock Trial Team Members are the best trained advocates in the state and country. Our recent successes demonstrate our ability. This year EAP Mock Trial Team Members were crowned the best in Texas and Louisiana by winning the National Regional Trial Competition as well as reaching the National Finals of the Lone Star Classic, the National Semi-Finals of the William Daniels Criminal Tournament and the National Quarter-Finalist of the Buffalo Criminal Tournament. In fact since 1999, EAP Mock Trial has won three national championships along with numerous regional championships across the United States.

Members? EAP Mock Trial Team Members for this past year were Jessica Baruch, Megan David, Scott David, Marc LaHood, Chris Love, Morgan Figueroa, Shan Egliskis, Jim Hamilton, Mary Nan Hays, Eli Huffman, Dana Jones, Kacy Kovar, Brian Lewis, Rebecca Lively, Hailey Mullican, Juanita Pelaez, Allison Skipper, Lilly Tade, John Warren and Britney Wild. Please feel free to talk to any of these students about EAP Mock Trial.

Questions? If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Phipps at 344-0500 or 387-6655 during normal business hours.

**ABA SECTION OF LITIGATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 11-14, 2007**

The **American Bar Association Section of Litigation** invites all law students interested in Litigation (Commercial, Civil, Appellate, etc. to attend any and all aspects of its Annual Conference. The conference is being held at the **Marriott Rivercenter Hotel** in downtown San Antonio, **April 11-14, 2007**.

FREE for St. Mary's Law Students - Dean Bill Piatt has offered to pay for students to attend this conference (including conference registration fee (\$10) and the receptions (\$65 & \$85).

Members of Section's Young Lawyer Leadership Program have volunteered to meet with students from St. Mary's, introduce them to others in the Section and show them the ropes.

All you have to do is complete the registration form in the brochure, which is available from your ABA-Reps at carrel #114 or mailbox #296 and return the forms to one of these locations by April 1st.

Highlights:

- Nationally known speakers including **Kathryn Ruemmler** and **Daniel Petrocelli** (Enron Task Force), **Barry Sabin** (U.S. Counterterrorism Section), and **Rusty Hardin** (Rusty Hardin & Associates, P.C.)
- Hill Harper from CSI New York speaking on the CSI effect
- Special networking opportunities including receptions, committee breakfast meetings, luncheons, and dinners
- Demonstrations, lectures, and mock trial sessions covering hot trial practice issues from the use of electronic discovery to the debate over attorney-client privilege.

Questions? Contact your ABA Representatives

Mike DeNuccio, ABA Representative - mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu or (210) 325-4442

Derek Hilley, ABA Representative - derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee, ABA Representative-Elect, 2007-2008 - sungjelee@gmail.com

Additional information is available online at www.abanet.org/litigation/sectionannual.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR!

Before spring break, you should have received an e-mail from Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas about your simulated essay exam opportunities. The Office of Academic Excellence has prepared three (3) essay questions to help you prepare for your upcoming bar examination. These questions are taken from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination. Once you have answered the questions, please contact Brian Stevens at bstevens1@stmarytx.edu to schedule an appointment with a member of the Office of Academic Excellence for an individual review session. The last day for a review is **Friday, April 13, 2007**. If you have any questions, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

LAW STAFF AND HOUSEKEEPING RECEPTION

The St. Mary's University Student Bar Association cordially invites you to The Staff and Housekeeping Appreciation Reception on **Friday, April 13, 2007**, from **2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** in the **Law School Courtyard**. Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.. The SBA is honoring all Law School and Housekeeping Staff for their hard work and dedication to the law students.

ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for current 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for the position of Academic Scholar (formerly known as tutor) in the 2007-2008 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are **due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2007.**

Applicants 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 subject.
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

Academic Scholars are expected to attend each class session of the course for which they are selected and hold weekly sessions. In exchange, they will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour.

If you are selected, you will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at Professor Thomas' home. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the **Staff Attorneys' Office** at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in **Austin, Texas** is available for a limited number of students during the **summer of 2007**. 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 Monday, April 16, 2007**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor

Schmolesky in writing.

