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UNIVERSITY

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The Witan

School of Law Publications

2005

2005-2006 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 22, 2005

By MSA

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

WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK

By Dean Bill Piatt

Welcome to our 1L class and to our new faculty and staff. To all you returning folks: Welcome back!

We are off to a great start. Last year we received a \$1 million gift for our Center for Terrorism Law. Our new facilities for the Center in the Raba Building will be complete by mid-September. We are pressing forward with our plans to create a \$1.6 million high-tech courtroom in the Law Classroom Building. The SBC Foundation has given us a \$300,000 grant, the university has agreed to return monies to us from our surplus, and we are asking alumni, foundations, individuals, and our law faculty to assist in this effort. I am very optimistic that we will be successful in raising the \$1.6 million this academic year. In addition, we have received renewal grants for our Clinical Program in the amount of \$67,000. Also, through our initiatives in New Mexico, I have received a pledge of \$30,000 toward scholarships here.

Here is a bit of information about our entering 1L class. We have reduced the size of the entering class by approximately 10% from last year, and a total of 267 first year students attended orientation. The median LSAT of the class is a 154, or the 62nd percentile. This is the same entering LSAT median as last year's entering class. The median undergraduate GPA is 3.15 for this year's entering class, up from 3.05 last year. Men make up 56% of the class, and women constitute 44% of the class. Minority students account for 32% of the class, which is up by more than 25% from last year's minority enrollment of 25%. The median age of our 1L students is 24. We are very proud of each and every one of them, and we are very proud of our returning 2L and 3L students.

There are many, many good things occurring here, and I look forward to bringing you news of these developments throughout this semester. This is going to be a great year; please let us know how we can assist.

COURSE CHANGES FOR FALL 2005 SEMESTER ONLY

Wednesday, August 24 and Thursday, August 25. Course Change forms are available on the web at <http://law.stmarytx.edu> (click "Student & Alumni", click "Schedules"). Turn forms in to Law Administration Building, Room 105 between 8:00 and 5:00 pm 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 "right" class from the first day of the semester. Other items to keep in mind regarding course changes are:

1. You cannot be enrolled for more than 16 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 Michael Ariens for approval. Dean Ariens' signature on the registration form will suffice.
3. You cannot be enrolled for classes that meet at the same time or if scheduled meeting times overlap.

LAW SCHOOL COMPUTING

Law School Computing is calling for all students who wish to have their systems configured for internet and pharos printing access. During the start of the semester, Law School Computing will be available to configure laptops Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. After 12:00 p.m., we will no longer accept any additional laptops until the next scheduled day. This will ensure that the students who arrived before noon will have configured laptops before the days end.

We will also offer wireless configuration Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. in the Law Library reference area. We do not have access to wireless access points in the Raba building, so this must be configured in the Law Library. It is the students' responsibility to maintain a current virus scan and Windows service packs. Not doing so will result in a delayed return or a call from our department to pick up the unit.

Students who do not have a virus scan program or whose subscription has lapsed can have a free virus scan loaded at their request. We also provide Office Professional at no additional cost upon request.

Please see Catherine Mery, Director of Student Enrollment to obtain your student email account. Ms. Mery's office is located in the Law School Administration Building, Room 108. Without a St. Mary's email account and password, students cannot access the internet or wireless services.

KUDOS

Congratulations to Laura Abraham, who recently participated in the National Italian American Foundations (NIAF) Graduates to Leaders (G2L) Law Program in Washington, D.C. Students participated in the all expense paid leadership program in the nation's capitol. The lecture and discussion sessions provided students with an "insider's" view of the inner workings of the legal world. Participants met with prominent Italian American leaders in the legal field including Honorable Francis Allegra, U.S. Court of Federal Claims; Katharine Mazzaferri, executive director, D.C. Bar, Joseph Migliozi, Jr., capital defender, State of Virginia; Phil Sbarbaro, former deputy general counsel and chief litigation counsel of Verisign Inc.; and Major General William Suter, clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court. Topics of the NIAF G2L Law program included: public interest and advocacy law; criminal and business law; private practice versus public interest law; and the federal court system and the role of specialized courts. Participants visited the United States Supreme Court, the United State Court of Federal Claims, and toured the nation's capitol.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The Editorial Board of the *St. Mary's Law Journal* is pleased to announce the following students have been selected as Staff Writers for Volume 37:

Robert L. Addison	Rebecca K. Lively
Ryan H. Anderson	Nina L. Mankekar
Adrienne Archer	Chris R. Marrou
Eric A. Ashley	Rachel E. McGregor
Graham D. Baker	Matthew P. Miller
Jessica S. Baruch	Brenna G. Nava
V. Shelayne Clemmer	Jennifer N. Oblinger
Ian C. Crawford	Jack K. Reid
Lorilei Z. Cronin	Joel R. Rheman
Scott R. Davis	Robert V. Salinas
John E. Exner	Jeremy R. Sloan
Robert J. Falkenberg	Jason A. Smith
John G. George	Elizabeth M. Stanley
Cassandra R. Harrington	Heather R. Starling
Andrew L. Johnson	Robert K. Sugg
Caroline R. Katz	Katherine A. Tapley
Matthew P. Lathrop	Sarah R. Tasker
Nathan A. Leavitt	Bruce E. Toppin III

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Office of Financial Assistance staff, Ms. Margaret Garza and Mrs. Norma Luna, want to add their welcome to our entering as well as returning students. We would like to remind you that office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Luna, who has just completed 20 years in the Financial Aid Office, will be able to answer almost all of your questions when you either call or come in to our office. If she is unable to answer your questions, she will refer you to the Director of the Office, Ms. Garza, with 38 years of Financial Aid experience. Prior to September 1st, Ms. Garza will be available to see students on a walk-in basis from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesdays the walk-in hours are in the afternoon only from 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Thursdays the walk-in hours are mornings only from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Walk-in and appointment hours will change on September 1st and will be updated in next week's *Witan*.

Where's the money? If your financial assistance exceeds the charges at St. Mary's, a student refund check will be prepared and issued by St. Mary's on September 2nd beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Business Office in St. Louis Hall. If you are using an alternative loan to cover the charges at St. Mary's, you may check with the Law School financial aid office to see if your alternative loan check is at the Business Office. If it is, you may negotiate it (endorse it), and the excess funds from that check will also be available on September 2nd. You may choose to cover the amount owed after the Stafford Loan through a personal check or credit card. If you do, then the Business Office will hand you the alternative loan check.

The Business Office added a \$650 bookstore charge to all law student accounts. If you have already purchased your books or prefer not to use the bookstore charge and wish to close out that account you may do so by contacting the Business Office through email at businessoffice@stmarytx.edu.

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 drinks may be consumed in the student lounge on the second floor and on the Law Library's outside patio. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

SMOKING

The Law School Administration request that students refrain from smoking just outside the entrances to the law school buildings and that cigarette butts be placed in the stand-alone ashtrays found in the plaza. Thank you for your assistance.

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.

CAREER SERVICES

Important August and September Career Services dates to keep in mind:

Aug. 22 Fall classes begin; Scavenger Hunt Begins; **NO RESUME REVIEWS THROUGH SEPT. 6**; start signing up for Mock Interviews

Aug. 23 noon Deadline for students to request transcripts in Career Services; noon-1 Everything You Wanted to Know About On-Campus Interviewing presentation, Alumni Room

Aug. 25 after noon-Aug. 26 Students pick-up pre-ordered transcripts in Career Services

Aug. 30 3-4 p.m. Everything You Wanted to Know About On-Campus Interviewing presentation, Alumni Room

Aug. 31 Sunbelt interviewees pick up final interview schedule at Career Services

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 *Animal Law Review* seeks papers on timely, focused topics from professors, law students, attorneys, and legislators. The *Animal Law Review* is the nation's first publication dedicated solely to animal legal issues. Please direct submissions and questions to an Articles

Editor at: Animal Law Review, 10015 SW Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, OR 97219, (503) 768-6798, animalaw@lclark.edu or www.lclark.edu/org/animalaw.

The **University of Leicester** annual awards presents the Victoria Fisher Memorial Prize 2005. Now accepting essays relating to Women and the Law. Entry deadline is **September 30, 2005**. For more information, email lh55@le.ac.uk or call 44 (0) 116-252-2363.

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 2006 and its author will receive \$250. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2005**. 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 an award to be presented for the best publishable article or substantial book review, for the best book chapter or book, and for the best student case note or comment on a topic dealing with consumer financial services law. The awards include a cash payment of, respectively, \$2000, \$2500, and \$1000, a Certificate of Recognition from the College, and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2006 meeting of the college on April 8, 2006 to receive the award. Entries for an award may be published or unpublished, and must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2005**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 2

August 29, 2005

By MSA

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

FINGERPRINTING FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

To assist first-year students in completing their Declaration of Intent To Study Law (the filing deadline is October 1, 2005), the University Police provides the fingerprinting service at no charge. Officers will be available:

**Law Classroom Building
West Lobby**

**Wednesday, August 31
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.**

**And Thursday, September 1
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.**

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Women's Law Association** will have its first meeting of the year on **Thursday, September 1, 2005** at 11:00 a.m. Please meet us in the Alumni Room for lunch and to find out about this great organization. We invite all students (female *and* male) to join us. We look forward to meeting new friends and welcoming back old ones.

Christian Legal Society will hold its first meeting of the semester on **Friday, September 2, 2005** from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Atrium. Everyone is welcome. Please join us as we share lunch and fellowship in Jesus, the one who frees from the bonds of sin and death to hope and new life.

Hispanic Law Students' Association will have its first general meeting on **Tuesday, September 6, 2005** at 11:00 a.m. in the Atrium. We will have a guest speaker. Food and drinks will be served. Please bring your membership form and dues.

LAW SCHOOL COMPUTING

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If you have not obtained your email account and password, please see Catherine Mery. Ms. Mery's office is located in the Law School Administration Building, Room 108. Without a St. Mary's email account and password, students cannot access the internet or wireless services.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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. Ms. Garza is available for walk-ins from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Appointments are available at 1:15 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

All charges and financial aid will be posted to the student accounts on August 30, 2005. 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 2, 2005.

CAREER SERVICES

Important August and September Career Services dates to keep in mind:

Aug. 30 3-4 p.m. Everything You Wanted to Know About On-Campus Interviewing presentation, Alumni Room

Aug. 31 Sunbelt interviewees pick up final interview schedule at Career Services

Sept. 5 Labor Day, no classes, Career Services closed

Sept. 6 noon Fall On-Campus Interviewing firm deadline to submit resumes; CSO closed after noon for processing. First day when applications to federal judges for post-grad judicial clerkships may be post-marked

Sept. 9 Sunbelt Minority Job Fair in Dallas

Sept. 9-10 Minnesota Minority Recruitment Conference in Minneapolis, MN

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 3

September 5, 2005

By MSA

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

TIPS ON USING THE LAW LIBRARY SAFELY

by Robert H. Hu, Director

The Law Library is a pleasant place in which students can study, do research, or simply relax. The library staff provides assistance to you when you need it. However, each student should use reasonable caution to keep his/her personal property secure. Here are a few tips which could save you a lot of hassles:

- Never leave personal property (books, laptops, etc.) in your carrels overnight if it can not be secured.
- Do not leave personal property unattended whether you study at your carrel or a table. If you need to be away from your study for a short while, ask someone you know to watch for it.
- Place unique marks (names, symbols, and so forth) on certain pages of personal books so that they can be easily identified if stolen.
- Report suspicious persons or behaviors to the campus Police Department immediately (436-3472), and they will send a dispatch quickly.

In the event of theft, students should follow these steps:

- Report stolen items to the campus Police Department so that they can start a criminal investigation - without a victim's report, the police will not be able to conduct an investigation. The library staff can direct you to the police department if you need directions.
- Report stolen books to the university bookstore so that the staff can keep an eye on those items in case someone tries to sell back to the bookstore.

The library staff will work diligently with students and other university departments to ensure a safe environment. Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hispanic Law Students' Association will have its first general meeting on **Tuesday, September 6, 2005** at 11:00 a.m. in the Atrium. We will have a guest speaker. Food and drinks will be served. Please bring your membership form and dues.

The **Dallas Chapter of the St. Mary's School of Law Alumni Association** invites students and their loved ones to a happy hour on **Wednesday, September 14, 2005** at 5:30 p.m. in the Cigar Bar at Javier's. Javier's is located at 4912 Cole Avenue, Dallas, Texas. If you are not a student division member, and are interested in practicing in the Dallas area after graduation, regardless of whether you can attend or not, please send an email to the address below for information. Please R.S.V.P. or send questions to livelybecca@hotmail.com.

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 welcome the following staff-writers for the 2005-2006 year:

Laura Abraham	Keaton Kirkwood
Tracey Beaver	Shahid Malik
Lara Bracamonte	Minh Nguyen
Erica Bradshaw	Alyssa Perez
Justin Cook	Patrice Petrila
Charity Felts	Pedro Serrano
Miranda Ganguly	Angela Shimek
Adrianna Garcia	Lesli Sigler
Amber Hausenfluck	Brian Stork
Jensen Hu	Jonathan Tate
Dayna Jones	Glen Wietzel
Tracy Kasparek	

THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

The Office of University Ministry offers the following opportunities for Faith Formation. For questions regarding either of the below items, please contact Carol Hewson, Minister for Faith Formation, at (210) 436-3065 or chewson@stmarytx.edu

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Inquiry sessions are held on **Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** in the University Ministry Center living room. (Sessions will resume on September 11, 2005.) This phase of the RCIA provides opportunities to reflect on their experience of God and to ask questions. It is for anyone

who is exploring Catholicism, or for baptized adult Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. PLEASE JOIN US!

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation preparation sessions begin the week of **October 10, 2005**. Sessions will be offered twice a week, either Monday or Thursday evenings (depending on the preference of the majority), **and** at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. You may attend either class. The sacrament will be conferred on Sunday, February 26, 2006. Sessions are open to students, faculty and staff.

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Sept. 6 noon Fall On-Campus Interviewing firm deadline to submit resumes; CSO closed after noon for processing. First day when applications to federal judges for post-grad judicial clerkships may be post-marked

Sept. 9 Sunbelt Minority Job Fair in Dallas

Sept. 9-10 Minnesota Minority Recruitment Conference in Minneapolis, MN

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Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) will award a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student. Any member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, is eligible to apply. Selection criteria includes: financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside the law school. Applications must be postmarked on or before **October 28, 2005**. Applications are available on the TYLA website www.tyla.org and in 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 2006 and its author will receive \$250. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2005**. Please email: bwlj@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-6263 for further information.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 4

September 12, 2005

By MSA

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

CLASS OF 2006 APPLICATION FOR DEGREE CARDS

Be sure to complete and return the *Application for Degree* card that was placed in your student box last week. This very important document serves as your official notice to the law school of your intention to graduate this 2005-06 academic year (December 2005, May 2006, or August 2006). To ensure you have your diploma at the time of graduation, the completed card must be turned in to Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records (Law Administration Building Room 123) **by Friday, September 30**. If you do not intend to graduate this year, please notify Ms. Olfers so your name does not appear on the graduation lists.

ATTENTION LAW STUDENTS

The Rattler News is interested in receiving your commentary! We want to hear from you.

- What's new with the Law School
- Student Life
- Social Issues (St. Mary's, San Antonio, Nationwide)
- Interesting Events
- or anything that crosses your mind

The Rattler News will be posting your commentary in the upcoming issues. To submit your information please contact *The Rattler* newsroom at 436-3401 or 391-3349 and ask for Kavita.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Aggie Bar Association** will have its first general meeting on **Tuesday, September 13, 2005**. The meeting will be held in Raba 108 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be served. Please remember to bring your dues for the year (\$10).

Black Law Student's Association (BLSA) will have our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 13, 2005** at 5:00 p.m. in Law Classroom 102. Local attorney Christ Pittard, J.D. '95, will be speaking about the history of BLSA, offer first year study tips, and will discuss how to maintain a successful legal career in San Antonio. Organization materials will be distributed. Dues are \$20, T-shirts are \$15. Membership is open to all.

The **Dallas Chapter of the St. Mary's School of Law Alumni Association** invites students and their loved ones to a happy hour on **Wednesday, September 14, 2005** at 5:30 p.m. in the Cigar Bar at Javier's. Javier's is located at 4912 Cole Avenue, Dallas, Texas. If you are not a student division member, and are interested in practicing in the Dallas area after graduation, regardless of whether you can attend or not, please send an email to the address below for information. Please R.S.V.P. or send questions to livelybecca@hotmail.com.

Employment and Labor Law Association (ELLA) is having their first meeting of the year on **Thursday, September 15, 2005** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Atrium of the Law Administration building. Come have lunch and learn what ELLA is all about.

The St. Mary's Tech & IP Society would like to announce its first general meeting on **Thursday, September 15, 2005** at 4:30 p.m. Come by the Atrium in the Law Administration building to learn about the new direction of the society, information concerning membership and a vacancy for the position of Treasurer, as well as our upcoming guest speakers for the year. The society will provide food and drink for your enjoyment. Hope to see you there!

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Charity Felts	Pedro Serrano
Miranda Ganguly	Angela Shimek
Adrianna Garcia	Lesli Sigler
Amber Hausenfluck	Brian Stork
Jensen Hu	Jonathan Tate
Dayna Jones	Glen Wietzel
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- Sept. 14** Mock Interviews
- Sept. 15** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Interviewing Panel Presentation, Alumni Room
- Sept. 16** Rocky Mountain Diversity Legal Career Fair in Broomfield, CO; Impact Career Fair in Washington, DC
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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 5

September 19, 2005

By MSA

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

THANK YOU!

Black Law Student's Association (BLSA) would like to thank the students, faculty and staff for their generosity and compassion in support of the BLSA Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive. A total of \$1,682.75 was raised in the effort. All proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross. In addition, we would also like to thank all the BLSA members and friends of BLSA who assisted in manning the donation table and collecting donations. Striving to Balance!

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The Bar/Bri MPRE Review Course will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in LC101. The **deadline** to register is **Tuesday, September 27, 2005**. Please come by the Bar/Bri table on Tuesday or Wednesday to fill out a registration form. Feel free to contact Lorilei Cronin (lcronin@stmarytx.edu) with any questions.

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The **Student Health Center** will be offering the flu vaccine on the following dates to the law school community.

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9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Law Faculty Building

Fee is \$15.00

*At this time, the supply of flu vaccine is limited, so we cannot accommodate your request to vaccinate your family members. For more information regarding the flu vaccine, please visit: www.cdc.gov/flu.

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Sort Coat/Blazer	US\$150	US\$190
Trousers/Slacks	US\$60	US\$70
Shirts	US\$45	US\$50
Tuxedo Suits	US\$220	US\$260
Tuxedo Shirt	US\$55	US\$65
Women's		
Jackets	US\$150	US\$190
Trousers	US\$60	US\$70
Skirts	US\$50	US\$60
Blouses	US\$45	US\$50
Suits		
Jacket. w/ Trousers	US\$190	US\$250
Jacket. w/ Skirt	US\$180	US\$240
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The 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 the 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 pure wool fabrics only. In the same token, the Classic shirt fabrics include blends meanwhile the Exclusive Line shirts are made from natural fabrics such as pure cottons, pure linen and silk, among others.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **ACLU Society of St. Mary's** is pleased to announce its first general meeting. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 20, 2005** at 4:30 p.m. in the Law Administration Atrium. Our special guest will be Will Harrell, Executive Director for the ACLU of Texas. When Mr. Harrell assumed his current position in the year 2000, he inherited a small organization with limited infrastructure and a small support base. Since then the ACLU of Texas has grown by leaps and bounds, both in terms of its staff, funding, and membership, but also in terms of its influence on civil liberties issues in this state. Come and hear Mr. Harrell talk about his experience and the many recent developments in the ACLU of Texas. Not only that, find out what role law students and other volunteers can play in the organization's future, as well as the future of civil liberties advocacy in Texas. Food and drinks will be provided.