ASK-A-LAWYER

Free walk-in legal clinic. **Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Catholic Church** (535 New Laredo Highway, on the corner of W. Southcross Blvd. and New Laredo Hwy.) in their **Youth Room**. No appointment is necessary. Just show up between 5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. to register. Clients are assisted on a first come first served basis and all clients arriving before 8:00 p.m. will be assisted.

The Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's University School of Law.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pnbr.com/courses/schedules.html>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Joe Ellazar	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez	Kelly Muldoon		

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STUDENTS NEEDED
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.)

The Public Interest Law Program, Public Interest Law Association, and St. Mary's Business School are working together to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. No experience or training required. Earn Pro Bono hours toward your Pro Bono Certificate. Sign up on the PILA Board or at the PILA table in the law classroom building foyer or email stmupila@yahoo.com. Breakfast and refreshments provided.

When: Saturday's (January 27th through April 7th)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Where: The Center for Legal and Social Justice

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

UNIVERSITY & LAW MINISTRY

Fiesta Farewell - Mark your calendars for **Fiesta Farewell**. Graduation picture, fiesta lunch, award ceremony, and blessing of almost graduates. **April 12, 2007, 12:00 noon, Law Plaza**. Everyone is invited.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected "go live" date of January, 2008. Staff

members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On these particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza's walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

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The **American Judges Association (AJA)** announces its Nineteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "The Rule of Law in Times of Conflict." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2007**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The **National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)** is accepting essays for the 2007 Law Student Essay Competition. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and be given a scholarship to the NACC Law Conference in Keystone, Colorado. Essays must be received by **June 1, 2007**. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org.

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)** announces the 2007 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 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, 2007**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2007 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; actconline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry deadline is **July 2, 2007**.

The **American Academy of Appellate Lawyers** presents the 2006-2007 Howard B. Eisenberg competition. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Entry deadline is **July 10, 2007**. If you would like to enter an article in the competition, send it to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, 15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 130, Rockville, MD 20850 or by email to msp@mngmtsol.com. For more information, call the Academy at (301) 258-9210.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 29

April 9, 2007

By VMM

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

FIESTA FAREWELL Honoring the Class of 2007

Please join us as we bid farewell to the Class of 2007 and welcome them as “Almost Alumni!” **Thursday, April 12, 2007** - program begins at **noon** in the **Law School Plaza**. Remarks by Dr. Charles L. Cotrell, President and Dean Bill Piatt. Several awards will be presented and the Blessing of Third Year Students will be held followed by a FIESTA lunch. Everyone is invited.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Volume 39 Editorial Board invites members of the class of 2009 who have successfully completed all of their first year courses to compete for a staff writer position on the *Journal*. As a staff writer, you can gain valuable experience that will help you in law school and in your legal career.

This is your *only* opportunity to join the *Journal*; rising third year students are not able to join.

To become part of the Volume 39 team, **pick up** the writing competition packet on either **Thursday, May 10th or Friday May 11th** in the law classroom lobby, or in the *Journal* office on the second floor of the law library, from **11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** **Bring three dollars (\$3) cash** (no checks) with you to cover our cost for printing the packet.

The writing competition enables you to show your legal writing ability including legal analysis, grammar, citation form, writing style, and other characteristics. The competition

evaluation criteria will be described in the packet instructions. Qualified applicants are invited to become staff writers in the following order: first, the twelve applicants with the best competition scores *irrespective of grade point average*; second, the twelve applicants with the best grade point averages; and third, the twelve applicants with the best combined competition score and grade point average. If the Editorial Board determines there are less than thirty-six qualified applicants, the number of applicants will be reduced pro rata from each group.

You must **submit** your completed assignment to the Business Manager—and *no one else*—in the *St. Mary's Law Journal* office **not later than Monday, June 4, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** *Late entries will not be accepted.* The packet instructions will have more detailed information on how to submit your completed assignment. The *Journal* bylaws describe the competition and staff writer duties; they are online at http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2006_2007/LJBylaws.PDF

For questions about the competition, please contact Ginny Urban at vurban@stmarytx.edu.