St. Mary's Society For Law and Life will hold its first meeting on **Wednesday, September 21, 2005**, 11:15 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. in LC103. Officer nominations will be held and food will be served.

THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

Meet & Greet lunch for "Older" law students and law students with kids. **Tuesday, September 20, 2005**, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Law Faculty Building foyer. Lunch included. Network with fellow "older" law students or resource your needs as parents. Sponsored by Sister Grace for you.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 6

September 26, 2005

By MSA

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PMBR

Monday, September 26, 2005 please come by the PMBR table. We will be giving away stuff all day. From 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. we will be in the Alumni Room with one of the PMBR instructors. He will be sharing information about taking the Bar exam and can answer questions about what PMBR can do to help you pass. And, we will have FREE FOOD! If that doesn't convince you, we will be taking entries for a raffle where we will give away a free 3-day PMBR course. Come by, grab some pizza, enter the raffle and learn about taking the bar. If you have any questions, you may come by our table any time or email sday@stmarytx.edu.

PRO BONO FAIR

The Pro Bono Fair is scheduled for **Monday, October 3, 2005**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Law Library's Alumni Room. The Fair is intended to provide law students with an opportunity to volunteer with a public interest law organization in order to secure the 50 hours necessary to earn a pro bono certificate. The organizations attending include: Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Battered Women's Shelter, Legal Services Department, Texas Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General's Office, Child Support Division, Center for Legal and Social Justice, and the San Antonio Community Law Center. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Law students should bring copies of their resume and submit them with the organizations they are interested in volunteering with. Students are encouraged to meet with each organization's lawyer, inquire about the type of law the attorneys practice, and find out what type of legal work they would be doing as a volunteer. After reviewing the resumes, each organization will select a student or students to volunteer. The organization will call the student to make the student an offer for a volunteer position. If the student accepts, then the organization and student plan a volunteer work schedule. Should students have any questions please call Joaquin Amaya, Director of the Public Interest Law Program, at 431-5765.

SPRING SEMESTER STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Spring Semester**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include citechecking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge’s consideration, discussing cases with the Court’s judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **November 14, 2005**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary’s School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

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Legal Affairs Writing Contest for Law Students sponsored by The Marbury Institute of DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP. Interested students should make an argument of 1,500 words about a pertinent topic in the law, written in style that's accessible to general readers and lawyers alike. Entries must be postmarked by **December 1, 2005**. The first-place winner will be awarded \$2,000 and his/her entry will be published in the "Arguments" section of *Legal Affairs*. The second-place winner will receive a prize of \$1,000. The third-place winner will be awarded \$500. For more information please go to <http://www.legalaffairs.org/contest.msp>

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 7

October 3, 2005

By MSA

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

Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition

Sign up at the Board of Advocates table in the law classroom lobby by:
Wednesday, October 5th

Packet Release Date: Afternoon of Wednesday, October 5th

Preliminary Rounds: October 17th – 20th

Break Rounds: October 24th – 26th

- \$1000 PURSE -
\$750 to the winners
\$250 to second place

Larry G. Hyden graduated from St. Mary's in 1974. Larry passed away on January 24, 2005. Larry Hyden loved advocacy. He would be very proud of all of you.

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PRO BONO FAIR

The Pro Bono Fair is scheduled for **Monday, October 3, 2005**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Law Library's Alumni Room. The Fair is intended to provide law students with an opportunity to volunteer with a public interest law organization in order to secure the 50 hours necessary to earn a pro bono certificate. The organizations attending include: Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Battered Women's Shelter, Legal Services Department, Texas Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General's Office, Child Support Division, Center for Legal and Social Justice, and the San Antonio Community Law Center. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Law students should bring copies of their resume and submit them with the organizations they are interested in volunteering with. Students are encouraged to meet with each organization's lawyer, inquire about the type of law the attorneys practice, and find out what type of legal work they would be doing as a volunteer. After reviewing the resumes, each organization will select a student or students to volunteer. The organization will call the student to make the student an offer for a volunteer position. If the student accepts, then the organization and student plan a volunteer work schedule. Should students have any questions please call Joaquin Amaya, Director of the Public Interest Law Program, at 431-5765.

ASK-A-LAWYER CLINIC

We're BACK! The Ask-a-Lawyer Clinic is scheduled for **Thursday, October 6, 2005** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is a GREAT opportunity for all law students to put into practice what you're learning in the classroom. PLUS, you get valuable pro-bono hours, good toward a special certificate of recognition at graduation. Ask-A-Lawyer is a collaborative clinic-like experience sponsored in connection with Catholic Charities. We (law students) do the intake for a variety of legal issues presented by parishioners of St. Jude's Church and other area churches (divorce, custody, employment, wills, and immigration lead the pack). We fill out the forms, and then students briefly meet with lawyers who also donate their time to either answer the client's questions that evening or refer them to outside council or Catholic Charities. If you're interested, please email Emily Kinney at emilykinney@sbcglobal.net. Students should plan to arrive at 5:30 p.m. for instructions and a light dinner. Thanks for your support of this exciting collaborative partnership.

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The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Spring Semester**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a "behind-the-scenes" view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of

the Court's seven justices. Work will include citechecking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge's consideration, discussing cases with the Court's judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **November 14, 2005**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary's School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Family Law Association presents guest speaker Judge Rene Diaz of the 224th District Court on **Tuesday, October 4, 2005** from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Raba 108. Judge Diaz will be talking about a variety of positive family law topics such as: collaborative law, adoption, and mediation. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. All are invited to attend. Come early and get a good seat!

The **Women's Law Association** will meet on **Thursday, October 6, 2005** in the Alumni Room from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. We'll have food, fun and speakers! Our speakers will be discussing the never ending balance of work and family. All three are very successful women in both their professional and personal lives. Come hear their stories and ask those burning questions. Our speakers will be Laura Tamez, Kelly Anderson and Judge Polly Jackson Spencer. We will also do a quick update on Bench Brunch (Sunday, October 9) and our Silent Auction.

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THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

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The Office of University Ministry offers the following opportunities. For questions regarding either of the below items, please contact Carol Hewson, Minister for Faith Formation, at (210) 436-3065 or chewson@stmarytx.edu

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Inquiry sessions are held on **Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** in the University Ministry Center living room. This phase of the RCIA provides opportunities to reflect on their experience of God and to ask questions. It is for anyone who is exploring Catholicism, or for baptized adult Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.

Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation preparation sessions begin the week of **October 10, 2005**. Sessions will be offered twice a week, either Monday or Thursday evenings (depending on the preference of the majority), **and** at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. You may attend either class. The sacrament will be conferred on Sunday, February 26, 2006. Sessions are open to students, faculty and staff.

WRITING COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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J. L. Turner Legal Association (JLTLA) is accepting applications through **October 5, 2005** for scholarships. Several scholarships of at least \$1,000.00 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.

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The Federal Bar Association’s (FBA) San Antonio Chapter is pleased to announce to 1L's its annual Excellence in Federal Law Award. A sizeable CASH PRIZE is given after the end of the first semester to the student from each section with the best grade in Federal Civil Procedure. The FBA would also like to invite all students to become more involved with the San Antonio Chapter. This is not only a good way to hear distinguished speakers talk about a number of important topics, but is also a great way to network with local attorneys and federal judges in the San Antonio area. If you plan on practicing in federal courts, this is an organization you need to be involved with. Come to our next luncheon on **Wednesday, October 12, 2005** at noon at the Quarry Golf Club. The cost for law students is only \$8.00, and the Honorable Phil Hardberger, Mayor, City of San Antonio will be speaking on "The Mayor and the City's Role in Fighting Terrorism." Reserve your seat today at www.fedbarsatx.org. If you have any questions about the Federal Bar Association, contact Ryan Anderson at randerson@stmarytx.edu.

The **State Bar of Texas Law Student Division** (SBOT-LSD) campus organization will be conducting elections on **Monday, October 17, 2005** at 2:30 p.m. in LCB 103. There will be a short meeting before the elections. In order to vote you must be a member in good standing and be present for the entire meeting and election. Elections will be conducted in compliance with

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The October general meeting of the **Black Law Student’s Association (BLSA)** will be held on **Monday, October 17, 2005** at 4:00 p.m. in LC102. The guest speaker will be Daryl Harris, an attorney and alum. He will speak on the topic “Making Your Class Count.”

The **St. Mary’s Tech & IP Society** will have a general meeting at 4:30 p.m. on **Thursday, October 20, 2005** in the Atrium of the Law Administration building. We will elect our new treasurer and give a brief presentation concerning the requirements to sit for the patent bar. Additionally, information about summer opportunities in intellectual properties will be given. Finally, we will announce our first speaker for the year and discuss our first restaurant event!

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LAW MINISTRY

Opposing the Death Penalty Journey of Hope Speaker: Please join us for a moving presentation led by a murder victim family member on **Monday, October 24, 2005 at 12:00 noon**, Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A light lunch will be provided at 11:45 a.m. This event is hosted by the Law and University Ministry in conjunction with the Service Learning Center and the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Anti Death Penalty Team.

The Journey of Hope members are touring Texas in conjunction with the national known anti-death penalty speaker, Sister Helen Prejean who will make a presentation on the evening of **October 24, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** at the St. Mary's Convocation Center. This event is sponsored by the President's Peace Commission.

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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 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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**. For information on subject, format, conditions and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building.

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By MSA

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

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, October 27, 2005**, 6:00 p.m., for the 53rd Annual Red Mass at San Fernando Cathedral. The Cathedral is located at 115 Main Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78205 (downtown, across from the Bexar County Courthouse and Cadena-Reeves Justice Center).

The Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio is scheduled to give the homily. Reflections will be given by The Honorable Edward C. Prado, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Red Mass is the solemn votive Mass of the Holy Spirit to mark the beginning of the judicial year. Judges, lawyers and officials of all faiths attend Red Mass to invoke God's blessings and guidance on the administration of justice. A legal and judicial tradition since the reign of King Edward III in the early 14th century, Red Mass marks the opening of the court term. The first Red Mass in the United States was celebrated in 1928. San Antonio revived the tradition 53 years ago. Red Mass tradition is coordinated annually by the St. Mary's University School of Law, Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio, and representatives from San Antonio legal organizations, judiciary and state legislature. Please join us!

HOMELESS CENSUS DONATION DRIVE

Help make a difference! Please drop off your donations of non-perishable foods and drinks (no glass bottles), new caps/hats, or new socks for our local homeless population. (Cash or check donations are also welcome.) Donations will be part of a "goody-bag" for homeless individuals that participate in the annual census. Law students are involved with the census. Donations may be dropped off with Sister Grace Walle in the Raba Building from **October 24**, through **November 4, 2005**. Supported by the Center for Legal and Social Justice and the University Law Ministry. For more information, contact Sister Grace Walle at 436-3063 or Ivan Ramirez, 2L, at 431-5725.

WINTER BAR REVIEW COURSE

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 payment deadline is **November 1, 2005**. Please mail your final payment directly to Barbri (a remittance form and return envelope was provided in the mailing). You may also pay online at www.barbri.com; (iii) Any winter student who registered for the course and has not received an invoice should call Barbri (800-392-5441) to verify course and/or address information.

LARRY G. HYDEN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Break Rounds: October 24th – 26th

- \$1000 PURSE -
\$750 to the winners
\$250 to second place

Larry G. Hyden graduated from St. Mary's in 1974. Larry passed away on January 24, 2005. Larry Hyden loved advocacy. He would be very proud of all of you. For more information, please contact the Board of Advocates.

ATTENTION 1L STUDENTS

Facebooks are ready for pick up in the Law Admissions Office located in the Law Administration building.

All first year law students **must** provide an official transcript of their undergraduate record to Ms. Catherine Mery, Office of Admissions. The failure to do so **will prevent** a student from enrolling in classes in the Spring 2006 semester. If you have any questions, please see Associate Dean Michael Ariens or Ms. Catherine Mery, Law School Registrar.

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The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Spring Semester**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a "behind-the-scenes" view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court's seven justices. Work will include citechecking opinions, researching issues in both

civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge's consideration, discussing cases with the Court's judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **November 14, 2005**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary's School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The St. Mary's Tech & IP Society announces its first speaker for the year. Mr. Ted D. Lee, from Gunn & Lee, P.C., will present a speech entitled "Protecting Your Idea in Our High-Tech Society," on **Wednesday, October 26, 2005**, at 11:50 a.m. in the Law Library Alumni Room. Mr. Lee has over thirty years of experience in patent prosecution and litigation. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has authored numerous articles on intellectual property matters. Come by and listen to this interesting presentation and grab a bite to eat courtesy of the Tech & IP Society. Please RSVP to emarvin@stmarytx.edu so we may get a headcount for the food.

LAW MINISTRY

Opposing the Death Penalty Journey of Hope Speaker: Please join us for a moving presentation led by a murder victim family member on **Monday, October 24, 2005 at 12:00 noon**, Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. A light lunch will be provided at 11:45 a.m. This event is hosted by the Law and University Ministry in conjunction with the Service Learning Center and the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Anti Death Penalty Team.

The Journey of Hope members are touring Texas in conjunction with the national known anti-death penalty speaker, Sister Helen Prejean who will make a presentation on the evening of **October 24, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** at the St. Mary's Convocation Center. This event is sponsored by the President's Peace Commission.

Mini Boo Bash: All children of law students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the Mini Boo Bash on **Friday, October 28, 2005**, 4:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Law School Plaza. Hot dog dinner with candy, face painting and games provided in a safe and fun environment. Volunteers are needed. Please sign up with an SBA representative.

ATTENTION LAW STUDENTS

The Rattler News is interested in receiving your commentary! We want to hear from you.

- What's new with the Law School
- Student Life
- Social Issues (St. Mary's, San Antonio, Nationwide)
- Interesting Events
- or anything that crosses your mind

The Rattler News will be posting your commentary in the upcoming issues. To submit your information please contact *The Rattler* newsroom at 436-3401 or 391-3349 and ask for Kavita.

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.

Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) will award a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student. Any member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, is eligible to apply. Selection criteria includes: financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside the law school. Applications must be postmarked on or before **October 28, 2005**. Applications are available on the TYLA website www.tyla.org and in 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 2006 and its author will receive \$250. Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2005**. 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 an award to be presented for the best publishable article or substantial book review, for the best book chapter or book, and for the best student case note or comment on a topic dealing with consumer financial services law. The awards include a cash payment of, respectively, \$2000, \$2500, and \$1000, a Certificate of Recognition from the College, and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2006 meeting of the college on April 8, 2006 to receive the award. Entries for an award must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2005**.

Legal Affairs Writing Contest for Law Students sponsored by The Marbury Institute of DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP. Interested students should make an argument of 1,500 words about a pertinent topic in the law, written in style that's accessible to general readers and lawyers alike. Entries must be postmarked by **December 1, 2005**. The first-place winner will be awarded \$2,000 and his/her entry will be published in the "Arguments" section of *Legal Affairs*. The second-place winner will receive a prize of \$1,000. The third-place winner will be awarded \$500. For more information please go to <http://www.legalaffairs.org/contest.msp>

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition on Legal Medicine. Every year the American College of Legal Medicine presents a \$1,000 award in each of the following categories, for the outstanding original paper on legal medicine: The Schwartz Award (to a medical student) and The Letourneau Award (to a law student). For applicant criteria, format, content, and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Deadline is **January 10, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. In addition, the ACLM will pay the costs of travel and lodging for the winner of the first prize to present his or her paper at the ACLM Annual Meeting, March 4, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the ACLM. For applicant criteria, format, content, and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Deadline is **January 10, 2006**.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three different cash prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for First, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2006**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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 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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**. For information on subject, format, conditions and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorney (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington,

D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. For more information, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 11

October 31, 2005

By MSA

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

COURSE CHANGES - SPRING 2006 FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED

On the date posted for your class year:

November 8, 2005	3L only	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 9, 2005	2L only	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 10, 2005	All year groups	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Submit a completed Course Change form to Ms. Bebe Gonzales, LAB 105.

Updated spring 2006 course and exam schedules are posted on the web site, as is the Course Change form (<http://law.stmarytx.edu>, click on class and exam schedule).

The **next time** for spring 2006 **course changes** will be **January 11 and 12, 2006**.

CLASS OF 2006 ORDERING OF TAMS, GOWNS, AND GRADUATION INVITATIONS

The Graduation Center will be on-campus to take orders for **Tams and Gowns** and **Graduation Announcements/Invitations** on **Wednesday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** and **Thursday, November 10, 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 829-7393 to place your order.

INNSBRUCK SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Tuesday, November 8**, from **11:00 - 11:40 a.m.** in **Law Classroom Building 104**, Innsbruck Co-Directors Professors Michael Ariens and Mark Cochran will hold an informational meeting concerning the 2006 Innsbruck summer program. Topics that will be discussed include: courses and credits, travel, housing, financial aid and costs, extracurricular activities and co-

curricular events. Learn more about the flagship international program at St. Mary's, which will celebrate its 21st annual program in 2006, and how to earn law school credits while studying with world-class faculty in the Austrian Alps. If you are unable to make this informational meeting, please feel free to contact either Professor Ariens or Professor Cochran with any questions you may have.

FALL 2005 EXAM NUMBERS

Exam Numbers for the **Fall 2005 semester** are available on ATROX, under the link for the fall course schedule – hard copies are not issued by the Director of Student Records. If you need assistance with your ATROX password, see any IT staff member, LF101A or LF101B.

HOMELESS CENSUS DONATION DRIVE

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Federal Bar Association** reminds **all students** that the chapter's monthly luncheons are open to all law students. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The luncheons feature a different speaker and topic each month, and give students the opportunity to hear about important developments in the law. Information on the luncheons can be found at www.fedbarsatx.org. Reservations can be made online as well. For more information on what the FBA can do for you, contact Ryan Anderson at randerson@stmarytx.edu.

The **Women’s Law Association’s** Silent Auction is in the Alumni room this **Thursday, November 3**, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The auction proceeds will be donated to the Daughters of Charity Services to benefit local children in the community. Everyone is invited to come and bid on over 80 items! There will be a door prize drawing every hour and a raffle at 4:00 p.m.

The **Sports & Entertainment Law Society** has three major upcoming events:

- 1) A **meeting** in the **Atrium** on **Friday, November 4**, from **11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.** Guest speaker will be film and television producer-director George Elder, who has worked with superstar athletes, coaches, and celebrities such as Troy Aikman, Howie Long, Digger Phelps, and Chris Berman. Lunch will be provided free of charge to members.
- 2) The **Fall Semester Party** at **Lion & Rose**, on Broadway in Alamo Heights, on **Friday, November 4, from 7:00 p.m. onward**. Food and beverages will be provided free of charge to members.
- 3) A **meeting** in the **Atrium** on **Thursday, November 17**, from **11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.** Guest speaker will be Vicki Neumeyer, General Counsel for the New Orleans Saints National Football League team. Lunch will be provided free of charge to members.

Membership in the Sports & Entertainment Law Society is \$20 per year, and includes participation in all Society-sponsored events, plus a T-shirt. Two-year memberships costs \$35, and include two T-shirts, and three-year memberships costs \$50, and include three T-shirts.