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The **Federalist Society** will host Professor David Bernstein, author of *You Can't Say That! The Growing Threat to Civil Liberties from Antidiscrimination Laws*, on **Thursday, April 12, 2007**. The speech will begin at **4:00 p.m.** in **Law Classroom 103**. Professor Reynaldo Valencia will provide commentary following Professor Bernstein's presentation. Q&A will follow, time permitting. Students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

ALUMNI ROOM

This is a reminder to students to please be considerate of others studying in the Alumni Room (and elsewhere in the Library). There are designated places in the Library such as the Student Lounge and patio, for holding conversations and social interactions. Your consideration is appreciated by all.

GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

Members of the Class of 2007 who are members of *The Scholar*, the *Law Journal*, or Phi Delta Phi may wear **honor cords** at Commencement on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Cords may be purchased from Ms. Yvonne Olfers in the Law Administration Building, Room 123. Students will be verified for eligibility, based on lists sent to Ms. Olfers by these three organizations. The **price for each cord is \$10.00**, payable by exact amount with **either cash or check**. No credit cards will be accepted, and no change will be made. Purchase can be made at anytime between now and Friday, May 18, 2007. **No cords will be sold on Graduation Day.**

PRO BONO CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2007

Congratulations to the following Pro Bono Achievement Award recipients:

Alsobrook, Luke H.	Fuller, Elizabeth	Ramirez, Ivan
Ashley, Eric A.	Ganguly, Miranda L.	Reeve, Kristine M.
Atkinson, Elizabeth D.	Garrett, Clayton S.	Saahene, Chayah
Bailey, Travis L.	Glass, April	Shaughnessy, Sarah P.
Baker, Graham	Griffin, James	Shaw, John W.
Berry, Nancy	House, John Michael	Shipp, J. Barrett
Bharwani, Sharmila	Jagtiani, Nisha V.	Sigler, Lesli A.
Brooks, Britton	Johnson, Matthew	Silva, Deyanira
Brown, Ashley E.	Jones-Briscoe, Whitney	Silverman, Josua K.
Buck, Katya S.	Kamalipour, Cia M.	Sims, Sonja D.
Campbell, James	Kasperek, Tracy	Spencer, Amanda J.
Carter, Brian R.	Kirkwood, Keaton D.	Tasker, Sarah R.
Casiano, Catherine	LaHood, Marc	Terrill, Kevin C.
Champion Casey	Lawson, Landon	Thomas, Kathryn D.
Charter, Kimberly P.	Lopez, Aldo R.	Torres, Amanda N.
Clanton, William M.	Manansala, Krystel	Troutman, Jeremy
Coleman, Mary Elizabeth	Mankekar, Nina L.	Valenson, Andrew
Crawford, Ian C.	Marchman, Joseph V.	Vornsand, Eric
Cruz, Juvie	Means, Bradley A.	Wakefield, Wells
Davis, Corey	Moseley, Bruce	Wedin, Charles L.
Diven, Lisa	Muldoon, Patrick K.	Wortmann, Eric
Dumph, Susan	Munoz, Joseph E.	
Fohn, Justin M.	Nguyen, Minh	

ABA SECTION OF LITIGATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 11-14, 2007

The **American Bar Association Section of Litigation** invites all law students interested in Litigation (Commercial, Civil, Appellate, etc. to attend any and all aspects of its Annual Conference. The conference is being held at the **Marriott Rivercenter Hotel** in downtown San Antonio, **April 11-14, 2007**.

FREE for St. Mary's Law Students - Dean Bill Piatt has offered to pay for students to attend this conference (including conference registration fee (\$10) and the receptions (\$65 & \$85).

Members of Section's Young Lawyer Leadership Program have volunteered to meet with students from St. Mary's, introduce them to others in the Section and show them the ropes.

All you have to do is complete the registration form in the brochure, which is available from your ABA-Reps at carrel #114 or mailbox #296 and return the forms to one of these locations by April 1st.

Highlights:

- Nationally known speakers including **Kathryn Ruemmler** and **Daniel Petrocelli** (Enron Task Force), **Barry Sabin** (U.S. Counterterrorism Section), and **Rusty Hardin** (Rusty Hardin & Associates, P.C.)
- Hill Harper from CSI New York speaking on the CSI effect
- Special networking opportunities including receptions, committee breakfast meetings, luncheons, and dinners
- Demonstrations, lectures, and mock trial sessions covering hot trial practice issues from the use of electronic discovery to the debate over attorney-client privilege.