St. Mary's University School of Law and Phi Delta Phi announce The 4 Mile Trial. A four mile fun run/one mile walk at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, November 5**, on the St. Mary's University newly landscaped campus to benefit: St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice and Phi Delta Phi's other charitable efforts and Phi Delta Phi's charitable contributions. Honorary Chairs are Honorable Justice Rebecca Simmons, 4th Court of Appeals and Attorney at Law, Lawrence Macon. For more information and registration form please click on the following link <http://www.runawayclub.com> and then click on the Phi Delta Phi - 4 Mile Trial ad.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 12

November 7, 2005

By MSA

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

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the Student Bar Association (SBA) first year Senators and all who contributed their great efforts for the Halloween Party for our law school family children and children from local area shelters. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The contributions brought in 2,000 pounds of candy and healthy snacks. In addition to having the trick or treat candy at the event, other donations went to the Marianist Brothers, the Halloween Party with student volunteers, Holy Rosary School, St. Mary Magdalen School, the Homeless Shelter (census goodie bags), Career Services, and University Trick or Treating. While all the Sections contributed generously, Section A brought in the most candy at over 800 pounds. Section A is the winner of the end of the year party. In addition, all money that was collected will go to the St. Mary's United Way pledge campaign.

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DALLAS ALUMNI STUDENT CHAPTER

The Dallas Alumni Student Chapter and Career Services are sponsoring “JOB HUNTING IN DALLAS” on **Thursday, November 10**, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Law Library Alumni Room. Annette Wilson, Director of Law Career Services, and Rachel McGregor, member of the Dallas Alumni Student Chapter to attend, so please come! Remember there will be a happy hour directly afterwards at Lyndy’s, 5562 Fredericksburg Road.

ATTENTION 1L STUDENTS

BAR/BRI will be hosting a COMPLIMENTARY FIRST YEAR CIVIL PROCEDURE REVIEW for all first year students. *You do not have to be enrolled in BAR/BRI to attend.* Part A of the Review will be on **Sunday, November 13**, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Part B will be on **Sunday, November 20**, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Topics that will be covered include: *Personal Jurisdiction * Notice and Opportunity to be Heard * Subject Matter Jurisdiction * Venue* Challenging Forum Selection * The Erie Doctrine * Pleadings * Joinder * Discovery * Pretrial Ajudication * Trial and Related Motions * Appeal * Claim and Issue Preclusion*. Please stop by the BAR/BRI table on Tuesday or Wednesday with any questions or feel free to contact Lorlei Cronin at lcronin@stmarytx.edu.

ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The St. Mary’s University Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Monday, November 14**, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., University Center, Second Floor. This event is sponsored by University Ministry at the Law School and benefits the Charles Cantu Fund for the Future. The St. Mary’s University Christmas Bazaar will showcase unique handcrafted creations with over 50 vendors. Musical performance by the St. Mary’s Choir and Jazz Band and the music of Katherine Ray. Bring your children and have their picture taken with Santa and his Elves. All purchases will directly benefit the community service projects coordinated by the Law School Ministry Program. It’s a great time to shop. Don’t miss out!

SPRING SEMESTER STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Spring Semester**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include citechecking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge’s consideration, discussing cases with the

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VISITING SPEAKER

Visiting speaker Ambassador Robert Pearson, Director-General of the United States Foreign Service will speak about the Foreign Service on **Wednesday, November 16**, at 11:30 a.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Pizza will be served. This event is sponsored by the International Law Association. Please stop by early and get a good seat.

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

For the **July 2006 Texas Bar Exam**, an application shall be timely filed if the completed **forms and requisite fees** are received by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) between **November 30, 2005 and January 30, 2006**. The basic application fee is \$300.00. If an application is filed or is postmarked after the timely filing deadline noted above, a late fee of \$150.00 will be imposed. The BLE provides *eFast* (Electronic Forms Application Systems Tool), a software program that is downloadable so applicants can easily complete the InState Application on diskette. This option can be found on the Board's website (http://www.ble.state.tx.us/applications/apps_index.html), click on "InState Application to take the Texas Bar Exam."

STREET LAW PROGRAM

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual **Street Law Program** at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

ADDITIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY SECTION FOR SPRING 2006

Another Trial Advocacy section has been added to the Spring 2006 schedule. Judge Wayne Christian will be teaching a section of Trial Advocacy at the Courthouse on Wednesday's from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Judge Christian, a 1979 St. Mary's graduate, served as a County Court Judge for a number of years and currently handles personal injury, criminal defense, and family law matters. He is running for election to another County Court position. Students who have added their names to the waiting list, posted on Professor Schlueter's door, will be given the first option of taking that section. You will be contacted by e-mail and asked if you wish to take that section. During the Add/Drop period, November 8-10, only students on the waiting list will be considered for filling any openings in the Trial Advocacy sections. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Catherine Mery or Professor Schlueter.

COURSE CHANGES - SPRING 2006 FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED

On the date posted for your class year:

November 8, 2005	3L only	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 9, 2005	2L only	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 10, 2005	All year groups	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Submit a completed Course Change form to Ms. Bebe Gonzales, LAB 105.

Updated spring 2006 course and exam schedules are posted on the web site, as is the Course Change form <http://law.stmarytx.edu> click on class and exam schedule.

The **next time** for spring 2006 **course changes** will be **January 11 and 12, 2006**.

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The **Federal Bar Association** reminds **all students** that the chapter's monthly luncheons are open to all law students. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The luncheons feature a different speaker and topic each month, and give students the opportunity to hear about important developments in the law. Information on the luncheons can be found at www.fedbarsatx.org. Reservations can be made online as well. For more information on what the FBA can do you for, contact Ryan Anderson at randerson@stmarytx.edu.

The November general meeting of the **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)** will be held on **Monday, November 7**, at 4:00 p.m. in LC 102.

The **Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)** would like to remind everyone that the second meeting of the year will be **Tuesday, November 8**, at 5:00 p.m. in Law Library Room 224. The meeting will focus on exam preparation tips so please bring your laptops, outlines, and questions for group and individual tips. Food will be provided! Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact APALSA at apalsa1@yahoo.com.

The **Sports & Entertainment Law Society** will meet in the **Atrium** on **Thursday, November 17**, from **11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.** Guest speaker will be Vicki Neumeyer, General Counsel for the New Orleans Saints National Football League team. Lunch will be provided free of charge to members. Membership in the Sports & Entertainment Law Society is \$20 per year, and includes participation in all Society-sponsored events, plus a T-shirt. Two-year memberships costs \$35, and include two T-shirts, and three-year memberships costs \$50, and include three T-shirts.

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3. Social Issues (St. Mary's, San Antonio, Nationwide)
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The Rattler News will be posting your commentary in the upcoming issues. To submit your information please contact *The Rattler* newsroom at 436-3401 or 391-3349 and ask for Kavita.

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 **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce an award to be presented for the best publishable article or substantial book review, for the best book chapter or book, and for the best student case note or comment on a topic dealing with consumer financial services law. The awards include a cash payment of, respectively, \$2000, \$2500, and \$1000, a Certificate of Recognition from the College, and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2006 meeting of the college on April 8, 2006 to receive the award. Entries for an award must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2005**.

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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 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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**. For information on subject, format, conditions and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building.

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The **Labor and Employment Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Please stop by Law Administration Building Room 105 for copies of the rules governing the competition. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 13

November 14, 2005

By MSA

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

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The St. Mary's University Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Monday, November 14**, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., University Center, Second Floor. This event is sponsored by University Ministry at the Law School and benefits the Charles Cantu Fund for the Future. The St. Mary's University Christmas Bazaar will showcase unique handcrafted creations with over 50 vendors. Musical performance by the St. Mary's Choir and Jazz Band and the music of Katherine Ray. Bring your children and have their picture taken with Santa and his Elves. All purchases will directly benefit the community service projects coordinated by the Law School Ministry Program. It's a great time to shop. Don't miss out!

SPRING SEMESTER STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Spring Semester**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a "behind-the-scenes" view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court's seven justices. Work will include citechecking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge's consideration, discussing cases with the Court's judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **November 14, 2005**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary's School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

VISITING SPEAKER

Visiting speaker Ambassador Robert Pearson, Director-General of the United States Foreign Service will speak about the Foreign Service on **Wednesday, November 16**, at 11:30 a.m. in the Law Alumni Room. Pizza will be served. This event is sponsored by the International Law Association. Please stop by early and get a good seat.

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

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prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

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The **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school on a full- or part-time basis who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

Each of these competitions will be judged by a panel of nationally known trial lawyers and law professors. For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 14

November 21, 2005

By MSA

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

RANK PERCENTILES ON THE WEB

The rank percentiles for the Spring 2005 semester are once again available on the website: www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services, "Ranks and Grades." This site will also house updated rank information, including Dean's List, for the Fall 2005 when that information becomes available in late January or early February 2006.

POSTING OF FALL 2005 GRADES

Grades for the **fall 2005** semester will be **posted** on ATROX **after January 3, 2006**, when the law school reopens for the Spring 2006 semester. If you are experiencing difficulty with your ATROX account, i.e. blank screen or incorrect password, or if you have not checked your account recently, please see any IT staff member, LF101A or LF101B.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE

CHCI invites you to an educational workshop on **Monday, November 21**, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at The University of Texas San Antonio, Downtown Campus, Durango Building - Southwest Room 1.124., 501 W. Durango Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78207. Networking reception to follow workshop. Food and refreshments will be provided. Come hear from CHCI representatives and university officials about internship and fellowship opportunities in Washington, D.C. CHCI will also share information on it's educational services for young Latino students. For more information on CHCI, please visit www.chciyouth.org or contact Ray Casas at 202.543.1771 or rcasas@chci.org.

LAPTOP EXAMS AND SOFTWARE

Please visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw and click on **Exam Takers** on the bottom of the website to download the latest copy of Soft Test 8.0. First time users who will use Exam Soft will also need to visit the same website to download a copy of Soft Test. First time users will need to click on **New User Signup** before downloading the software.

BAR REVIEW STUDY ROOMS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006

The winter bar review classes for PMBR and BarBri will begin on Sunday, December 18, 2005. Because the Law Library will operate with reduced hours during the intercession, and the University will be closed for the Christmas holidays, the Law School has set the following schedule to provide a study room for those students who are preparing for the February 2006 Texas Bar Examination:

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Monday, December 19, 2005

Review Room: LF107 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Sunday, December 25

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, December 26, 2005

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 30, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 - Sunday, January 1

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, January 2, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, January 5, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, January 6, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday, January 8, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: Law Library regular hours

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

For the **July 2006 Texas Bar Exam**, an application shall be timely filed if the completed **forms and requisite fees** are received by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) between **November 30, 2005 and January 30, 2006**. The basic application fee is \$300.00. If an application is filed or is postmarked after the timely filing deadline noted above, a late fee of \$150.00 will be imposed. The BLE provides *eFast* (Electronic Forms Application Systems Tool), a software program that is downloadable so applicants can easily complete the InState Application on diskette. This option can be found on the Board's website (http://www.ble.state.tx.us/applications/apps_index.html), click on "InState Application to take the Texas Bar Exam."

STREET LAW PROGRAM

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual **Street Law Program** at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

ATTENTION 1L STUDENTS

Facebooks are ready for pick up in the Law Admissions Office located in the Law Administration building.

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The **Federal Bar Association** reminds **all students** that the chapter's monthly luncheons are open to all law students. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The luncheons feature a different speaker and topic each month, and give students the opportunity to hear about important developments in the law. Information on the luncheons can be found at www.fedbarsatx.org. Reservations can be made online as well. For more information on what the FBA can do for you, contact Ryan Anderson at randerson@stmarytx.edu.

ATTENTION LAW STUDENTS

The Rattler News is interested in receiving your commentary! We want to hear from you.

1. What's new with the Law School
2. Student Life
3. Social Issues (St. Mary's, San Antonio, Nationwide)
4. Interesting Events
5. or anything that crosses your mind

The Rattler News will be posting your commentary in the upcoming issues. To submit your information please contact *The Rattler* newsroom at 436-3401 or 391-3349 and ask for Kavita.

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 **American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers** is pleased to announce an award to be presented for the best publishable article or substantial book review, for the best book chapter or book, and for the best student case note or comment on a topic dealing with consumer financial services law. The awards include a cash payment of, respectively, \$2000, \$2500, and \$1000, a Certificate of Recognition from the College, and travel expenses to attend the Spring 2006 meeting of the college on April 8, 2006 to receive the award. Entries for an award must be submitted to the College before **December 1, 2005**.

Legal Affairs Writing Contest for Law Students sponsored by The Marbury Institute of DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP. Interested students should make an argument of 1,500 words about a pertinent topic in the law, written in style that's accessible to general readers and lawyers alike. Entries must be postmarked by **December 1, 2005**. The first-place winner will be awarded \$2,000 and his/her entry will be published in the "Arguments" section of *Legal Affairs*. The second-place winner will receive a prize of \$1,000. The third-place winner will be awarded \$500. For more information please go to <http://www.legalaffairs.org/contest.msp>

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition on Legal Medicine. Every year the American College of Legal Medicine presents a \$1,000 award in each of the following categories, for the outstanding original paper on legal medicine: The Schwartz Award (to a medical student) and The Letourneau Award (to a law student). For applicant criteria, format, content, and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Deadline is **January 10, 2006**.

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present his or her paper at the ACLM Annual Meeting, March 4, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the ACLM. For applicant criteria, format, content, and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Deadline is **January 10, 2006**.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three different cash prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for First, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2006**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**. For information on subject, format, conditions and judging guidelines, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building.

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National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and

reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. For more information, please stop by room 105 in the Law Administration building. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

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The **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school on a full- or part-time basis who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the

competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

Each of these competitions will be judged by a panel of nationally known trial lawyers and law professors. For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 15

November 28, 2005

By MSA

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

NEW SEMINAR FOR SPRING 2006

Professor Kurt Ebert of the University of Innsbruck will be visiting during Spring 2006. He will teach a seminar on Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. titled The European Union and Constitutional Law. As the 25 countries of the European Union move to closer political ties, the issue of ratification of a European Constitution has been the subject of great political and legal interest. This seminar will evaluate the proposed EU Constitution, discuss the legal issues raised by the Constitution, and assess its political impact, including its ratification by a number of smaller EU nations, its rejection by France, and Great Britain's unwillingness to set a date for a ratification vote. If you are interested in this seminar, you may register for it through Catherine Mery.

RANK PERCENTILES ON THE WEB

The rank percentiles for the Spring 2005 semester are once again available on the website: www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services, "Ranks and Grades." This site will also house updated rank information, including Dean's List, for the Fall 2005 when that information becomes available in late January or early February 2006.

POSTING OF FALL 2005 GRADES

Grades for the **fall 2005** semester will be **posted** on ATROX **after January 3, 2006**, when the law school reopens for the Spring 2006 semester. If you are experiencing difficulty with your ATROX account, i.e. blank screen or incorrect password, or if you have not checked your account recently, please see any IT staff member, LF101A or LF101B.

LAPTOP EXAMS AND SOFTWARE

Please visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw and click on **Exam Takers** on the bottom of the website to download the latest copy of Soft Test 8.0. First time users who will use Exam Soft will also need to visit the same website to download a copy of Soft Test. First time users will need to click on **New User Signup** before downloading the software.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006** Topic: Does the Attorney General have the constitutional power to issue a directive pursuant to the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) declaring that Oregon's law permitting physician assisted suicide violated the CSA exercised control? This case is currently before the Supreme Court as *Oregon v. Ashcroft*.

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."

BAR REVIEW STUDY ROOMS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006

The winter bar review classes for PMBR and BarBri will begin on Sunday, December 18, 2005. Because the Law Library will operate with reduced hours during the intercession, and the University will be closed for the Christmas holidays, the Law School has set the following schedule to provide a study room for those students who are preparing for the February 2006 Texas Bar Examination:

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Review Room LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Monday, December 19, 2005

Review Room: LF107 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Sunday, December 25

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, December 26, 2005

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 30, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 - Sunday, January 1

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, January 2, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

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The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 16

December 5, 2005

By MSA

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

STUDY QUIETLY IN THE LIBRARY

Finals are here, and many students are studying for the exams. At the library, we want to create a quiet, comfortable environment for your studies. During this stressful period, we all should be very considerate of others around us when carrying out a conversation in the library. Loud conversations, particularly loud and noisy talks in group studies, can be a nuisance to others trying to concentrate. So let's keep our conversations to the minimum and our voice at low level.

DATABASES ON REDESIGNED LAW LIBRARY WEBSITE

Recently the website of the Law Library (<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/>) has been redesigned and updated to be user-friendly. While we continue to build and improve the site, I'd like to highlight a few things available which may be of interest to you. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

First the website makes accessing the Library's online catalog easy. Once you enter the library's site, click on **Online Catalog** on the menu, and you will be able to search the catalog of the Law Library's holdings (and the Blume Library's as well).

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Finally, the website offers information about the Library's hours, calendars, and staff members with contact information. In the future, more features and information will be added to

the site.

Law Library Databases

- ▶ [Access UN](#)
Index to United Nations documents, covering Official Records, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. Also includes full-text of numerous documents.
- ▶ [CALI:Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction](#)
Computer-mediated legal instruction lessons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year law courses, and information and resources on law teaching technology.
- ▶ [Checkpoint](#)
Web-based tax and accounting research tool provides the most accurate and authoritative tax and accounting information available.
- ▶ [HeinOnline](#)
Full-text law journals, Federal Register, U.S. Attorney General opinions, U.S. treaties and agreements, U.S. Supreme Court opinions, and legal classics.
- ▶ [IndexMaster](#)
Search the tables of contents of numerous treatises and texts.
- ▶ [Index to Legal Periodicals Full Text](#)
Index to English language law periodicals from 1981 to present, including full-text articles.
- ▶ [Interam](#)
Full-text database of Latin American primary and secondary legal materials and information.
- ▶ [Lexis-Congressional](#)
Indexes, abstracts, summaries, and full-text of U.S. legislative history and other Congressional documents.
- ▶ [LexisNexis](#)
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
- ▶ [LLMC Digital](#)
Database of full-text historical U.S. federal and state legal documents, plus other legal treatises and texts.
- ▶ [United Nations Treaty Series](#)
Database of full-text multilateral UN and Legal of Nations treaties and agreements, status information on treaties and agreements, and other data.
- ▶ [Westlaw](#)
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
- ▶ [WorldCat](#)
Online catalog of catalogs of hundreds of libraries around the world.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Why ID number instead of Social Security Number: In this day and age of identity theft, using your ID number instead of social security number in a public setting is probably a wise thing to do. When visiting our office, please refrain from providing your social security number unless we really need it to access your financial information, and if we do need it, please jot it down for us. Ideally, the school’s ID number is the better one to use as our automated system only has one screen that accepts the Social Security Number and we sometimes have to use up to four screens to provide the information you are requesting and all those screens only function with the school ID number. On a weekly basis there are quite a number of individuals who are not affiliated with St. Mary’s who stop by our office to ask for directions to other offices at the Law School or elsewhere on campus. We do not want to provide an opportunity for your information to become public and hope that you understand why we are encouraging you to use your St. Mary’s ID number at all times.

Spring Alternative Loan checks available week of December 12th: We have asked the lenders of all Alternative Loans to disburse checks to us on December 12th. That means that they will most likely send them to us that day or the days following that date. The main Financial Aid Office is expecting to receive over 600 checks in that week for all our students. The Financial Aid Office is required to verify that the amounts are correct as well as verification of students’ enrollment for the spring semester. The checks are then given to the Business Office for recording and preparation for disbursement to students. You may check with the Office of Financial Assistance beginning on December 14th to confirm that your check is ready to be disbursed.

Alternative Loan checks may be picked up under the following options:

- ▶ Students taking 12 credit hours and receiving Stafford Loans of \$9,250 - total charges for 12 hours, plus fees and bookstore charge are \$9,254; the net amount of the Stafford Loans is \$8,972.50. Provide Business Office payment of \$281.50 with personal check or credit card and pick up alternative loan check; or reduce Bookstore charge by \$300 leaving \$350 in account and pick up alternative loan check.