Questions? Contact your ABA Representatives

Mike DeNuccio, ABA Representative - mdenuccio@stmarytx.edu or (210) 325-4442

Derek Hilley, ABA Representative - derek_hilley@yahoo.com

Sung Je Lee, ABA Representative-Elect, 2007-2008 - sungjelee@gmail.com

Additional information is available online at www.abanet.org/litigation/sectionannual.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR!

Before spring break, you should have received an e-mail from Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas about your simulated essay exam opportunities. The Office of Academic Excellence has prepared three (3) essay questions to help you prepare for your upcoming bar examination. These questions are taken from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination. Once you have answered the questions, please contact Brian Stevens at bstevens1@stmarytx.edu to schedule an appointment with a member of the Office of Academic Excellence for an individual review session. The last day for a review is **Friday, April 13, 2007**. If you have any questions, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

LAW STAFF AND HOUSEKEEPING RECEPTION

The St. Mary's University Student Bar Association cordially invites you to The Staff and Housekeeping Appreciation Reception on **Friday, April 13, 2007**, from **2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** in the **Law School Courtyard**. Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.. The SBA is honoring all Law School and Housekeeping Staff for their hard work and dedication to the law students.

ACADEMIC SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for current 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for the position of Academic Scholar (formerly known as tutor) in the 2007-2008 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are **due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2007**.

Applicants 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 subject.
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

Academic Scholars are expected to attend each class session of the course for which they are selected and hold weekly sessions. In exchange, they will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour.

If you are selected, you will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at Professor Thomas' home. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please e-mail Professor Beth Squires at bsquires@stmarytx.edu.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS INTERNSHIP

A **summer internship** with the **Staff Attorneys' Office** at the **Court of Criminal Appeals** in **Austin, Texas** is available for a limited number of students during the **summer of 2007**. 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 Monday, April 16, 2007**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
“ASK-A-LAWYER” LEGAL CLINIC**

First-, second-, and third-year law student volunteers are needed for the Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic to be held **Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. St. Joseph’s Catholic Church** (535 New Laredo Highway, on the corner of W. Southcross Blvd. and New Laredo Hwy.) in their **Youth Room**. Student volunteers will assist in interviewing clients and discussing their cases with volunteer attorneys from St. Mary’s University School of Law, Catholic Charities, and the San Antonio Bar Association. It is a great opportunity for law students to apply their legal knowledge, gain valuable experience, meet attorneys in the community, earn Pro-Bono credits from the law school, and best of all, help people with their legal problems. Please see Sr. Grace in the Raba building to sign up.

The Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary’s University School of Law.

**BARRISTERS BALL
Friday, April 20, 2007**

The **Board of Advocates** would like to invite all law students at St. Mary’s University School of Law to attend the **Barristers Ball**, which honors past and present advocates. This year, we celebrate the **33rd induction** of St. Mary’s law students into the **Order of the Barristers** at the

**Sheraton Gunter Hotel
Friday, April 20th Two Thousand Seven
Reception to begin at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets are currently on sale for **\$25 each** plus a **donation of three (3) cans of food**, or \$28 each without a canned donation. **Tickets are on sale through April 17th** in the law classroom atrium at the Board of Advocates table. Due to limited seating, we encourage students to purchase tickets as soon as possible. All canned donations go to support Phi Delta Phi and Sister Grace’s effort to stock the Clinic’s food bank.

Through Dean Piatt's generosity, each guest of Barristers Ball will receive the following:

- one free drink of your choice
- a three course meal to include your choice of chicken saltimbocca stuffed with fontina, prosciutto, and sage with supreme sauce; seared Atlantic salmon with mustard dill sauce; or penne pasta primavera crowned with roasted vegetables, pine nuts, black olives, and tomato sauce.
- tea and coffee service
- glass of champagne

We truly hope you will join us for an exciting and fun filled night!

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

PMBR NOTIFICATIONS

Attention 2007 Summer Grads – The last day for taking advantage of the \$300 PMBR deduction, courtesy of Dean Piatt and St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni is **April 20, 2007**. Please contact a PMBR representative to sign up now and to ensure you receive this discount.

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pmbr.com/courses/schedules.html>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
Ryan Anderson	Andy Valenson	Joe Ellazar	Luke Alsobrook
Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez	Kelly Muldoon		

PMBR Table Schedule:

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

ONGOING MEETINGS

The *Christian Legal Society* meets weekly on **Fridays** in the **Atrium** at **noon**. We provide lunch and spend time in prayer. Meetings are open to all members of the St. Mary's community who would like to fellowship with other Christian believers. Throughout the semester we will host several guest speakers. Come and enjoy this time that we set aside each week to escape the stress of law school. If you have any questions, you may sign up on our TWEN page or email Charlie Weisinger at charlesweisinger@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Student Fellowship – Join St. Mary's undergrad, grad, and law students for a brand-new Christian Student Fellowship on campus! We will meet **every Thursday** in the **Goelz Room** (2nd floor of the UC, across from Conference Room A) from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All denominations and walks of faith are welcome. For more information, contact singram@stmarytx.edu or (832) 768-1822. See you there!

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It's FAFSA time again: The 2007-2008 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2007** as well as the **fall and spring 2007-2008** 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 07 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. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000 in this academic year, you may now apply for any remaining eligibility. The formula is based on the cost of attendance budget minus financial aid awarded and that is the maximum the student may receive on the CAL. It is for Texas residents and the current interest rate is a fixed 5.25%. 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 2006: 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 December, 2006. 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.

New Database Training: The University purchased a new database system to replace the current 20+ year-old system. Departments throughout the University are in the process of training on the new system as well as formulating policies for the conversion to the system with the assistance of consultants. The Financial Aid Offices, both for the University and the Law School began their training in November, 2006 with the expected “go live” date of January, 2008. Staff members are scheduled for training at least 3 days of each month through September, 2007. Ms. Garza will be in attendance at almost all the training dates and Mrs. Luna will be in attendance when the trainer selects dates for all Financial Aid Office personnel. On these particular dates, the Financial Aid Office will be closed. Notice of those dates will be available about a week before that training is scheduled. In addition, the two Financial Aid Offices will have training review sessions every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in which either Ms. Garza or Mrs. Luna or both will be out during that time.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the next 20 months. While the new system will commence for our office in January, 2008, we will be maintaining the old system and running the two systems concurrently through October, 2008. In addition, some processes under the new system will not be fully implemented until August, 2008, so the office will continue in its training mode until at least that time. This will reduce Ms. Garza’s walk-in hours as well as appointment times for students. We will look to other methods of communication, such as email, to help students resolve and answer student questions. However, if the email addresses are full, we are not able to communicate as well as we would like.

WRITING COMPETITION, 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.

Attorney-CPA Foundation presents the 2007 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, 2007**.

The **Inter-American Bar Association (IABA)** announces its competition for law student best paper awards. IABA will award prizes for the three best papers presented. First prize is \$800, second prize is \$600 and third prize is \$400. Each prize also includes a free one-year IABA membership and possible publication of the paper in IABA's Inter-American Law Journal. Deadline for paper submission is **April 20, 2007**.

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 27, 2007**. 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.

National Association of Women Lawyers, Second Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women in the law. Cash prize of \$500 will be awarded for first-place essay. For eligibility criteria, please stop by LAB 105. Entries must be received by **April 30, 2007**.

The **Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA)** is proud to announce its 2006-07 annual legal writing competition. The topic this year is: Should Congress Create a Specialized Court with Jurisdiction Over Claims Appealed from Federal Agency Disability and Benefits Programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration? Deadline for submitting entries is **April 30, 2007**. Please visit www.pva.org for more information.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

Howard T. Markey Memorial Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Howard T. Markey, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Law student must show financial need, demonstrated academic promise, and an interest in public service. Deadline to apply is **April 30, 2007**.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

The **American Judges Association** (AJA) announces its Nineteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. Essays submitted must be under the category of "The Rule of Law in Times of Conflict." First prize is \$3,000, second prize is \$1,500, and third prize is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2007**. For more information, please see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>.

The **National Association of Counsel for Children** (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2007 Law Student Essay Competition. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and be given a scholarship to the NACC Law Conference in Keystone, Colorado. Essays must be received by **June 1, 2007**. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org.