- ▶ Students taking more than 12 credit hours with Stafford Loans of \$9,250 –e.g. 16 hours, plus fees and bookstore charge equal \$12,042 minus net Stafford Loans of \$8,972.50 leaving balance of \$3,065.50. Students may pick up alternative loan check by providing the Business Office payment for the difference between charges and net Stafford Loan either through check or credit card payment. If unable to do so in this manner, students need to endorse check to the institution. Refunds for the balance after charges are paid are scheduled for the afternoon of January 20, 2006. **However**, the Business Office is prepared to provide those students with sizable refunds, a cash refund of up to \$500 at the time the alternative loan check is endorsed to the school prior to December 15th. The Financial Aid Office will request an advance check of \$1,200 for January 3rd with the balance of the students' refunds being made on January 20th. If endorsement of alternative loan occurs after December 15th, the student may still receive the cash refund of up to \$500 but the date of the advance check would be contingent on the date the check was endorsed. The alternative dates for an advance check would either be January 6th or January 13th.

Students on Borrow-Based Year (BBY) Spring/Summer 2006 receiving all their funding from Stafford Loan: Federal Regulations require a multiple disbursement of funds – half of the funds will be received in January and the other half in mid-March. The first half is barely sufficient to cover tuition and fees. The second half has the students refund for personal expenses. The Business Office has agreed to provide monthly advances on the second disbursement of Stafford funds. There will be three advances and they are scheduled for January 3rd, January 27th, and February 24th. When the second disbursement of Stafford funds is received, it will pay off any remaining tuition and fees balance as well as the advances provided. A refund check will be issued on March 17th which will have the students' personal monthly expenses for April and May. There are approximately 150 students under this process and a printout by ID number can be viewed inside the Financial Aid office that will show the amount of the advance as well as the number of hours used for the calculation. There will be another review of the amount for advances done after the add/drop period and subsequent advances will be adjusted accordingly.

LAW MINISTRY

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Please join us in celebration on **Monday, December 12, 2005**, 12:00 noon at the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. The Santa Maria Justice Award will be presented. A reception will follow the Mass. Everyone is welcome!

Completion of Legal Studies – You are cordially invited to join friends and family of the December 2005 Law Graduates at a ceremony and reception for the Completion of Legal Studies. **Thursday, December 15, 2005**, 4:30 p.m. in the Raba building foyer. Everyone is welcome!

NEW SEMINAR FOR SPRING 2006

Professor Kurt Ebert of the University of Innsbruck will be visiting during Spring 2006. He will teach a seminar on Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. titled The European Union and Constitutional Law. As the 25 countries of the European Union move to closer political ties, the issue of ratification of a European Constitution has been the subject of great political and legal interest. This seminar will evaluate the proposed EU Constitution, discuss the legal issues raised by the Constitution, and assess its political impact, including its ratification by a number of smaller EU nations, its rejection by France, and Great Britain's unwillingness to set a date for a ratification vote. If you are interested in this seminar, you may register for it through Catherine Mery.

RANK PERCENTILES ON THE WEB

The rank percentiles for the Spring 2005 semester are once again available on the website: www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services, "Ranks and Grades." This site will also house updated rank information, including Dean's List, for the Fall 2005 when that information becomes available in late January or early February 2006.

POSTING OF FALL 2005 GRADES

Grades for the **fall 2005** semester will be **posted** on ATROX **after January 3, 2006**, when the law school reopens for the Spring 2006 semester. If you are experiencing difficulty with your ATROX account, i.e. blank screen or incorrect password, or if you have not checked your account recently, please see any IT staff member, LF101A or LF101B.

LAPTOP EXAMS AND SOFTWARE

Please visit www.examsoft.com/stmaryslaw and click on **Exam Takers** on the bottom of the website to download the latest copy of Soft Test 8.0. First time users who will use Exam Soft will also need to visit the same website to download a copy of Soft Test. First time users will need to click on **New User Signup** before downloading the software.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for

submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006** Topic: Does the Attorney General have the constitutional power to issue a directive pursuant to the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) declaring that Oregon's law permitting physician assisted suicide violated the CSA exercised control? This case is currently before the Supreme Court as *Oregon v. Ashcroft*.

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."

BAR REVIEW STUDY ROOMS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006

The winter bar review classes for PMBR and BarBri will begin on Sunday, December 18, 2005. Because the Law Library will operate with reduced hours during the intercession, and the University will be closed for the Christmas holidays, the Law School has set the following schedule to provide a study room for those students who are preparing for the February 2006 Texas Bar Examination:

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Review Room LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Monday, December 19, 2005

Review Room: LF107 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Sunday, December 25

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, December 26, 2005

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 30, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 - Sunday, January 1

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, January 2, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, January 5, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, January 6, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday, January 8, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: Law Library regular hours

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

For the July 2006 Texas Bar Exam, an application shall be timely filed if the completed forms and requisite fees are received by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) between November 30, 2005 and January 30, 2006. The basic application fee is \$300.00. If an application is filed or is postmarked after the timely filing deadline noted above, a late fee of \$150.00 will be imposed. The BLE provides *eFast* (Electronic Forms Application Systems Tool), a software program that is downloadable so applicants can easily complete the InState Application on diskette. This option can be found on the Board's website (http://www.ble.state.tx.us/applications/apps_index.html), click on "InState Application to take the Texas Bar Exam."

STREET LAW PROGRAM

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

ATTENTION 1L STUDENTS

All first year law students **must** provide an **official transcript of their undergraduate degree-granting institution** to Ms. Catherine Mery, Office of Admissions. Failure to do so **will prevent** a student from enrolling in classes in the Spring 2006 semester. If you have any questions, please see Associate Dean Michael Ariens or Ms. Catherine Mery.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Federal Bar Association** reminds all students that the chapter's monthly luncheons are open to all law students. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The luncheons feature a different speaker and topic each month, and give students the opportunity to hear about important developments in the law. Information on the luncheons can be found at www.fedbarsatx.org. Reservations can be made online as well. For more information on what the FBA can do for you, contact Ryan Anderson at randerson@stmarytx.edu.

ATTENTION LAW STUDENTS

The Rattler News is interested in receiving your commentary! We want to hear from you.

1. What's new with the Law School
2. Student Life
3. Social Issues (St. Mary's, San Antonio, Nationwide)
4. Interesting Events
5. or anything that crosses your mind

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 American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition on Legal Medicine. Every year the American College of Legal Medicine presents a \$1,000 award in each of the following categories, for the outstanding original paper on legal medicine: The Schwartz Award (to a medical student) and The Letourneau Award (to a law student). **Deadline is January 10, 2006.**

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. In addition, the ACLM will pay the costs of travel and lodging for the winner of the first prize to present his or her paper at the ACLM Annual Meeting, March 4, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the ACLM. **Deadline is January 10, 2006.**

The Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA) is pleased to announce its writing competition for 2005. Topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Students registered at any accredited law school in the United States and unpublished papers or papers published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2005 are eligible. First prize is \$3,000. Second prize is \$2,000 and third prize is \$1,000. Mail submission to: Robert C. Friese, Shartsis Friese LLP, One Maritime Plaza, 18th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. Submission deadline is **January 15, 2006.**

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three different cash prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for First, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2006.** Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorney (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington, D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006

State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school on a full- or part-time basis who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

Each of these competitions will be judged by a panel of nationally known trial lawyers

and law professors. For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 17

December 12, 2005

By MSA

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

STUDY QUIETLY IN THE LIBRARY

Finals are here, and many students are studying for the exams. At the library, we want to create a quiet, comfortable environment for your studies. During this stressful period, we all should be very considerate of others around us when carrying out a conversation in the library. Loud conversations, particularly loud and noisy talks in group studies, can be a nuisance to others trying to concentrate. So let's keep our conversations to the minimum and our voice at low level.

DATABASES ON REDESIGNED LAW LIBRARY WEBSITE

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Web-based tax and accounting research tool provides the most accurate and authoritative tax and accounting information available.
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Full-text law journals, Federal Register, U.S. Attorney General opinions, U.S. treaties and agreements, U.S. Supreme Court opinions, and legal classics.
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Search the tables of contents of numerous treatises and texts.
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Index to English language law periodicals from 1981 to present, including full-text articles.
- ▶ [Interam](#)
Full-text database of Latin American primary and secondary legal materials and information.
- ▶ [Lexis-Congressional](#)
Indexes, abstracts, summaries, and full-text of U.S. legislative history and other Congressional documents.
- ▶ [LexisNexis](#)
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
- ▶ [LLMC Digital](#)
Database of full-text historical U.S. federal and state legal documents, plus other legal treatises and texts.
- ▶ [United Nations Treaty Series](#)
Database of full-text multilateral UN and Legal of Nations treaties and agreements, status information on treaties and agreements, and other data.
- ▶ [Westlaw](#)
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.

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Online catalog of catalogs of hundreds of libraries around the world.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Spring semester statement of charges: The **Business Office** mailed out the Spring semester statements about two weeks ago. If your “Computed Balance” is a negative number, you do not have to complete and return the Payment Confirmation Form. If your “Computed Balance” is a positive number, you do need to complete and return to the **Business Office** the Payment Confirmation Form by December 15th. You may stop by the Office of Financial Assistance to see if you have eligibility for additional financial assistance to cover the balance owed to the school. If you do, and begin the loan application process, you will be able to complete the Payment Confirmation Form and indicate that your balance will be paid through alternative loan funding. If you have misplaced your Payment Confirmation Form and need another, it is available at www.stmarytx.edu/businessoffice, then click on the side bar “Payment Policy.”

Why ID number instead of Social Security Number: In this day and age of identity theft, using your ID number instead of social security number in a public setting is probably a wise thing to do. When visiting our office, please refrain from providing your social security number unless we really need it to access your financial information, and if we do need it, please jot it down for us. Ideally, the school’s ID number is the better one to use as our automated system only has one screen that accepts the Social Security Number and we sometimes have to use up to four screens to provide the information you are requesting and all those screens only function with the school ID number. On a weekly basis there are quite a number of individuals who are not affiliated with St. Mary’s who stop by our office to ask for directions to other offices at the Law School or elsewhere on campus. We do not want to provide an opportunity for your information to become public and hope that you understand why we are encouraging you to use your St. Mary’s ID number at all times.

Spring Alternative Loan checks available week of December 12th: We have asked the lenders of all Alternative Loans to disburse checks to us on December 12th. That means that they will most likely send them to us that day or the days following that date. The main Financial Aid Office is expecting to receive over 600 checks in that week for all our students. The Financial Aid Office is required to verify that the amounts are correct as well as verification of students’ enrollment for the spring semester. The checks are then given to the Business Office for recording and preparation for disbursement to students. You may check with the Office of Financial Assistance beginning on December 14th to confirm that your check is ready to be disbursed.

Alternative Loan checks may be picked up under the following options:

- ▶ Students taking 12 credit hours and receiving Stafford Loans of \$9,250 - total

charges for 12 hours, plus fees and bookstore charge are \$9,254; the net amount of the Stafford Loans is \$8,972.50. Provide Business Office payment of \$281.50 with personal check or credit card and pick up alternative loan check; or reduce Bookstore charge by \$300 leaving \$350 in account and pick up alternative loan check.

- ▶ Students taking more than 12 credit hours with Stafford Loans of \$9,250 –e.g. 16 hours, plus fees and bookstore charge equal \$12,042 minus net Stafford Loans of \$8,972.50 leaving balance of \$3,065.50. Students may pick up alternative loan check by providing the Business Office payment for the difference between charges and net Stafford Loan either through check or credit card payment. If unable to do so in this manner, students need to endorse check to the institution. Refunds for the balance after charges are paid are scheduled for the afternoon of January 20, 2006. **However**, the Business Office is prepared to provide those students with sizable refunds, a cash refund of up to \$500 at the time the alternative loan check is endorsed to the school prior to December 15th. The Financial Aid Office will request an advance check of \$1,200 for January 3rd with the balance of the students' refunds being made on January 20th. If endorsement of alternative loan occurs after December 15th, the student may still receive the cash refund of up to \$500 but the date of the advance check would be contingent on the date the check was endorsed. The alternative dates for an advance check would either be January 6th or January 13th.

Students on Borrow-Based Year (BBY) Spring/Summer 2006 receiving all their funding from Stafford Loan: Federal Regulations require a multiple disbursement of funds – half of the funds will be received in January and the other half in mid-March. The first half is barely sufficient to cover tuition and fees. The second half has the students refund for personal expenses. The Business Office has agreed to provide monthly advances on the second disbursement of Stafford funds. There will be three advances and they are scheduled for January 3rd, January 27th, and February 24th. When the second disbursement of Stafford funds is received, it will pay off any remaining tuition and fees balance as well as the advances provided. A refund check will be issued on March 17th which will have the students' personal monthly expenses for April and May. There are approximately 150 students under this process and a printout by ID number can be viewed inside the Financial Aid office that will show the amount of the advance as well as the number of hours used for the calculation. There will be another review of the amount for advances done after the add/drop period and subsequent advances will be adjusted accordingly.

LAW MINISTRY

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Please join us in celebration on **Monday, December 12, 2005**, 12:00 noon at the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. The Santa Maria Justice Award will be presented. A reception will follow the Mass. Everyone is welcome!

Completion of Legal Studies – You are cordially invited to join friends and family of the December 2005 Law Graduates at a ceremony and reception for the Completion of Legal Studies. **Thursday, December 15, 2005, 4:30 p.m.** in the Raba building foyer. Everyone is welcome!

POSTING OF FALL 2005 GRADES

Grades for the **fall 2005** semester will be **posted** on ATROX **after January 3, 2006**, when the law school reopens for the Spring 2006 semester. If you are experiencing difficulty with your ATROX account, i.e. blank screen or incorrect password, or if you have not checked your account recently, please see any IT staff member, LF101A or LF101B.

LAPTOP EXAMS AND SOFTWARE

Please visit www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw and click on **Exam Takers** on the bottom of the website to download the latest copy of Soft Test 8.0. First time users who will use Exam Soft will also need to visit the same website to download a copy of Soft Test. First time users will need to click on **New User Signup** before downloading the software.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the

following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006** Topic: Does the Attorney General have the constitutional power to issue a directive pursuant to the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) declaring that Oregon's law permitting physician assisted suicide violated the CSA exercised control? This case is currently before the Supreme Court as *Oregon v. Ashcroft*.

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JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

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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 American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law is sponsoring its eighth annual student writing competition. Eligible articles may address any topic of general and current interest to the antitrust law community, including topics relating to civil and criminal antitrust law, competition policy, consumer protection and international competition law. The cash prize for the writing competition is \$1,500, to be presented at the Section's Annual Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. Please stop by LAB105 for more information. Deadline for submission is **January 9, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition on Legal Medicine. Every year the American College of Legal Medicine presents a \$1,000 award in each of the following categories, for the outstanding original paper on legal medicine: The Schwartz Award (to a medical student) and The Letourneau Award (to a law student). **Deadline is January 10, 2006**.

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. In addition, the ACLM will pay the costs of travel and lodging for the winner of the first prize to present his or her paper at the ACLM Annual Meeting, March 4, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the ACLM. **Deadline is January 10, 2006**.

The Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA) is pleased to announce its writing competition for 2005. Topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Students registered at any accredited law school in the United States and unpublished papers or papers published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2005 are eligible. First prize is \$3,000. Second prize is \$2,000 and third prize is \$1,000. Mail submission to: Robert C. Friese, Shartsis Friese LLP, One Maritime Plaza, 18th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. Submission deadline is **January 15, 2006**.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three different cash prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for First, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2006**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The ABA Section of Antitrust Law - Janet D. Steiger Fellowship Project is now available for up to 15 first and second year law students. Each of the 15 students will serve for a maximum of eight weeks in the consumer protection department of one of the participating state or territorial Attorneys General during the summer of 2006. Application deadline is **February 6, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org. Deadline is **February 13, 2006**.

The American Business Law Journal (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article

submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington, D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student

Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

BAR REVIEW STUDY ROOMS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006

The winter bar review classes for PMBR and BarBri will begin on Sunday, December 18, 2005. Because the Law Library will operate with reduced hours during the intercession, and the University will be closed for the Christmas holidays, the Law School has set the following schedule to provide a study room for those students who are preparing for the February 2006 Texas Bar Examination:

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Monday, December 19, 2005

Review Room: LF107 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2005

Review Room: LF107 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Sunday, December 25

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, December 26, 2005

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 30, 2005

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 - Sunday, January 1

No Review or Study Rooms

Monday, January 2, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday, January 5, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, January 6, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Review Room: LF108 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Study Room: LF107 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday, January 8, 2006

Review Room: None
Study Room: Law Library regular hours

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 18

January 9, 2006

By MSA

Submit articles to Ms. Yvonne Olfers (yolfers@stmarytx.edu) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

DATABASES ON REDESIGNED LAW LIBRARY WEBSITE by Prof. Robert Hu

Recently the website of the Law Library (<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/>) has been redesigned and updated to be user-friendly. While we continue to build and improve the site, I'd like to highlight a few things available which may be of interest to you. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

First the website makes accessing the Library's online catalog easy. Once you enter the library's site, click on **Online Catalog** on the menu, and you will be able to search the catalog of the Law Library's holdings (and the Blume Library's as well).

Second, the website provides direct links to databases subscribed to by the Law Library. Again, you enter the Library's site and click on **Databases and Research Links** on the menu, which opens up a page with descriptions and information. (The bottom of this article has a list of databases we subscribe to.)

Finally, the website offers information about the Library's hours, calendars, and staff members with contact information. In the future, more features and information will be added to the site.

Law Library Databases

- ▶ [Access UN](#)
Index to United Nations documents, covering Official Records, draft resolutions, meeting

- records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. Also includes full-text of numerous documents.
- ▶ CALI:Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction
Computer-mediated legal instruction lessons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year law courses, and information and resources on law teaching technology.
 - ▶ Checkpoint
Web-based tax and accounting research tool provides the most accurate and authoritative tax and accounting information available.
 - ▶ HeinOnline
Full-text law journals, Federal Register, U.S. Attorney General opinions, U.S. treaties and agreements, U.S. Supreme Court opinions, and legal classics.
 - ▶ IndexMaster
Search the tables of contents of numerous treatises and texts.
 - ▶ Index to Legal Periodicals Full Text
Index to English language law periodicals from 1981 to present, including full-text articles.
 - ▶ Interam
Full-text database of Latin American primary and secondary legal materials and information.
 - ▶ Lexis-Congressional
Indexes, abstracts, summaries, and full-text of U.S. legislative history and other Congressional documents.
 - ▶ LexisNexis
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
 - ▶ LLMC Digital
Database of full-text historical U.S. federal and state legal documents, plus other legal treatises and texts.
 - ▶ United Nations Treaty Series
Database of full-text multilateral UN and Legal of Nations treaties and agreements, status information on treaties and agreements, and other data.
 - ▶ Westlaw
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
 - ▶ WorldCat
Online catalog of catalogs of hundreds of libraries around the world.

**SOUTHERN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST INCREASE**

Southern Trial Lawyers Association is sponsoring a prize essay contest of \$2,000. We have just learned that a Texas lawyer will award an additional \$5,000 as a prize to any Texas

student who wins the contest. The contest is for the best essay on “How Tort Reform is Bad for Society.” Deadline for submission is **January 15, 2006**.

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The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is sponsoring a student writing competition in Bioethics. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. In addition, the ACLM will pay the costs of travel and lodging for the winner of the first prize to present his or her paper at the ACLM Annual Meeting, March 4, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the ACLM. **Deadline is January 10, 2006.**

The Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA) is pleased to announce its writing competition for 2005. Topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Students registered at any accredited law school in the United States and unpublished papers or papers published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2005 are eligible. First prize is \$3,000. Second prize is \$2,000 and third prize is \$1,000. Mail submission

to: Robert C. Friese, Shartsis Friese LLP, One Maritime Plaza, 18th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. Submission deadline is **January 15, 2006**.