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers** (ASCAP) announces the 2007 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 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, 2007**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2007 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; actconline.org; or americantaxpolicyinstitute.org. Entry deadline is **July 2, 2007**.

The **American Academy of Appellate Lawyers** presents the 2006-2007 Howard B. Eisenberg competition. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Entry deadline is **July 10, 2007**. If you would like to enter an article in the competition, send it to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, 15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 130, Rockville, MD 20850 or by email to msp@mgmtsol.com. For more information, call the Academy at (301) 258-9210.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 30

April 16, 2007

By VMM

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

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 2007**. 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 application is **today, Monday, April 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon**. Students who have previously expressed an interest in this program should reaffirm their interest by contacting Professor Schmolesky in writing.

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

First-, second-, and third-year law student volunteers are needed for the Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic to be held **Thursday, April 19, 2007** from **6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** **St. Joseph's Catholic Church** (535 New Laredo Highway, on the corner of W. Southcross Blvd. and New Laredo Hwy.) in their **Youth Room**. Student volunteers will assist in interviewing clients and discussing their cases with volunteer attorneys from St. Mary's University School of Law, Catholic Charities, and the San Antonio Bar Association. It is a great opportunity for law students to apply their legal knowledge, gain valuable experience, meet attorneys in the community, earn

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The Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic is hosted by Catholic Charities of San Antonio and St. Mary's University School of Law.

KAPLAN/PMBR BAR REVIEW

Deadline: April 20, 2007

Enroll in **Kaplan/PMBR Bar Review Courses** by **April 20th** to receive the following:

- free substantive MBE lectures on audio CD;
- \$300 deduction courtesy of Dean Piatt and the StMU Law Alumni Association; and
- an additional \$100 deduction if you are an ABA Member

Summer Course Schedule – Make your summer plans for passing the bar now! The tentative Summer 2007 course schedule is available online at <http://www.pnbr.com>.

Questions – Do you have a PMBR question 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.

PMBR Reps:

Juvie Cruz	Britton Brooks	Jennifer Boggs	Andrew Froelich
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Gema Lopez	Bryan Shores	Sung Je Lee	Gordon Spring
Mayella Gonzalez	Kelly Muldoon		

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Friday, April 20, 2007

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Reception to begin at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

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3. tea and coffee service
4. glass of champagne

We truly hope you will join us for an exciting and fun filled night!

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

The **International Law Association** is now accepting candidates for **2007-2008 officers**. Anyone interested should contact Paul Townsend at ptownsend@stmarytx.edu with their name and desired position. President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Deadline to apply is **April 25, 2007**.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Volume 39 Editorial Board invites members of the class of 2009 who have successfully completed all of their first year courses to compete for a staff writer

position on the *Journal*. As a staff writer, you can gain valuable experience that will help you in law school and in your legal career.

This is your *only* opportunity to join the *Journal*; rising third year students are not able to join.

To become part of the Volume 39 team, **pick up** the writing competition packet on either **Thursday, May 10th or Friday May 11th** in the law classroom lobby, or in the *Journal* office on the second floor of the law library, from **11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** **Bring three dollars (\$3) cash** (no checks) with you to cover our cost for printing the packet.

The writing competition enables you to show your legal writing ability including legal analysis, grammar, citation form, writing style, and other characteristics. The competition evaluation criteria will be described in the packet instructions. Qualified applicants are invited to become staff writers in the following order: first, the twelve applicants with the best competition scores *irrespective of grade point average*; second, the twelve applicants with the best grade point averages; and third, the twelve applicants with the best combined competition score and grade point average. If the Editorial Board determines there are less than thirty-six qualified applicants, the number of applicants will be reduced pro rata from each group.

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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.

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Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship - The Federal Circuit Bar Association will award a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and William Bullinger, a respected practitioner to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2007**.

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www.NACCchildlaw.org.