National Center for Nonsmokers' Rights is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three different cash prizes will be awarded, including \$5,000 for First, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication of all finalist papers. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2006**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

Southern Trial Lawyers Association is sponsoring a prize essay contest of \$2,000, plus an additional \$5,000 as a prize to any Texas student that wins the contest, for the best essay on the subject, "How Tort Reform is Bad for Society." Deadline for submission is **January 15, 2006**.

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 H. Malin at mmalin@kentlaw.edu. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **January 18, 2006**.

The ABA Section of Antitrust Law - Janet D. Steiger Fellowship Project is now available for up to 15 first and second year law students. Each of the 15 students will serve for a maximum of eight weeks in the consumer protection department of one of the participating state or territorial Attorneys General during the summer of 2006. Application deadline is **February 6, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

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The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

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may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org. Deadline is **February 13, 2006**.

The American Business Law Journal (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington, D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

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The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed

Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the

68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006.** For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 19

January 23, 2006

By MSA

Submit articles to Ms. Yvonne Olfers (yolfers@stmarytx.edu) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING BREAK 2006

Dean Bill Piatt, Instructor Rosanne Piatt and Law Ministry invite you to **build a Habitat House in Taos, New Mexico during Spring Break, Sunday - Friday, March 12 - 17, 2006.** Spouses are welcome. Housing and most food is provided, travel expenses are covered, and study time is possible. Van travel for law students will be coordinated by Mike Martinez, Mike Forrest, and Joe Bravo. For registration, see Mike Martinez (mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu), Mike Forrest (mforrest1@stmarytx.edu), or Sr. Grace Walle (210-436-3063).

IMPORTANT DEADLINE FOR THE CLASS OF 2006 TO ORDER GRADUATION REGALIA, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATIONS

The Graduation Center has a **deadline of Wednesday, January 25, 2006**, for the Class of 2006 to place their **orders for tams, gowns, and hoods, announcements, and invitations** to ensure timely delivery. Orders can be placed over the phone (210-829-7393) or at their offices (5118 San Pedro, 78212). Samples of the graduation invitations, as well as a tape measure to determine correct hat size, are available from Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, LAB 123.

DATABASES ON REDESIGNED LAW LIBRARY WEBSITE

Recently the website of the Law Library (<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/>) has been redesigned and updated to be user-friendly. While we continue to build and improve the site, I'd like to highlight a few things available which may be of interest to you. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

First the website makes accessing the Library's online catalog easy. Once you enter the library's site, click on **Online Catalog** on the menu, and you will be able to search the catalog of the Law Library's holdings (and the Blume Library's as well).

Second, the website provides direct links to databases subscribed to by the Law Library. Again, you enter the Library's site and click on **Databases and Research Links** on the menu, which opens up a page with descriptions and information. (The bottom of this article has a list of databases we subscribe to.)

Finally, the website offers information about the Library's hours, calendars, and staff members with contact information. In the future, more features and information will be added to the site.

Law Library Databases

- ▶ [Access UN](#)
Index to United Nations documents, covering Official Records, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. Also includes full-text of numerous documents.
- ▶ [CALI:Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction](#)
Computer-mediated legal instruction lessons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year law courses, and information and resources on law teaching technology.
- ▶ [Checkpoint](#)
Web-based tax and accounting research tool provides the most accurate and authoritative tax and accounting information available.
- ▶ [HeinOnline](#)
Full-text law journals, Federal Register, U.S. Attorney General opinions, U.S. treaties and agreements, U.S. Supreme Court opinions, and legal classics.
- ▶ [IndexMaster](#)

- Search the tables of contents of numerous treatises and texts.
- ▶ Index to Legal Periodicals Full Text
Index to English language law periodicals from 1981 to present, including full-text articles.
 - ▶ Interam
Full-text database of Latin American primary and secondary legal materials and information.
 - ▶ Lexis-Congressional
Indexes, abstracts, summaries, and full-text of U.S. legislative history and other Congressional documents.
 - ▶ LexisNexis
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
 - ▶ LLMC Digital
Database of full-text historical U.S. federal and state legal documents, plus other legal treatises and texts.
 - ▶ United Nations Treaty Series
Database of full-text multilateral UN and Legal of Nations treaties and agreements, status information on treaties and agreements, and other data.
 - ▶ Westlaw
Full-text databases of court cases, statutes and administrative rules for the U.S. federal and state jurisdictions; include foreign and international legal documents; cover law review articles, legal texts, news, and other data.
 - ▶ WorldCat
Online catalog of catalogs of hundreds of libraries around the world.

**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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the

deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006** Topic: Does the Attorney General have the constitutional power to issue a directive pursuant to the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) declaring that Oregon's law permitting physician assisted suicide violated the CSA exercised control? This case is currently before the Supreme Court as *Oregon v. Ashcroft*.

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."

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

For the July 2006 Texas Bar Exam, an application shall be timely filed if the completed forms and requisite fees are received by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) no later than **January 30, 2006**. The basic application fee is \$300.00. If an application is filed or is postmarked after the timely filing deadline noted above, a late fee of \$150.00 will be imposed. The BLE provides *eFast* (Electronic Forms Application Systems Tool), a software program that is downloadable so applicants can easily complete the InState Application on diskette. This option can be found on the Board's website (http://www.ble.state.tx.us/applications/apps_index.html), click on "InState Application to take the Texas Bar Exam."

STREET LAW PROGRAM

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

WRITING COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 20

January 30, 2006

By MSA

Submit articles to Ms. Yvonne Olfers (yolfers@stmarytx.edu) in electronic format by noon Thursday.

**The Office of Academic Excellence
2006 Mini Bar Prep Series
Essay Advantage Workshop
St. Mary's University Center Conference Room A
Saturday, February 11, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch Will Be Provided**

This year, the Mini Bar Prep Series will focus on strengthening the essay-writing skills of St. Mary's students who will take the February or July 2006 Texas Bar examinations. The Office of Academic Excellence has partnered with Bar/Bri to offer 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- the Texas Essay Examination. Students who attend the workshop will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions from recent administrations of the Texas Bar Examination which they can submit to the Office of Academic Excellence for review and feedback.

During the workshop, Bar/Bri's principal national lecturer on the topic of essay writing, Mike Sims, will discuss:

1. How to avoid the four most common mistakes bar exam takers make;
2. A step-by-step approach to reading, outlining, and writing winning bar exam essays;
3. How to answer bar exam essay questions when you don't know the law.

This workshop is open to St. Mary's students who will take the February or July Bar Exams. Because part of this cost has been generously underwritten by Dean Piatt and the Law Alumni Association, tuition is only \$45. **The deadline for enrollment is Wednesday,**

February 1. Students may enroll at the Bar/Bri table January 31- February 1 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436.3541 or 210.436-4340.

THIRD-YEAR GRADUATION CHECKLIST

For those students who completed their first year of studies in May 2003 or thereafter, and who plan on graduating in May 2006, please make certain you will fulfill your graduation requirements by the end of the spring semester. Those requirements are found at pp. 10-13 in the 2005-06 *Student Handbook* (which is available on the law school website in the section on “Students and Alumni”). Please pay particular attention to those upper-level requirements found at pp. 11-12. You are responsible for ensuring you have met all requirements for graduation. Pursuant to University policy, only those students who have graduated are permitted to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony in May.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteers are needed to work at the St. Mary’s University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where low-income people can get help preparing their income taxes. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., from January 28 until April 8, 2006.** Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site. To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer, stop by the PILA table that will be set-up at various times in the foyer, or email stmupila@yahoo.com with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

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FALL 2005 CLASS RANKS

Percentile rankings for each class are available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services/ "Current Students," "Ranks and Grades"), with hard copies available from the Office of Law Career Services (LL 216). Individual rankings can be obtained from Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, LAB 123; photo ID is required.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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.**"

JULY 2006 TEXAS BAR APPLICATIONS

For the **July 2006 Texas Bar Exam**, an application shall be timely filed if the completed forms and requisite fees are received by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) **no later than January 30, 2006**. The basic application fee is \$300.00. If an application is filed or is postmarked after the timely filing deadline noted above, a late fee of \$150.00 will be imposed. The BLE provides *eFast* (Electronic Forms Application Systems Tool), a software program that is downloadable so applicants can easily complete the InState Application on diskette. This option can be found on the Board's website (http://www.ble.state.tx.us/applications/apps_index.html), click on "InState Application to take the Texas Bar Exam."

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The **Federal Bar Association** invites all students to become more involved with the San Antonio Chapter. This is not only a good way to hear distinguished speakers talk about a number of important topics, but is also a great way to network with local attorneys and federal judges in the San Antonio area. If you plan on practicing in federal court, this is an organization with which you need to be involved. Come to our next **luncheon , Wednesday, February 8 at The Plaza Club, in the Frost Bank Building**, downtown. The cost for law students is only \$8.00, and the presentation topic will be "**Reality Bites: Dealing with Consumer and Business Amendments to the Bankruptcy Code.**" Reserve your seat today at www.fedbarsatx.org. If you have any questions about the Federal Bar Association, contact Ryan Anderson at

randerson@stmarytx.edu.

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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 ABA Section of Antitrust Law - Janet D. Steiger Fellowship Project is now available for up to 15 first and second year law students. Each of the 15 students will serve for a maximum of eight weeks in the consumer protection department of one of the participating state or territorial Attorneys General during the summer of 2006. Application deadline is **February 6, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org. Deadline is **February 13, 2006**.

The American Business Law Journal (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorney (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington, D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its **Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition**. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the **Seventh Annual James William Moore Federal Practice Award**. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of

\$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 21

February 6, 2006

By MSA

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

THE RENNA AND JEFF EMBRY MOCK TRIAL WINNERS

Congratulations to Michael Kim and Tyler Milton for winning the Renna and Jeff Embry Mock Trial Competition on February 1st. Will Sanders and Clay Butler placed second in the competition, which was judged by Judge Xavier Rodriguez, Judge Pam Mathey, and Judge John Specia. The competition is named for Renna and Jeff Embry, both 1997 graduates of St. Mary's who have established an Advocacy Scholarship to be used for the competition. Also, congratulations to the BOA for running a great competition and thanks to Assistant Dean Al Hartman and the Alumni Association for providing the refreshments during the final round.

BLSA TEAM WINS REGIONAL COMPETITION

This past weekend, the BLSA mock trial team took first place at the annual regional conference and competition in Houston. The case involved claims of false imprisonment and discrimination based on national origin. The team – Angelle Adams, Ken Bell, Amanda Stephenson, and Rick Ramirez – competed against eight other regional teams and now advances to the national finals in Washington, D.C., in March, where they will compete against 12 other teams. They were coached by Mr. Martin Phipps and Mr. Daryl Harris who are both alumni of St. Mary's. Angelle Adams won the award as the "Regional Best Advocate." Congratulations to the team, to Angelle, and the coaches for this great win!

NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION—We Need Witnesses!!

Starting this week Thursday, February 9th, St. Mary's is hosting the National Trial Competition (NTC) Region 11 Tournament. All Texas and Louisiana law schools will be present. The tournament will be held at the Bexar County Courthouse, February 9-11. The

School only hosts this tournament once every 12 years. During this competition, St. Mary's is responsible for providing all of the witnesses. We need a minimum of 48 witnesses for the first three preliminary rounds. This will be an invaluable experience to any student interested in practicing any type of trial law of any kind or plans on mediating cases. The schedule for the competition is as follows:

Thursday, February 9th at 4:30 p.m. (preliminary round 1)

Friday, February 10th at 1:30 p.m. (preliminary round 2) and 5:30 p.m. (preliminary round 3)

Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 a.m. (semi-finals) and 2:00 p.m. (finals)

A meeting to explain what is involved will be held on **Monday, February 6th at 4:30 p.m.** in the law classroom building. This is a great opportunity for our students, so please plan on taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity to not only to help the school but to be part of an important and prestigious regional competition.

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The Office of Academic Excellence
2006 Mini Bar Prep Series
Essay Advantage Workshop
St. Mary's University Center Conference Room A
Saturday, February 11, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch Will Be Provided

This year, the Mini Bar Prep Series will focus on strengthening the essay-writing skills of St. Mary's students who will take the February or July 2006 Texas Bar examinations. The Office of Academic Excellence has partnered with Bar/Bri to offer 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- the Texas Essay Examination. Students who attend the workshop will have the opportunity to complete three (3) essay questions from recent administrations of the Texas Bar

Examination which they can submit to the Office of Academic Excellence for review and feedback.

During the workshop, Bar/Bri's principal national lecturer on the topic of essay writing, Mike Sims, will discuss:

1. How to avoid the four most common mistakes bar exam takers make;
2. A step-by-step approach to reading, outlining, and writing winning bar exam essays;
3. How to answer bar exam essay questions when you don't know the law.

This workshop is open to St. Mary's students who will take the February or July Bar Exams. Because part of this cost has been generously underwritten by Dean Piatt and the Law Alumni Association, tuition is only \$45.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210.436.3541 or 210.436-4340.

IMPORTANT MPRE INFORMATION

The BAR/BRI MPRE Review will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2006** in Law Classroom 104. Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. and the Review will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please stop by the BAR/BRI table on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

USB's FOR FINAL EXAMS

Law School Computing is calling on those students who use USB's to save their final exams. We still have a very large number of USB's in our area that need to be picked up. We would like to avoid a last minute rush on our next exam period. Please have your St. Mary's Rattler card on hand. We are located in Raba 101A or 101B.

THIRD-YEAR GRADUATION CHECKLIST

For those students who completed their first year of studies in May 2003 or thereafter, and who plan on graduating in May 2006, please make certain you will fulfill your graduation requirements by the end of the spring semester. Those requirements are found at pp. 10-13 in the 2005-06 *Student Handbook* (which is available on the law school website in the section on "Students and Alumni"). Please pay particular attention to those upper-level requirements found at pp. 11-12. You are responsible for ensuring you have met all requirements for graduation. Pursuant to University policy, only those students who have graduated are permitted to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony in May.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteers are needed to work at the St. Mary's University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where low-income people can get help preparing their income taxes. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., from January 28 until April 8, 2006**. Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site. To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer, stop by the PILA table that will be set-up at various times in the foyer, or email stmupila@yahoo.com with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING BREAK 2006

Dean Bill Piatt, Instructor Rosanne Piatt and Law Ministry invite you to **build a Habitat House in Taos, New Mexico during Spring Break, Sunday - Friday, March 12 - 17, 2006**. Spouses are welcome. Housing and most food is provided, travel expenses are covered, and study time is possible. Van travel for law students will be coordinated by Mike Martinez, Mike Forrest, and Joe Bravo. For registration, see Mike Martinez (mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu), Mike Forrest (mforrest1@stmarytx.edu), or Sr. Grace Walle (210-436-3063).

FALL 2005 CLASS RANKS

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replete with music and laughter and hugs but with an ever-present unyielding commitment to those in need.”

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **St. Mary’s Tech & IP Association** will have its first general meeting of the year on **Tuesday, February 7, at 4:00 p.m.** The meeting will take place in the Atrium of the Law Administration building. Come by and hear information on current intellectual property programs and events for the semester. Hope to see you there!

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“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 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 21, 2006**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

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 **Roscoe Pound Institute** offers three awards for law students and law professors.

The Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law, is a \$3,000 award. Candidates for the award must be women currently enrolled in an accredited American law school who through their law school academic and clinical work and other related activities, demonstrates their aptitude for and a long-term commitment to a legal career of advocacy on behalf of the health care needs of children, women, the elderly or the disabled.

The Roscoe Hogan Environmental Law Essay Contest, is a \$5,000 award, given to the author of the winning essay. The 2006 topic is *Corporate Charters—The Right to Do Wrong? Investigating Legal Strategies to Revoke the Charters of Corporations that Pollute*. Any student currently enrolled in an accredited American law school may submit a legal essay for the competition. Essays can only be written during the academic year covered by the competition and may not be prepared a part of paid legal work outside of law school. The Institute has an exclusive online publishing agreement with *Res Communes*, the Vermont Journal of the Environment, where the winning paper will be published.

The Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a \$5,000 award, is given to a teacher of the principles and techniques of trial advocacy at an accredited American law school on a full-time basis. All nominees must have demonstrated excellence in teaching a course at the law school for a minimum of three years. The nominee's course, which should be in a classroom and/or clinic setting, must for part of the school's published curriculum and entitle students to course credits applicable to degree requirements.

For entry deadlines, rules, criteria, as well as more information about these contests and their past winners you may visit www.roscoepound.org. Deadline is **February 13, 2006**.

The American Business Law Journal (ABLJ) an official publication of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business is holding its fifth annual Student Writing Contest. The ABLJ is sponsoring the contest for all students in good standing, who at the time of submission, are in their third-year at law school. The purpose of the competition is to encourage interest in business law topics and to reward good legal writing. The first place winner will receive a Writing Competition Winner Certificate, an offer to publish the paper in the *American Business Law Journal* and a cash prize of \$1,000. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2006**.

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The Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

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Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

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The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The **Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation** announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 22

February 13, 2006

By MSA

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

FALL 2005 MOOT COURT COMPETITION WINNERS

In the early rush of the past semester, the Board of Advocates neglected to recognize the winners and finalists of the Fall 2005 Moot Court Competition. Please accept our apologies to winners Alfonso Cabanas and Ruben Valadez and runners-up Victoria Mora and Catherine Casiano. Our belated congratulations and thanks for your efforts to promote advocacy at St. Mary's.

INNSBRUCK MEETING

Summer 2006 is just around the corner! The 21st Institute on World Legal Problems will take place from July 3 through August 4, 2006 in Innsbruck, Austria on the campus of the University of Innsbruck. Prospective Innsbruck students are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday, February 14, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Alumni Room of the Law Library. Information on travel, housing, course selection, and financial aid will be available. A light lunch will be served.

SARAH KATHRYN THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND

To honor Sarah Thompson's memory, we are providing two \$2,500 – \$3,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2006 St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria. Sarah participated in the program in 2004. She enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her attending and traveling, which is why we have chosen to continue her memory by this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Applicants must complete an essay (3-4 pages), which would honor Sarah's memory by addressing the benefits of international legal studies, as well as their contributions to making the world better. Please see Sr. Grace or *The Witan* for complete guidelines. Please submit your essay along with a cover sheet that includes your name, year, address, phone number, and email address to Sr. Grace by **5:00 p.m.**

on February 23, 2006. The scholarship will be awarded at Fiesta Farewell in April. Award winners will be notified by March 6, 2006.

THE ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* would like to announce its Fifth Annual Symposium on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility which will be held **February 24, 2006** at the Plaza Club in downtown San Antonio. This one-day conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from renowned experts in several areas of legal ethics. This year's distinguished speakers will present on ethical issues confronting practitioners and judges in areas of criminal law, bankruptcy, in-house counsel and the profession in general. Some of the speakers include: the Honorable Fred Biery of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas; the Honorable Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals; John Holtaway, Client Protection Counsel at the American Bar Association; and Tony Alvarado, former Executive Director of the State Bar of Texas.

For a complete list of distinguished speakers and topic, please consult the brochure at www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2005_2006/JournalSymposiumProg.pdf. Limited space is available for one student per section of Professional Responsibility. Please inquire to either Nicole Mignone, Symposium Editor or Gloria Valenzuela in the Law Journal office.

IMPORTANT MPRE INFORMATION

The BAR/BRI MPRE Review will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2006** in Law Classroom 104. Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. and the Review will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please stop by the BAR/BRI table on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING BREAK 2006

Dean Bill Piatt, Instructor Rosanne Piatt and Law Ministry invite you to **build a Habitat House in Taos, New Mexico during Spring Break, Sunday - Friday, March 12 - 17, 2006.** Spouses are welcome. Housing and most food is provided, travel expenses are covered, and study time is possible. Van travel for law students will be coordinated by Mike Martinez, Mike Forrest, and Joe Bravo. For registration, see Mike Martinez (mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu), Mike Forrest (mforrest1@stmarytx.edu), or Sr. Grace Walle (210-436-3063). **Deadline to register is Monday, February 27, 2006.**

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Effective immediately, Computer Administration will no longer offer Microsoft Office 2003 to any of our Law School students. The bookstore on campus now offers the following packages at a very reasonable cost. This allows students to retain their own copies of Office in the event the computer needs a reload. If there are students who wish to take advantage of this

offer, please visit www.rattlerbooks.com for details.

Computer Administration is calling on those students who use USB's to save their final exams. We still have a very large number of USB's in our area that need to be picked up. We would like to avoid a last minute rush on our next exam period. Please have your St. Mary's Rattler card on hand. We are located in Raba 101A or 101B.

THIRD-YEAR GRADUATION CHECKLIST

For those students who completed their first year of studies in May 2003 or thereafter, and who plan on graduating in May 2006, please make certain you will fulfill your graduation requirements by the end of the spring semester. Those requirements are found at pp. 10-13 in the 2005-06 *Student Handbook* (which is available on the law school website in the section on "Students and Alumni"). Please pay particular attention to those upper-level requirements found at pp. 11-12. You are responsible for ensuring you have met all requirements for graduation. Pursuant to University policy, only those students who have graduated are permitted to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony in May.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY — VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteers are needed to work at the St. Mary's University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where low-income people can get help preparing their income taxes. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., until April 8, 2006**. Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site. To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer, stop by the PILA table that will be set-up at various times in the foyer, or email stmupila@yahoo.com with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

FALL 2005 CLASS RANKS

Percentile rankings for each class are available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services/ “Current Students,” “Ranks and Grades”), with hard copies available from the Office of Law Career Services (LL 216). Individual rankings can be obtained from Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, LAB 123; photo ID is required.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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."**

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. **Students may volunteer to present any weekday their schedule permits, subject to approval of the supervising attorney.** St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

"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 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 21, 2006**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2006** as well as the **fall and spring 2006-2007** require completion of this form. The website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Priority deadline is February 15th. 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.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 21, 2006. 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 March 20th.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance.

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The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 23

February 20, 2006

By MSA

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

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (SBA) ELECTIONS

SBA Elections for 2006-2007 Officers are right around the corner. Executive Elections will take place in two weeks, on Wednesday, March 1st and Thursday, March 2nd in the Law Classroom Building - all voters must present their student ID's and all current students, including 3L's, are allowed to vote. Candidates will compete for seven offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Bar of Texas [SBOT] Representative, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association [SAYLA] Representative, and American Bar Association [ABA] Representative. Anyone interested in running MUST attend one of two Candidate Meetings to be held *next* week. The meetings will last less than 30 minutes, and they will be held in the Alumni Room next **Tuesday, February 21** at 4:00 p.m. and **Wednesday, February 22** at 11:30 a.m. The results of the Executive Elections will be announced at the SBA/SBOT Texas Independence Day Celebration on Thursday evening, March 2nd - flyers with details about the event will be posted soon.

For those that are interested, General Elections will be held after Spring Break. These elections are also open to all students, and the offices include: 2L and 3L Senators (seven positions for each year), Honor Court Justices (one Justice for each year), and Special Prosecutors (one for each year). Details regarding these positions will be announced after Spring Break.

For more information, check out the SBA's new website at www.stmarytxsba.com.

BBQ LUNCHEON

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), presents a BBQ Luncheon on **Thursday, March 2**. Plates are \$7.00 on sale in advance. The meal includes: two meats - BBQ chicken and

brisket, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, bread, pickles, onions and peppers, iced tea and a delicious dessert. Please see any BLSA representative to purchase your tickets.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS TO HEAR ARGUMENTS AT LACKLAND AFB

The United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals ---which sits at Bolling AFB, in Washington, D.C.---will be hearing oral arguments on **March 8th** from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lackland, AFB. The case is *United States v. Wilson*, an appellate case pending before that court. The arguments will be held in the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) auditorium and are open to law students, civilian lawyers and military lawyers. This is a great opportunity for our law students. If you wish to attend, please contact Captain Patricia Breen by phone at 210-671-3365 or e-mail her at Patricia.Breen@Lackland.af.mil to make arrangements for getting a visitors pass and driving directions.

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS Semesters: Summer 2006, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with seven federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application **deadline** is noon **Wednesday, March 8th**. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters. A detailed pamphlet, entitled "*Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships*," is available on the website (law.stmarytx.edu) in the section on "Judicial Internships."

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson no later than noon on Wednesday, March 8th. Please give your application materials to Ms. Caroline Buckley on the second floor of the Raba Law Faculty Building. An application should include: (1) a 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 GPA and class rank, and cover letter in business-letter format (date; return address, judge's address, proper salutation (e.g., Dear Judge Garza); and (3) for applicants for a U.S. Court of Appeals internship with Judge Emilio Garza, one writing sample (e.g., a Legal Writing memo or brief, a copy of an exam essay, a law journal comment, etc.). Writing samples are not needed for the other courts.

Applications will be accepted from students now in their first or second year of law school. An ad hoc faculty committee will make recommendations to the judges, who are free to disregard (and sometimes do disregard) those recommendations in making decisions. Normally, the decisions on U.S. Court of Appeals interns are completed before District Court and Magistrate Court interns are selected. The selection process takes several weeks. Students who are not notified of a decision before classes end in April should assume that they will not be offered a position.

In past semesters, interns from St. Mary's have been enthusiastic in their praise of the internship programs at these federal courts. The positions provide students with excellent opportunities for deepening their understanding of the federal courts, improving their writing skills, contributing to the administration of justice, and cultivating as potential references persons holding positions of great importance in the federal judiciary.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hispanic Law Alumni Association is proud to announce the availability of numerous law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 10, 2006**, no later than 5:00 p.m., in the Law Library. 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 5, 2006, at the Plaza San Antonio Hotel. The theme is *Inspiracion: Inspiring a Tradition of Latina & Latino Lawyers*. The honorees are: Pete Torres, veteran lawyer and activist and Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of UTSA.

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
317-9398 cell
mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Summer and Fall Semesters**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a "behind-the-scenes" view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court's seven justices. Work will include cite checking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge's consideration, discussing cases with the Court's judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. You must be familiar with WordPerfect. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary's School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

**COMING SOON
BATTLE OF THE BANDS!**

Bands wanted! To enter a band, please email upc@stmarytx.edu or call 436-3994. Date to be announced (March 2006), Alumni Field. Sponsored by St. Mary's University UPC.

SARAH KATHRYN THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND

To honor Sarah Thompson's memory, we are providing two \$2,500 – \$3,000 scholarships for two law students to attend the 2006 St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria. Sarah participated in the program in 2004. She enjoyed her experience and her family was supportive of her attending and traveling, which is why we have chosen to continue her memory by this honorarium for Innsbruck studies. Applicants must complete an essay (3-4 pages), which would honor Sarah's memory by addressing the benefits of international legal studies, as well as their contributions to making the world better. Please see Sr. Grace or *The Witan* for complete guidelines. Please submit your essay along with a cover sheet that includes your name, year, address, phone number, and email address to Sr. Grace by **5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2006**. The scholarship will be awarded at Fiesta Farewell in April. Award winners will be notified by March 6, 2006.

THE ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* would like to announce its Fifth Annual Symposium on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility which will be held **February 24, 2006** at the Plaza Club in downtown San Antonio. This one-day conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from renowned experts in several areas of legal ethics. This year's distinguished speakers will present on ethical issues confronting practitioners and judges in areas of criminal law, bankruptcy, in-house counsel and the profession in general. Some of the speakers include: the Honorable Fred Biery of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas; the Honorable Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals; John Holtaway, Client Protection Counsel at the American Bar Association; and Tony Alvarado, former Executive Director of the State Bar of Texas.

For a complete list of distinguished speakers and topic, please consult the brochure at www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2005_2006/JournalSymposiumProg.pdf. Limited space is available for one student per section of Professional Responsibility. Please inquire to either Nicole Mignone, Symposium Editor or Gloria Valenzuela in the Law Journal office.

IMPORTANT MPRE INFORMATION

The BAR/BRI MPRE Review will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2006** in Law Classroom 104. Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. and the Review will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please stop by the BAR/BRI table on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING BREAK 2006

Dean Bill Piatt, Instructor Rosanne Piatt and Law Ministry invite you to **build a Habitat House in Taos, New Mexico during Spring Break, Sunday - Friday, March 12 - 17, 2006.** Spouses are welcome. Housing and most food is provided, travel expenses are covered, and study time is possible. Van travel for law students will be coordinated by Mike Martinez, Mike Forrest, and Joe Bravo. For registration, see Mike Martinez (mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu), Mike Forrest (mforrest1@stmarytx.edu), or Sr. Grace Walle (210-436-3063). **Deadline to register is Monday, February 27, 2006.**

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Effective immediately, Computer Administration will no longer offer Microsoft Office 2003 to any of our Law School students. The bookstore on campus now offers the following packages at a very reasonable cost. This allows students to retain their own copies of Office in the event the computer needs a reload. If there are students who wish to take advantage of this offer, please visit www.rattlerbooks.com for details.

Computer Administration is calling on those students who use USB's to save their final exams. We still have a very large number of USB's in our area that need to be picked up. We would like to avoid a last minute rush on our next exam period. Please have your St. Mary's Rattler card on hand. We are located in Raba 101A or 101B.

THIRD-YEAR GRADUATION CHECKLIST

For those students who completed their first year of studies in May 2003 or thereafter, and who plan on graduating in May 2006, please make certain you will fulfill your graduation requirements by the end of the spring semester. Those requirements are found at pp. 10-13 in the 2005-06 *Student Handbook* (which is available on the law school website in the section on "Students and Alumni"). Please pay particular attention to those upper-level requirements found at pp. 11-12. You are responsible for ensuring you have met all requirements for graduation. Pursuant to University policy, only those students who have graduated are permitted to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony in May.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY – VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteers are needed to work at the St. Mary's University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where low-income people can get help preparing their income taxes. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., until April 8, 2006.** Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site. To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer, stop by the PILA table that will be set-up

at various times in the foyer, or email stmupila@yahoo.com with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

FALL 2005 CLASS RANKS

Percentile rankings for each class are available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services/ “Current Students,” “Ranks and Grades”), with hard copies available from the Office of Law Career Services (LL 216). Individual rankings can be obtained from Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, LAB 123; photo ID is required.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall

choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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."**

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. **Students may volunteer to present any weekday their schedule permits, subject to approval of the supervising attorney.** St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

"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 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 21, 2006**. Due to the limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on

July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 21, 2006**. 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 **March 20th**.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance.

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 National Academy of Elder Law Attorney (NAELA) is pleased to present the NAELA *Student Journal* Writing Competition offering a \$1,500 cash prize for the best article submitted. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2006 NAELA Symposium in Washington, D.C. and receive up to \$1,000 for travel and meeting related expenses. The second place winner receives \$1,000 cash, and the third place winner receives \$500 cash. The top eight articles submitted will be published in the NAELA *Student Journal*, an annual publication in June. The top eight authors will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to NAELA. Deadline for submission is **February 27, 2006**. For topic, judging and conditions, please contact Jonathan Boyle, Publications Coordinate, NAEL at (520) 881-4005 or visit the website at www.naela.org.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) is pleased to announce their 2005-2006 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Award [\$2,000 may vary]. Application deadline is **March 4, 2006**.

The Philadelphia Bar Association Law School Outreach Committee's 23rd Annual Edward V. Sparer Symposium will be held on March 28, 2006 in conjunction with the 2006 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The symposium this year focuses on "Civil Gideon." Selected papers will be published by the *Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review*. Please visit www.equaljusticeconference.org for details.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium Inc. and the Oklahoma Arts Council are offering several types of scholarships: As part of the Symposium, the sponsors are offering one fully funded scholarship in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, one hundred (100) tuition fee-waiver Ed Edmondson scholarships, and prizes in the Chief Justice John B. Doolin writing competition. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 will be awarded for the writing competition. For information and application, contact Julie L. Rorie, Esq. at (405) 522-7875.

The Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the **State Bar of Texas** is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial

Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the **Seventh Annual James William Moore Federal Practice Award**. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society

by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by **The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers**. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The **National Association of Counsel for Children** (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The **Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation** announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 24

February 27, 2006

By MSA

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

2006 PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT TEAM

Congratulations to the 2006 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team!

Recognition is in order for oralists:

Scott DeLaGarza

Alison Fox

Lindsey Hollin

Kathleen Warner

These 3L advocates argued international law against LSU, South Texas, Arizona and the University of New Mexico. Special thanks are in order for coaches Bob Summers and Al Briseno as well as brief writers, Scott DeLaGarza and Lindsey Hollin. Thank you for making the 2006 Jessup competition a success!

PUBLIC DEFENDER EXTERNSHIP

For the seventh consecutive year the Public Interest Law Program (PILP) is sponsoring the Public Defender Externship (PDE). The PILP and the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas are partnering to offer summer externships along the Texas-Mexico border. The externships are for a four week period and are offered during both summer sessions. Law students earn a modest stipend for their participation. For more information about the PDE and how to apply, please visit the Career Services Office or call the PILP Director, Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765.

WE NEED JUDGES!

Do you work in a courtroom?

Do you work in a firm?

Do you write for the Journal or Scholar?

Did you do well in First Year Moot Court or other in school competitions?

Are you on an external advocacy team?

Are you working in the Clinic?

Board of Advocates is looking for qualified, professional students to judge preliminary rounds of First Year Moot Court from March 27-30. We need YOU to make this successful for the 1L class! In order to sign up for a round, you must attend a **mandatory** meeting to get preliminary information and sign up. The meetings are being held **March 1** and **March 2** at 5:30 p.m. in LC 104. You must attend **ONE** of these meetings if you are interested in judging. If you have questions or need more information before the meeting, please contact a member of the Board of Advocates or call us at 436-3286.

2006-2007 REGISTRATION

- | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|
| →Wednesday March 8, 2006 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 3Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500
{3Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |
| →Monday, March 10, 2006 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 3Ls with lottery numbers 5501 to 9999
{3Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |
| *Monday, April 7, 2006 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 2Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |
| *Thursday, April 13, 2006 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 2Ls with lottery numbers 5501 to 9999
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |

Course changes for summer 2006, fall 2006, and spring 2007:

- | | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| →Tuesday, March 22, 2006 | 3rd year only | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 8:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. | | |
| *Thursday, April 20, 2006 | 2nd year only | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 8:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. | | |

All forms, instructions and lottery numbers are available at: <http://law.stmarytx.edu>

ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENTS

You should have received three practice essay questions via e-mail on Monday, February 20, 2006. Extra copies of the essay questions are available in the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A).

Once you have completed the questions, please submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence and schedule an appointment to review your answers. The last day for a review is **March 31, 2006**.

Please call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541 if you have any questions.

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (SBA) ELECTIONS

SBA Elections for 2006-2007 Officers are right around the corner. Executive Elections will take place this week on **Wednesday, March 1st** and **Thursday, March 2nd** in the Law Classroom Building - all voters must present their student ID's and all current students, including 3L's, are allowed to vote. Candidates will compete for seven offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Bar of Texas [SBOT] Representative, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association [SAYLA] Representative, and American Bar Association [ABA] Representative. The results of the Executive Elections will be announced at the SBA/SBOT Texas Independence Day Celebration on Thursday evening, March 2nd - flyers with details about the event will be posted soon.

For those that are interested, General Elections will be held after Spring Break. These elections are also open to all students, and the offices include: 2L and 3L Senators (seven positions for each year), Honor Court Justices (one Justice for each year), and Special Prosecutors (one for each year). Details regarding these positions will be announced after Spring Break.

For more information, check out the **SBA's new website** at www.stmarytxsba.com.

BBQ LUNCHEON

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), presents a BBQ Luncheon on **Thursday, March 2**. Plates are \$7.00 on sale in advance. The meal includes: two meats - BBQ chicken and brisket, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, bread, pickles, onions and peppers, iced tea and a delicious dessert. Please see any BLSA representative to purchase your tickets.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS TO HEAR ARGUMENTS AT LACKLAND AFB

The United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals ---which sits at Bolling AFB, in Washington, D.C.---will be hearing oral arguments on **March 8th** from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lackland, AFB. The case is *United States v. Wilson*, an appellate case pending before that court. The arguments will be held in the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) auditorium and are open to law students, civilian lawyers and military lawyers. This is a great opportunity for our law students. If you wish to attend, please contact Captain Patricia Breen by phone at 210-671-3365 or e-mail her at Patricia.Breen@Lackland.af.mil to make arrangements for getting a visitors pass and driving directions.

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS Semesters: Summer 2006, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with seven federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application **deadline** is noon **Wednesday, March 8th**. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters. A detailed pamphlet, entitled "*Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships*," is available on the website (law.stmarytx.edu) in the section on "Judicial Internships."

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson no later than noon on Wednesday, March 8th. Please give your application materials to Ms. Caroline Buckley on the second floor of the Raba Law Faculty Building. An application should include: (1) a 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 GPA and class rank, and cover letter in business-letter format (date; return address, judge's address, proper salutation (e.g., Dear Judge Garza); and (3) for applicants for a U.S. Court of Appeals internship with Judge Emilio Garza, one writing sample (e.g., a Legal Writing memo or brief, a copy of an exam essay, a law journal comment, etc.). Writing samples are not needed for the other courts.

Applications will be accepted from students now in their first or second year of law school. An ad hoc faculty committee will make recommendations to the judges, who are free to disregard (and sometimes do disregard) those recommendations in making decisions. Normally, the decisions on U.S. Court of Appeals interns are completed before District Court and Magistrate Court interns are selected. The selection process takes several weeks. Students who are not notified of a decision before classes end in April should assume that they will not be offered a position.

In past semesters, interns from St. Mary's have been enthusiastic in their praise of the internship programs at these federal courts. The positions provide students with excellent

opportunities for deepening their understanding of the federal courts, improving their writing skills, contributing to the administration of justice, and cultivating as potential references persons holding positions of great importance in the federal judiciary.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hispanic Law Alumni Association is proud to announce the availability of numerous law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 10, 2006**, no later than 5:00 p.m., in the Law Library. 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 5, 2006, at the Plaza San Antonio Hotel. The theme is *Inspiración: Inspiring a Tradition of Latina & Latino Lawyers*. The honorees are: Pete Torres, veteran lawyer and activist and Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of UTSA.

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
317-9398 cell
mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the **2006 Summer and Fall Semesters**. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include cite checking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge’s consideration, discussing cases with the Court’s judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. You must be familiar with WordPerfect. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary’s School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

COMING SOON BATTLE OF THE BANDS!

Bands wanted! To enter a band, please email upc@stmarytx.edu or call 436-3994. Date to be announced (March 2006), Alumni Field. Sponsored by St. Mary's University UPC.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING BREAK 2006

Dean Bill Piatt, Instructor Rosanne Piatt and Law Ministry invite you to **build a Habitat House in Taos, New Mexico during Spring Break, Sunday - Friday, March 12 - 17, 2006.** Spouses are welcome. Housing and most food is provided, travel expenses are covered, and study time is possible. Van travel for law students will be coordinated by Mike Martinez, Mike Forrest, and Joe Bravo. For registration, see Mike Martinez (mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu), Mike Forrest (mforrest1@stmarytx.edu), or Sr. Grace Walle (210-436-3063). **Deadline to register is Monday, February 27, 2006.**

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION

Effective immediately, Computer Administration will no longer offer Microsoft Office 2003 to any of our Law School students. The bookstore on campus now offers the following packages at a very reasonable cost. This allows students to retain their own copies of Office in the event the computer needs a reload. If there are students who wish to take advantage of this offer, please visit www.rattlerbooks.com for details.