The **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)** announces the 2007 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 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, 2007.**

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2007 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 2, 2007.**

The **American Academy of Appellate Lawyers** presents the 2006-2007 Howard B. Eisenberg competition. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Entry deadline is **July 10, 2007.** If you would like to enter an article in the competition, send it to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, 15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 130, Rockville, MD 20850 or by email to msp@mgmtsol.com. For more information, call the Academy at (301) 258-9210.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 31

April 23, 2007

By VMM

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

CONGRATULATIONS 2007/2008 SBA AWARDS

Professor of the Year - Judge David Peebles
Organization of the Year - Board of Advocates
Continuing Service to Students Award - Dean Bill Piatt and Sister Grace Walle

Outstanding 1L SBA Member - Matt Wade
Outstanding 2L SBA Member - RC Mosier
Outstanding 3L SBA Member - Juvie Cruz
SBA Member of the Year - Nick Sisoian
SBA Committee of the Year - Student Relations, Chaired by Wes Giesecke and Kristin Lee

EAP MOCK TRIAL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the EAP Mock trial team have been postponed until the beginning of the Fall Semester. It is anticipated that when classes begin in August, sign up sheets and information will be available for those wishing to try out for the team. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact either Associate Dean Mather or Professor Dave Schlueter.

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR CONSTRUCTION LAW

The **Construction Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** has given a scholarship of \$1,000 to our law school to be awarded to a student interested in Construction Law as a career path. The scholarship can be used to cover the recipient's education expenses. Law students of the 2008 and 2009 classes are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Applications are available in the Financial Aid office. Interested students who wish to be considered for this

scholarship must submit an application to Ms. Margaret Garza, Director of Financial Records by **Thursday, May 10, 2007.**

SPRING 2007 TESTING AND EXAM SOFT

Students who wish to use **Exam Soft** for their upcoming exams will need to visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw

First time users will require to access this site to register and **download** the latest version of Exam Soft software. Please use the New User Signup icon. **USB devices are required** when taking the exam. Please ensure the USB memory devices are cleared prior to taking the exam. USB devices will be available for pick up several days after the exam is taken. For those students who will be taking several exams during a given week, please plan on having a spare USB device.

Students who have already used Exam Soft for past exams are encouraged to **download** the current version of Exam Soft 8.1a. If you are not sure which version you are currently utilizing, please open your Exam Soft program and there you will find the version number. Exam Soft provides a link to upgrade your current software. Please visit www.examssoft.com/servicepack

There are fixes that can benefit the exam taker when the latest version is installed. Current users of Exam Soft can stop by our office to obtain their Exam Soft user name and password.

Exam Soft is now certified to be used on Windows Vista machines and Apple systems that have a Windows partition. Please go to the exam soft site for more information.

When registering Exam Soft software, a blank floppy disk is not needed in order to register or take the practice exam. Computer Administration representatives will be present before and after exams to ensure operation of systems. Please visit our office or contact Computer Administration on campus at 2667 or 431-6702 from off campus for any questions.

GOOD BOOKS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

From time to time, the Law Library receives book donations by area law firms or from our alumni. Over the past year the library has received hundreds of boxes of donations, including law reporters, digests, codes, and law reviews. Many of these books are in very good condition and will look great as home/office decorations in addition to their value as legal resources. The library will offer these books **free to anyone interested**. They are already boxed up and ready to go. Please see **Elizabeth Cadena** in the Law Library to inquire or make arrangements.

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

The **International Law Association** is now accepting candidates for **2007-2008 officers**. Anyone interested should contact Paul Townsend at ptownsend@stmarytx.edu with their name and desired position. President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Deadline to apply is **April 25, 2007**.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Volume 39 Editorial Board invites members of the class of 2009 who have successfully completed all of their first year courses to compete for a staff writer position on the *Journal*. As a staff writer, you can gain valuable experience that will help you in law school and in your legal career.

This is your *only* opportunity to join the *Journal*; rising third year students are not able to join.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 32

April 30, 2007

By VMM

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNSBRUCK PROGRAM

The **Emil R. Infante, Esq. LL.M. Scholarship** fund provides financial grants for students who need support in order to attend the Law School's **Innsbruck summer program**. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available to students demonstrating specific need and who, in the selection committee's view, especially will benefit from participation. Information about the grants and the application process may be obtained from Prof. Gerald Reamey, ext. 2233, or from

an information sheet available from Ms. Caroline Buckley in the Law Faculty Building. The application **deadline** is **May 1, 2007**.