Computer Administration is calling on those students who use USB's to save their final exams. We still have a very large number of USB's in our area that need to be picked up. We would like to avoid a last minute rush on our next exam period. Please have your St. Mary's Rattler card on hand. We are located in Raba 101A or 101B.

THIRD-YEAR GRADUATION CHECKLIST

For those students who completed their first year of studies in May 2003 or thereafter, and who plan on graduating in May 2006, please make certain you will fulfill your graduation requirements by the end of the spring semester. Those requirements are found at pp. 10-13 in the 2005-06 *Student Handbook* (which is available on the law school website in the section on "Students and Alumni"). Please pay particular attention to those upper-level requirements found at pp. 11-12. You are responsible for ensuring you have met all requirements for graduation. Pursuant to University policy, only those students who have graduated are permitted to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony in May.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY – VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Student volunteers are needed to work at the St. Mary's University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where low-income people can get help preparing their income taxes. Student volunteers will interview clients and ensure that the clients have all the required documentation before having their taxes prepared. No experience is required! The VITA site will operate on **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., until April 8, 2006**. Students earn Pro Bono credit for the hours volunteered at the VITA site. To sign-up, visit the Public Interest Law Association board in the law classroom building foyer, stop by the PILA table that will be set-up at various times in the foyer, or email stmupila@yahoo.com with the date(s) you wish to volunteer.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

FALL 2005 CLASS RANKS

Percentile rankings for each class are available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/career_services/ "Current Students," "Ranks and Grades"), with hard copies available from the Office of Law Career Services (LL 216). Individual rankings can be obtained from Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, LAB 123; photo ID is required.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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.**"

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. **Students may volunteer to present any weekday their schedule permits, subject to approval of the supervising attorney.** St. Mary's University Law

students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

“ANONYMOUS DONOR FUND” BAR LOAN PROGRAM DEADLINE EXTENDED

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 has been extended to **4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2006**. Due to limited funds available, no exceptions will be made.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2006** as well as the **fall and spring 2006-2007** 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 06 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 has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 21, 2006**. 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 **March 20th**.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance. Remember that if you are denied on this loan, and you meet the criteria for the **Anonymous Donor Bar Study Loan**, you may apply for it. The deadline has been extended.

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.

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) First Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. This competition has been established to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law. Entrants should submit a paper on an issue concerning women's rights or the status of women and the law. First-place award of \$500 and travel expenses to a NAWL meeting where the winner will be recognized. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) is pleased to announce their 2005-2006 Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Award [\$2,000 may vary]. Application deadline is **March 4, 2006**.

The Philadelphia Bar Association Law School Outreach Committee's 23rd Annual Edward V. Sparer Symposium will be held on March 28, 2006 in conjunction with the 2006 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The symposium this year focuses on "Civil Gideon." Selected papers will be published by the *Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review*. Please visit www.equaljusticeconference.org for details.

The Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or

MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the **Seventh Annual James William Moore Federal Practice Award**. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and **The American College of Tax Counsel** are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the **68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by **The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers**. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mngmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The **National Association of Counsel for Children** (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The **Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation** announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

ORDER OF THE 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, also 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 wish to be considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an application form from Professor Dave Schlueter, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 21st. Please note that contacting any faculty member—full time, visitor, or adjunct—other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 22, 2006**.

PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERNSHIP

For the seventh consecutive year the Public Interest Law Program (PILP) is sponsoring the Public Defender Externship (PDE). The PILP and the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas are partnering to offer summer externships along the Texas-Mexico border. The externships are for a four week period and are offered during both summer sessions. Law students earn a modest stipend for their participation. For more information about the PDE and how to apply, please visit the Career Services Office or call the PILP Director, Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765.

WE NEED JUDGES!

Do you work in a courtroom?

Do you work in a firm?

Do you write for the Journal or Scholar?

Did you do well in First Year Moot Court or other in school competitions?

Are you on an external advocacy team?

Are you working in the Clinic?

Board of Advocates is looking for qualified, professional students to judge preliminary rounds of First Year Moot Court from March 27-30. We need YOU to make this successful for the 1L class! If you have questions or need more information before the meeting, please contact a member of the Board of Advocates or call us at 436-3286.

2006-2007 REGISTRATION

→**Wednesday March 8, 2006**

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105

3Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500

{3Ls academic year 2006-2007}

→**Friday, March 10, 2006** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
3Ls with lottery numbers 5501 to 9999 Law Admin 105
{3Ls academic year 2006-2007}

***Friday, April 7, 2006** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
2Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500 Law Admin 105
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007}

***Thursday, April 13, 2006** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
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{2Ls academic year 2006-2007}

Course changes for summer 2006, fall 2006, and spring 2007:

→**Wednesday, March 22, 2006** 3rd year only Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
8:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Law Admin 105

***Thursday, April 20, 2006** 2nd year only Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
8:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Law Admin 105

All forms, instructions and lottery numbers are available at: <http://law.stmarytx.edu>

ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENTS

You should have received three practice essay questions via e-mail on Monday, February 20, 2006. Extra copies of the essay questions are available in the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A).

Once you have completed the questions, please submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence and schedule an appointment to review your answers. The last day for a review is March 31, 2006.

Please call Professor Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541 if you have any questions.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS TO HEAR ARGUMENTS AT LACKLAND AFB

The United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals ---which sits at Bolling AFB, in Washington, D.C.---will be hearing oral arguments on **March 8th** from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lackland, AFB. The case is *United States v. Wilson*, an appellate case pending before that court. The arguments will be held in the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) auditorium and are open to law students, civilian lawyers and military lawyers. This is a great opportunity for our law students. If you wish to attend, please contact Captain Patricia Breen by phone at 210-671-3365 or e-mail her at Patricia.Breen@Lackland.af.mil to make arrangements for getting a visitors pass and driving

directions.

FEDERAL COURT JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS
Semesters: Summer 2006, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007

Applications are now being accepted for pre-graduation judicial internships with seven federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. The application deadline is noon Wednesday, March 8th. This is the only time that applications will be solicited for internships with these courts during the next three semesters. A detailed pamphlet, entitled "*Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships*," is available on the website (law.stmarytx.edu) in the section on "Judicial Internships."

Interested students should submit an application to Professor Vincent R. Johnson no later than noon on **Wednesday, March 8th**. Please give your application materials to Ms. Caroline Buckley on the second floor of the Raba Law Faculty Building. An application should include: (1) a 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 GPA and class rank, and cover letter in business-letter format (date; return address, judge's address, proper salutation (e.g., Dear Judge Garza); and (3) for applicants for a U.S. Court of Appeals internship with Judge Emilio Garza, one writing sample (e.g., a Legal Writing memo or brief, a copy of an exam essay, a law journal comment, etc.). Writing samples are not needed for the other courts.

Applications will be accepted from students now in their first or second year of law school. An ad hoc faculty committee will make recommendations to the judges, who are free to disregard (and sometimes do disregard) those recommendations in making decisions. Normally, the decisions on U.S. Court of Appeals interns are completed before District Court and Magistrate Court interns are selected. The selection process takes several weeks. Students who are not notified of a decision before classes end in April should assume that they will not be offered a position.

In past semesters, interns from St. Mary's have been enthusiastic in their praise of the internship programs at these federal courts. The positions provide students with excellent opportunities for deepening their understanding of the federal courts, improving their writing skills, contributing to the administration of justice, and cultivating as potential references persons holding positions of great importance in the federal judiciary.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hispanic Law Alumni Association is proud to announce the availability of numerous law school scholarships and bar study grants for 2L/3L students in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship and grant awards will be based on merit and proven financial need. The completed applications are due on **March 10, 2006**, no later than 5:00 p.m., in the Law Library. 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 5, 2006, at the Plaza San Antonio Hotel. The theme is *Inspiración: Inspiring a Tradition of Latina & Latino Lawyers*. The honorees are: Pete Torres, veteran lawyer and activist and Dr. Ricardo Romo, President

of UTSA.

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
317-9398 cell
mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the 2006 Summer and Fall Semesters. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include cite checking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge’s consideration, discussing cases with the Court’s judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. You must be familiar with WordPerfect. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary’s School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

SIGN IN ATTENDANCE SHEETS AND THE HONOR CODE

It is a violation of the honor code for a student to sign the attendance sheet for a student who is absent. It is also a violation of the honor code for a student who was absent to fail to correct an attendance sheet that wrongly indicates the absent student was present in class. All violations of the honor code must be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Board of Law Examiners. If you have any questions, please contact Assoc. Dean Ariens.

QUIET PLEASE

For the benefit of students in classes, please keep the volume in the hallways of the Law Classroom Building as low as possible. Several students have found it difficult to concentrate due to the current noise level.

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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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."

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. Students may volunteer to present any weekday their schedule permits, subject to

approval of the supervising attorney. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

The Employment & Labor Law Association presents Judi Taylor and Jennie Randall of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Tuesday, March 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Atrium of the Law Administration building. Topics include statute enforcement, the charge process, employment opportunities and the Honors program. Soft drinks and pizza will be provided on a first come first served basis. Everyone is invited, so please join us.

The Student Bar Association invites you to check out their new website at www.stmarytxsba.com.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the summer 2006 as well as the fall and spring 2006-2007 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 06 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 has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics

related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 **4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2006**. 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 March 20th.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance. Remember that if you are denied on this loan, and you meet the criteria for the Anonymous Donor Bar Study Loan, you may apply for it. The deadline has been extended.

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 Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash

award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship. An award of \$10,000, in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, will be given by the Federal Circuit Bar Association to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 28, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the Seventh Annual *James William Moore Federal Practice Award*. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of

\$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the 68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Federal Circuit Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2006 George Hutchinson Writing Competition. First place prize is \$3,000. Second and third place cash prizes may also be awarded. Rules and further information may be found www.fedcirbar.org. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2006**.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 26

March 13, 2006

By MSA

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

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

The *St. Mary's Law Journal* Editorial Board for Volume 37 is proud to announce the Editorial Board for Volume 38.

John G. George
Editor in Chief

V. Shelayne Clemmer
Executive Editor

Rachel E. McGregor
Symposium Editor

Katherine A. Tapley
Solicitation/Articles Editor

Cassandra R. Harrington
Andrew L. Johnson
Articles Editors

Jason A. Smith
Research/Articles Editor

Adrienne Archer
Caroline R. Katz
Jennifer Nichole Oblinger
Bruce E. Toppin III
Comment Editors

Congratulations to the *Associate Editors* for Volume 38:

Robert Lane Addison
Eric A. Ashley
Ian C. Crawford
John E. Exner
Matthew P. Lathrop

Nathan A. Leavitt
Matthew P. Miller
Joel R. Rheman
Robert V. Salinas
Heather R. Starling

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 2006. 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 noon on Monday, April 3, 2006**.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WANTS YOU!

St. Mary's *Law Journal* is holding an informational meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 29th** in the Alumni Room. Practicing attorneys (and *Journal* alumni) will offer a law firm perspective on the practical benefits of membership on the *Journal*. Food will be served.

St. Mary's *Law Journal* is nationally ranked as the third most case cited law journal in the nation falling behind only Harvard Law Journal and Columbia Law Journal for 2004-2005. We need talented 1Ls to help us carry on this tradition of excellence. If you have an eye for detail, love to write, are good at research, or are just curious, stop by the Alumni room between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., grab some lunch, and hear one of two informative presentations starting at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

LAW LIBRARY EXHIBIT CELEBRATES TEXAS WOMEN JUDGES AND LAWYERS

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Law Library has set up a special exhibit of prominent Texas women judges and lawyers. In this exhibit are articles and photos selected from magazines and newsletters. Many of the professionals featured are alumni of St. Mary's University School of Law. The display is located on the first floor of the library near the bulletin board. Come see the display to honor these outstanding women.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS TO HEAR CASES ON CAMPUS

The Fourth Court of Appeals, the nation's only all-women appeals court, will hear oral

arguments in two cases in the Law Classroom Building courtroom beginning at **2 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Arguments in the first case, a criminal appeals case styled Sammy Naranjo vs. State of Texas, is scheduled for 2 p.m. and arguments in the second case, a civil appellate case styled Claymex Brick vs. Oscar Garza, is set for 3 p.m.

Five of the seven justices are St. Mary's graduates.

A reception in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library will follow at 4:30 p.m. where a portrait of Chief Justice Alma Lopez will be unveiled.

The event is co-sponsored by the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association, the St. Mary's Women's Law Association and St. Mary's Law Ministry.

THE SCHOLAR

The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues is having an information session for students applying for staff writer positions **Tuesday, March 21, 2006** at 4 p.m. in the Atrium of the Faculty building. The 2006-2007 Editorial Board will explain the goals, processes, and procedures of *The Scholar*. Members of the Board as well as current staff writers will be available to answer any questions regarding their experiences or the application itself. Applications will be available for pick-up. This session is open to both upcoming 2Ls and 3Ls. Food and drinks will be provided. Any questions should be directed to Minh Nguyen at mnguyen811@yahoo.com.

COMMENCEMENT 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Information on all events leading up to, and including, Law School Commencement 2006 can be found at www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06. Contact Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, with questions about any of the scheduled events, activities, or notices.

ORDER OF THE 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, also 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 wish to be considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an application form from Professor Dave Schlueter, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 21st. Please note that contacting any faculty member—full time, visitor, or adjunct—other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later

than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 22, 2006.**

PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERNSHIP

For the seventh consecutive year the Public Interest Law Program (PILP) is sponsoring the Public Defender Externship (PDE). The PILP and the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas are partnering to offer summer externships along the Texas-Mexico border. The externships are for a four week period and are offered during both summer sessions. Law students earn a modest stipend for their participation. For more information about the PDE and how to apply, please visit the Career Services Office or call the PILP Director, Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765.

WE NEED JUDGES!

Do you work in a courtroom?

Do you work in a firm?

Do you write for the Journal or Scholar?

Did you do well in First Year Moot Court or other in school competitions?

Are you on an external advocacy team?

Are you working in the Clinic?

Board of Advocates is looking for qualified, professional students to judge preliminary rounds of First Year Moot Court from March 27-30. We need YOU to make this successful for the 1L class! If you have questions or need more information before the meeting, please contact a member of the Board of Advocates or call us at 436-3286.

2006-2007 REGISTRATION

*Monday April 7, 2006	8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
2Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500		
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007}		

*Thursday April 13, 2006	8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
2Ls with lottery numbers 5501 to 9999		
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007}		

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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. Each year, the professors shall publish an announcement in which they describe the topic of the paper for that year and the deadline for submission of the paper. The announcement may include other information about the contest as well. 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, and she shall make a notation on each paper of a

number by which that paper is to thereafter be identified. (No paper shall be accepted after the deadline by anyone or for any reason.) In addition, Sister Grace Walle shall create a list including the names of the student authors and the numbers of their papers. This list shall not be given either to the law professors who judge the papers or to the Dean prior to the announcement of the winner of the contest. Unless declared otherwise in the announcement, the professors shall choose the three best papers and recommend those to the Dean. The professors shall use the following criteria: (a) depth of analysis, (b) research, and (c) quality of writing. The Dean shall choose the best of the three recommended to him by the professors and the author of that paper shall be the winner of the \$1,000 award. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2006.**

Topic: On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court decided in *Gonzales v. Oregon* that the CSA did not authorize the Attorney General to declare illegal the acts of Oregon physicians in prescribing drugs to assist suicide. In other words, the Court held that the statutes language did not provide support for the Attorney Generals claim that he had such authority. Those who participate in the James Derrick competition must concern themselves with a different question -- whether Congress can constitutionally authorize the Attorney General to prevent physicians from prescribing drugs to assist suicide when those prescriptions are legal under state law.

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."

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Black Law Students Association (BLSA), in coordination with the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, has begun its annual Street Law Program at Sam Houston High School, 4635 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78220. Street Law is designed to educate young adults about American Society and America's civil and criminal justice systems. Law Students will assist a local licensed attorney in teaching class once a week on Thursdays, from 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., now through April 6, 2006. Students may volunteer to present any weekday their schedule permits, subject to approval of the supervising attorney. St. Mary's University Law students of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Please contact Sonja Sims at ssims2@stmarytx.edu to sign up to participate in this community outreach program. Please include your contact information and preferred dates.

The Student Bar Association invites you to check out their new website at www.stmarytxsba.com.

LAW MINISTRY

Fiesta Farewell: The Fiesta Farewell for graduating law students will be held on Wednesday, April 5, at 12:00 noon in the Law School Plaza. Festivities include a graduation picture, a blessing prayer for graduates, Campus Ministry service awards, and the fiesta. All students, faculty, staff and administrators are invited.

Lent 2006: Where God Fulfills Our Needs - Schedule of Services and Events

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Holy Week:

Passion Sunday Vigil (Alumni Mass), Sat., April 8, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 4:30 p.m.

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Good Friday, April 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 15, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the summer 2006 as well as the fall and spring 2006-2007 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 06 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 has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 **4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2006**. 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 March 20th.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses

related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance. Remember that if you are denied on this loan, and you meet the criteria for the Anonymous Donor Bar Study Loan, you may apply for it. The deadline has been extended.

THE SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION SAN ANTONIO RACE FOR THE CURE

The annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1, 2006**. Registration this year will be held primarily on-line. Go to www.sakomen.org click "Register." On the next screen, select "Join an existing team." Enter "St. Mary's Rattlers" as the team name, and click "Search for a team." On the next screen, click on "St. Mary's Rattlers" in the Name column, then click on "Join St. Mary's Rattlers." Debit Cards, Visa, MC, Amex, and Discover cards accepted. The St. Mary's Team Photo will be taken on Friday, March 31, 3:45 p.m. on the steps of the AACC. Please spread the word so that St. Mary's will have a great showing on Race day! Contact Ann Karam at 436-4313 or akaram@stmarytx.edu for more information.

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 Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O.

Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship. An award of \$10,000, in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, will be given by the Federal Circuit Bar Association to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 28, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the Seventh Annual *James William Moore Federal Practice Award*. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the 68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Federal Circuit Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2006 George Hutchinson Writing Competition. First place prize is \$3,000. Second and third place cash prizes may also be awarded. Rules and further information may be found www.fedcirbar.org. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2006**.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 27

March 20, 2006

By MSA

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

NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR ST. MARY'S EAP MOCK TRIAL TEAMS

The External Advocacy Program Mock Trial Team coached by Adjunct Professor Martin J. Phipps competed March 2-5th in the American Trial Lawyers Association National Regional Mock Trial Tournament in Dallas, Texas. The Tournament was hosted by the firm of Baron and Budd. There were sixteen teams from 10 different law schools. Professor Phipps is proud to report that the team of Jessica Baruch, Scott Davis, Hailey Mullican, and Shelly Troberman tied for Third Place with Baylor Law School. St. Mary's second team placed 5th overall in the tournament. This is the eight straight mock trial tournament that St. Mary's EAP students have reached either the semifinals or finals of a tournament. Please congratulate these students on their tremendous success on behalf of our law school.

ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR CLASS

The St. Mary's Law Alumni Association invites all third-year law students to the First Annual Legal Luau – a happy hour for St. Mary's alumni and third-year law students to mix and mingle.

When: **Thursday, March 23**
5:30 p.m. - to 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Majestic Club
222 E. Houston Street, Suite 300

Guests will be provided light hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets. Anyone wearing Hawaiian shirts will receive three drink tickets. Parking is available at the Mid-City Garage at the corner of Navarro and Houston Streets.

COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS - 1LS

On **Tuesday, March 28**, and **Thursday, March 30**, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in LCB 101, Associate Dean Ariens and incoming-Associate Dean Mather, along with Director of Student Enrollment Catherine Mery, will discuss the registration process for rising 2Ls, including the order in which registration is taken, how to prioritize your class selections in case of class closings, understanding the requirements of the core curriculum, learning how the Texas bar exam is structured and how to maximize your course selections in light of the subjects tested on the bar exam, understanding the X, Y and Z schedules, deciding when to complete the requirement of writing a substantial scholarly paper, and other topics.