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The **Construction Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** has given a scholarship of \$1,000 to our law school to be awarded to a student interested in Construction Law as a career path. The scholarship can be used to cover the recipient's education expenses. Law students of the 2008 and 2009 classes are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Applications are available in the Financial Aid office. Interested students who wish to be considered for this scholarship must submit an application to Ms. Margaret Garza, Director of Financial Records by **Thursday, May 10, 2007**.

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This is your *only* opportunity to join the *Journal*; rising third year students are not able to join.

To become part of the Volume 39 team, **pick up** the writing competition packet on either **Thursday, May 10th or Friday May 11th** in the law classroom lobby, or in the *Journal* office on the second floor of the law library, from **11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** **Bring three dollars (\$3) cash** (no checks) with you to cover our cost for printing the packet.

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

The **Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation** is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual *Brown Award* to recognize Excellence in Legal Writing in the United States. This year the stipend for the winner is \$10,000. For complete rules, please stop by LAB 105. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2007**.

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St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 33

May 7, 2007

By VMM

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END OF YEAR PARTY

Sponsored by your Student Bar Association

SILO

**1133 Austin Highway
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 824-8686**

**Friday, May 11, 2007
9:00 p.m.**

The event will begin at 9:00 p.m. and officially end when everyone gets home safely. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY. Management has informed us that once they have reached maximum capacity, law students will not be given preferential treatment and may not be allowed entrance.

The Student Bar Association has graciously decided to donate funds towards a bar tab to help ease the conversation into something other than “so how did you do on your _____ final?”

THE RESEARCH ASSISTANT WORKSHOP

May 14 and 21, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Law Library Alumni Room

Instructors: Law Librarians

The Law Library will conduct a Research Assistant Workshop on May 14th and 21st in the Alumni Room of the library. It will start at 10:00 a.m. and run approximately four hours. Lunch will be provided. The program will be the same both days – students only need to attend one session.

The Workshop will help research assistants, new or returning, sharpen their research skills and provide more effective research assistance for the professors and/or their own research. The Workshop topics will include:

- Introduction to scholarly research practices and techniques;
- Explanation of interlibrary loan procedures to borrow materials that the library does not own;
- Learning the basics of the subject being researched;
- Demonstrations of online databases, such as:
 - ▶ Lexis and Westlaw
 - ▶ Hein Online
 - ▶ Internet Libraries by the Commerce Clearing House (CCH)
 - ▶ Federal and Texas government websites
 - ▶ Business Source, EBSCO History, EBSCO Science, and other non-law databases.

Research Assistants interested in this workshop should talk to your professors about signing up. You may also sign up with librarian Paul Miller (pmiller1@stmarytx.edu). Please include in the email the date and the subject area that you will be researching.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE WITH THE ABA LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Get involved in the largest network of attorneys in America.

Apply NOW! St. Mary's may nominate as many students as are interested and meet the qualifications. Note: you must be a current member of the ABA and attend the national meeting (see information below) in order to be eligible.

Nominations must be postmarked **by June 1, 2007**

- **Vice Chair/Student Bar Associations**
- **Division Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates**

Three (3) delegate positions available

For more information, a job description and an application, please visit
<http://www.abanet.org/lsd>

For more information, please contact your ABA Representatives:

- **Derek Hilley – ABA Representative – Derek.Hilley@yahoo.com**
- **Sung Je Lee – ABA Representative-Elect – SungJeLee@gmail.com**

ABA Annual Meeting
August 9-12, 2007 - San Francisco, CA

Register by May 31 to save 30% off the Registration Fee
\$50 through May 31 (a \$25 savings) or \$75 beginning June 1

Visit the website (<http://www.abanet.org/lsd>) to learn more about the [ABA Law Student Division and the ABA Annual Meeting](#) and to receive the latest news on events and activities in San Francisco.

American Bar Association Membership
Only **\$25** – Student Rate

Benefits:

- PMBR Discount (\$70-\$100 – more than pays for ABA membership)
- Monthly Publications with helpful tips for students and practitioners
- Free Legalines Study Guide
- Discounted Car Rentals
- Eligible for National, Regional, and local Leadership positions – leads to networking and job opportunities
- Scholarship opportunities

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