PRO BONO CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2006

The following law students will be receiving a pro bono certificate during graduation. If you believe you have been overlooked or you have yet to submit your pro bono hours, please contact Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765 before **Friday, April 7**.

Kyle M. Allen	Kari Honea	Edward Robinson
Donna Bloom	Kurt Hopke	Rachel Rogers
Karen L. Bogan	Andrew Hurd	Shannon Salmon
Stephen Brearley	Robert Jackson	Eric R. Sandvig
Alfonso Cabanas	Patricia Jay	Matt Sharp
Tracy Cantu	Emily Kinney	Amberly Sheppard
Catherine Casiano	Veronica I. Legarreta	Andrew Simmons
Cynthia Marie Chapa	Erin Lucke	Brian Smith
George Chumillo	Sean Markey	Ruth A. Stepherson
Phillip Garrett Clayton	Todd A. Marquardt	John Stevenson
Mario Cortes	Rashin Mazaheri	Brian M. Stork
Matthew C. Cotter	Frank McElroy	Eric Tijerina
Jason Cruz	Jamie McKey	Robyn Traywick
Stewart Davis	Ricardo Montalvo	Joseph M. Vacek
Ashley L. Fischer	Victoria Mora	Ruben Valadez
Jeffrey Garcia	Teresa Morales	Agatha M. Clements Wade
Maria Carmen Garcia	Alejandro Moreno	Kathleen Warner
Troy J. Garcia	Karen Muniz	Ava Michelle Weltz
Amanda Goff	Guadalupe Navarro	Nathaniel Wong
Jonathan Hardt	Bryan Oathout	Jennifer Wright
Emile Harmon	Jennifer Plemons	Amy Yi
Taylor Heaton	Jeremiah Poulton	James R. Young
Sean Homrig	Erica A. Ramos	

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 2006. 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 noon on Monday, April 3, 2006**.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WANTS YOU!

St. Mary's *Law Journal* is holding an informational meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 29th** in the Alumni Room. Practicing attorneys (and *Journal* alumni) will offer a law firm perspective on the practical benefits of membership on the *Journal*. Food will be served.

St. Mary's *Law Journal* is nationally ranked as the third most case cited law journal in the nation falling behind only Harvard Law Journal and Columbia Law Journal for 2004-2005. We need talented 1Ls to help us carry on this tradition of excellence. If you have an eye for detail, love to write, are good at research, or are just curious, stop by the Alumni room between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., grab some lunch, and hear one of two informative presentations starting at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

LAW LIBRARY EXHIBIT CELEBRATES TEXAS WOMEN JUDGES AND LAWYERS

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Law Library has set up a special exhibit of prominent Texas women judges and lawyers. In this exhibit are articles and photos selected from magazines and newsletters. Many of the professionals featured are alumni of St. Mary's University School of Law. The display is located on the first floor of the library near the bulletin board. Come see the display to honor these outstanding women.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS TO HEAR CASES ON CAMPUS

The Fourth Court of Appeals, the nation's only all-women appeals court, will hear oral arguments in two cases in the Law Classroom Building courtroom beginning at **2 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2006**.

Arguments in the first case, a criminal appeals case styled Sammy Naranjo vs. State of Texas, is scheduled for 2 p.m. and arguments in the second case, a civil appellate case styled Claymex Brick vs. Oscar Garza, is set for 3 p.m.

Five of the seven justices are St. Mary's graduates.

A reception in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library will follow at 4:30 p.m. where a portrait of Chief Justice Alma Lopez will be unveiled.

The event is co-sponsored by the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association, the St. Mary's Women's Law Association and St. Mary's Law Ministry.

THE SCHOLAR

The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues is having an information session for students applying for staff writer positions **Tuesday, March 21, 2006** at 4 p.m. in the Atrium of the Faculty building. The 2006-2007 Editorial Board will explain the goals, processes, and procedures of *The Scholar*. Members of the Board as well as current staff writers will be available to answer any questions regarding their experiences or the application itself. Applications will be available for pick-up. This session is open to both upcoming 2Ls and 3Ls. Food and drinks will be provided. Any questions should be directed to Minh Nguyen at mnguyen811@yahoo.com.

COMMENCEMENT 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Information on all events leading up to, and including, Law School Commencement 2006 can be found at www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06. Contact Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, with questions about any of the scheduled events, activities, or notices.

ORDER OF THE 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, also 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 wish to be considered for The Order of Barristers, please pick up an application form from Professor Dave Schlueter, LFB 270. The faculty's Advocacy Committee will review and select the new members and announce their names at the Barristers' Ball on April 21st. Please note that contacting any faculty member—full time, visitor, or adjunct—other than Professor Schlueter concerning your application or its contents is strictly prohibited. All completed applications must be returned to Professor Schlueter's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 22, 2006**.

PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERNSHIP

For the seventh consecutive year the Public Interest Law Program (PILP) is sponsoring the Public Defender Externship (PDE). The PILP and the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas are partnering to offer summer externships along the Texas-Mexico border. The externships are for a four week period and are offered during both summer sessions. Law students earn a modest stipend for their participation. For more information about the PDE and how to apply, please visit the Career Services Office or call the PILP Director, Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765.

WE NEED JUDGES!

Do you work in a courtroom?

Do you work in a firm?

Do you write for the Journal or Scholar?

Did you do well in First Year Moot Court or other in school competitions?

Are you on an external advocacy team?

Are you working in the Clinic?

Board of Advocates is looking for qualified, professional students to judge preliminary rounds of First Year Moot Court from March 27-30. We need YOU to make this successful for the 1L class! If you have questions or need more information before the meeting, please contact a member of the Board of Advocates or call us at 436-3286.

2006-2007 REGISTRATION

*Monday April 7, 2006 2Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500 {2Ls academic year 2006-2007}	8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
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*Thursday April 13, 2006 2Ls with lottery numbers 5501 to 9999 {2Ls academic year 2006-2007}	8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
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Course Changes for summer 2006, fall 2006, and spring, 2007:

→Tuesday March 22, 2006 8:00 - 12 Noon 1:00 - 5:00 pm	3rd year only	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
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* Thursday April 20, 2006 8:00 - 12 noon 1:00 - 5:00 pm	2nd year only	Turn in Bebe Gonzales Law Admin 105
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ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENTS

You should have received three practice essay questions via e-mail on Monday, February 20, 2006. Extra copies of the essay questions are available in the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A).

Once you have completed the questions, please submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence and schedule an appointment to review your answers. The last day for a review is March 31, 2006.

Please call Director Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541 if you have any questions.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the 2006 Summer and Fall Semesters. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include cite checking opinions, researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge’s consideration, discussing cases with the Court’s judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. You must be familiar with WordPerfect. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary’s School of Law website: law.stmarytx.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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The Student Bar Association invites you to check out their new website at www.stmarytxsba.com.

LAW MINISTRY

Fiesta Farewell: The Fiesta Farewell for graduating law students will be held on Wednesday, April 5, at 12:00 noon in the Law School Plaza. Festivities include a graduation picture, a blessing prayer for graduates, Campus Ministry service awards, and the fiesta. All students, faculty, staff and administrators are invited.

Lent 2006: Where God Fulfills Our Needs - Schedule of Services and Events

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OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the summer 2006 as well as the fall and spring 2006-2007 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 06 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 has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Endowed Scholarship Applications for 06-07 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 **4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2006**. 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 March 20th.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses

related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance. Remember that if you are denied on this loan, and you meet the criteria for the Anonymous Donor Bar Study Loan, you may apply for it. The deadline has been extended.

**THE SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION
SAN ANTONIO RACE FOR THE CURE**

The annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1, 2006**. Registration this year will be held primarily on-line. Go to www.sakomen.org click "Register." On the next screen, select "Join an existing team." Enter "St. Mary's Rattlers" as the team name, and click "Search for a team." On the next screen, click on "St. Mary's Rattlers" in the Name column, then click on "Join St. Mary's Rattlers." Debit Cards, Visa, MC, Amex, and Discover cards accepted. The St. Mary's Team Photo will be taken on Friday, March 31, 3:45 p.. on the steps of the AACC. Please spread the word so that St. Mary's will have a great showing on Race day! Contact Ann Karam at 436-4313 or akaram@stmarytx.edu for more information.

CUSTOM TAILORING EVENT RETURNING TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from Macways Export Co. Ltd. will return to the law school on Tuesday, March 28th and Wednesday, March 29th to conduct fittings for both male and female law 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 attached below.

Mr. Kriangsaksakul will donate back 10% of all his sales to the Cantu Fund that goes toward assisting Sister Grace's mission of service to others. The fitting Mr. Kriangsaksakul held on campus last fall resulted in a \$700 contribution to the fund.

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 slots that have been allocated for this visit. Fittings will take place in Room 109 of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. To schedule an appointment time or ask a question, please email Brian Smith at bsmith62@satx.rr.com or call 210.488.2990. Appointments last about 40 minutes.

Price List in U.S. Dollars:

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Classic Line</u>	<u>Exclusive Line</u>
2-Piece Suits	US\$190	US\$250
Sport Coat Blazer	US\$150	US\$190
Trousers/Slacks	US\$60	US\$70
Shirts	US\$45	US\$50

Tuxedo Suits	US\$220	US\$260
Tuxedo Shirt	US\$55	US\$65
Women's	Classic Line	Exclusive Line
Jackets	US\$150	US\$190
Trousers	US\$60	US\$70
Skirts	US\$50	US\$60
Blouses	US\$45	US\$50
Suits		
Jacket w/Trousers	US\$190	US\$250
Jacket w/Skirt	US\$180	US\$240
Jacket w/Trousers & Skirt	US\$240	US\$290

The 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 the 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 pure wool fabrics only. In the same token, the Classic shirt fabrics include blends meanwhile the Exclusive Line shirts are made from natural fabrics such as pure cottons, pure linen and silk, among others.

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 Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by **April 1, 2006**.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The

Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship. An award of \$10,000, in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, will be given by the Federal Circuit Bar Association to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 28, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the Seventh Annual *James William Moore Federal Practice Award*. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of

legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the 68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Federal Circuit Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2006 George Hutchinson Writing Competition. First place prize is \$3,000. Second and third place cash prizes may also be awarded. Rules and further information may be found www.fedcirbar.org. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2006**.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 28

March 27, 2006

By MSA

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

COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS - 1LS

On **Tuesday, March 28**, and **Thursday, March 30**, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in LCB 101, Associate Dean Ariens and incoming-Associate Dean Mather, along with Director of Student Enrollment Catherine Mery, will discuss the registration process for rising 2Ls, including the order in which registration is taken, how to prioritize your class selections in case of class closings, understanding the requirements of the core curriculum, learning how the Texas bar exam is structured and how to maximize your course selections in light of the subjects tested on the bar exam, understanding the X, Y and Z schedules, deciding when to complete the requirement of writing a substantial scholarly paper, and other topics.

ST. MARY'S EAP MOOT COURT TEAM WIN REGIONALS, ADVANCES TO FINALS!

Two moot court teams from St. Mary's External Advocacy Program competed in the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regional Tournament from March 8-11, 2006. Nearly 150 teams from more than 90 different law schools competed in five regions across the country for the opportunity to be one of only 20 teams to qualify for the National Finals in Chicago. The team of Amanda Goff (3L), Halina Radchenko (2L) and Adrienne Archer (2L) reached the finals in their regional bracket, while the team of Alison Hicks (3L) and Kimberly Phillips (2L) dominated the competition – breaking out of the preliminary rounds as the top team in the tournament and easily winning their finals round by the widest margin of any team at the competition. Continuing a proud tradition for St. Mary's EAP Moot Court Teams, Alison and Kimberly have brought St. Mary's yet another ABA Moot Court Regional Championship (its third in five years), and will now focus on bringing the ABA National Championship back to St. Mary's. Wish them luck in Chicago!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Thomas McMillian** and **Laura Gwen Jacobs**, recipients of the Sarah Kathryn Thompson scholarship to attend the 2006 St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria. The scholarship will be awarded to Thomas and Gwen at Fiesta Farewell.

CUSTOM TAILORING EVENT RETURNING TO ST. MARY'S

Mr. Raj Kriangsaksakul, from Macways Export Co. Ltd. will return to the law school on **Tuesday, March 28th** and **Wednesday, March 29th** to conduct fittings for both male and female law 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 listed below.

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ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WANTS YOU!

St. Mary's Law Journal is holding an informational meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 29th** in the Alumni Room. Practicing attorneys (and *Journal* alumni) will offer a law firm perspective on the practical benefits of membership on the *Journal*. Food will be served.

St. Mary's Law Journal is nationally ranked as the third most case cited law journal in the nation falling behind only Harvard Law Journal and Columbia Law Journal for 2004-2005. We need talented 1Ls to help us carry on this tradition of excellence. If you have an eye for detail, love to write, are good at research, or are just curious, stop by the Alumni room between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., grab some lunch, and hear one of two informative presentations starting at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

ATTENTION THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENTS

You should have received three practice essay questions via e-mail on Monday, February 20, 2006. Extra copies of the essay questions are available in the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A).

Once you have completed the questions, please submit them to the Office of Academic Excellence and schedule an appointment to review your answers. The last day for a review is **March 31, 2006**.

Please call Director Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541 if you have any questions.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

The Fourth Court of Appeals is accepting applications from second and third-year students for nonpaying, judicial internships available during the 2006 Summer and Fall Semesters. The program offers the opportunity to improve research and writing skills while providing a “behind-the-scenes” view of an appellate court. Interns will be selected to work in the chambers of one of the Court’s seven justices. Work will include cite checking opinions,

researching issues in both civil and criminal law, writing memoranda for judge's consideration, discussing cases with the Court's judges and attorneys, and observation of oral argument. You must be familiar with WordPerfect. Please note that the Court does not allow interns to use any work product from the Court as a writing sample. Interns must commit to a minimum of 120 hours, to be completed in six to twelve weeks. Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For more information and application details, please stop by Career Services or please visit the St. Mary's School of Law website: law.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 2006. 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 noon on Monday, April 3, 2006**.

STATE BAR OF TEXAS SCHOLARSHIPS

The State Bar of Texas, Law Student Division, has two scholarships available for law students. A winner for each school will be chosen and receive \$100 and the winner for the statewide scholarship contest will receive **\$1000**. You may apply for **both** scholarships. For more details concerning the **Professionalism Award and/or Essay Contest** please visit the website: www.texasbar.com. Once at the website click on Other Bar Groups, then Divisions, the Law Student Division. You **MUST** be a member of the Law Student Division in order to be eligible for either scholarship. Applications must be postmarked to: Law Student Division, State Bar of Texas, P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487 no later than **April 3rd**.

HOUSING RE-APPLICATION

Housing re-application for current residents for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 academic year will take place in March and April 2006. Law and graduate housing will be in Chaminade Hall next year. All rooms will be singles, suite-style, sharing a bathroom with the room next door. Each room has its own sink. Another residential perk next year will be free laundry. Lounge renovations aimed at creating more comfortable common living spaces are underway this semester.

If you have any questions, please consult Ann Karam in the Residence Life office at extension 4313. To select a different room for next year, scheduled dates are **April 4th - 5th**.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please join us on **Friday, April 7th**, at Tapatio Springs Resort for a Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Any Baby Can, presented by St. Mary's University MBA Program. Entry Fee is \$100 per person. Fee includes: green fee, golf cart, lunch, raffle entry and more! To enter a team or make a donation, please contact Brandon Vasquez (St. Mary's MBA Program) at (210) 722-2594 or visit www.anybabycansa.org.

PRO BONO CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2006

The following law students will be receiving a pro bono certificate during graduation. If you believe you have been overlooked or you have yet to submit your pro bono hours, please contact Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765 before **Friday, April 7**.

Kyle M. Allen	Kari Honea	Edward Robinson
Donna Bloom	Kurt Hopke	Rachel Rogers
Karen L. Bogan	Andrew Hurd	Shannon Salmon
Stephen Brearley	Robert Jackson	Eric R. Sandvig
Alfonso Cabanas	Patricia Jay	Matt Sharp
Tracy Cantu	Emily Kinney	Amberly Sheppard
Catherine Casiano	Veronica I. Legarreta	Andrew Simmons
Cynthia Marie Chapa	Erin Lucke	Brian Smith
George Chumillo	Sean Markey	Ruth A. Stepherson
Philip Garrett Clayton	Todd A. Marquardt	John Stevenson
Mario Cortes	Rashin Mazaheri	Brian M. Stork
Matthew C. Cotter	Frank McElroy	Eric Tijerina
Jason Cruz	Jamie McKey	Robyn Traywick
Stewart Davis	Ricardo Montalvo	Joseph M. Vacek
Ashley L. Fischer	Victoria Mora	Ruben Valadez
Jeffrey Garcia	Teresa Morales	Agatha M. Clements Wade
Maria Carmen Garcia	Alejandro Moreno	Kathleen Warner
Troy J. Garcia	Karen Muniz	Ava Michelle Weltz
Amanda Goff	Guadalupe Navarro	Nathaniel Wong
Jonathan Hardt	Bryan Oathout	Jennifer Wright
Emile Harmon	Jennifer Plemons	Amy Yi
Taylor Heaton	Jeremiah Poulton	James R. Young
Sean Homrig	Erica A. Ramos	

TUTORING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for a tutoring position in the 2006-2007 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are due by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006**.

Tutors will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at

Director Thomas' home.

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 tutored subject.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching models.

Pay

Tutors are expected to attend each class session of the course they tutor and hold weekly tutoring sessions. In exchange, tutors will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please call Director Sharon Breckenrdige Thomas at (210) 436-3541.

LAW LIBRARY EXHIBIT CELEBRATES TEXAS WOMEN JUDGES AND LAWYERS

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Law Library has set up a special exhibit of prominent Texas women judges and lawyers. In this exhibit are articles and photos selected from magazines and newsletters. Many of the professionals featured are alumni of St. Mary's University School of Law. The display is located on the first floor of the library near the bulletin board. Come see the display to honor these outstanding women.

COMMENCEMENT 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Information on all events leading up to, and including, Law School Commencement 2006 can be found at www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06. Contact Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, with questions about any of the scheduled events, activities, or notices.

PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERNSHIP

For the seventh consecutive year the Public Interest Law Program (PILP) is sponsoring the Public Defender Externship (PDE). The PILP and the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas are partnering to offer summer externships along the Texas-Mexico border. The externships are for a four week period and are offered during both summer sessions. Law students earn a modest stipend for their participation. For more information about the PDE and how to apply, please visit the Career Services Office or call the PILP Director, Joaquin Amaya at 431-5765.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The St. Mary's Tech & IP Society would like to announce that Mr. Peter Vogel will speak to our group on **Thursday, April 6, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**, in the Law Administration Building Atrium. Mr. Vogel will discuss the following topics.

- The History of the Internet
- Terms of Service Agreements
- Jurisdiction
- Privacy
- Intellectual Property
- Wikis and Blogs

The presentation is **open to all law students and faculty**, and the Society encourages anyone with an interest in these areas to attend. 1Ls, feel free to stop by after the final round of the moot court competition. Dean Hartman is providing dinner for the event. So that I may get an accurate headcount for dinner, please **RSVP** to emarvin@stmarytx.edu. Hope to see you there!

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as staff writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who write the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six staff writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 12**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover the cost of printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Monday, June 5**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Monday, June 5 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than ten days after **Monday, June 5** to be considered for competition.

Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to Jason Smith at jsmith3@stmarytx.edu.

LAW MINISTRY

Lent 2006: Where God Fulfills Our Needs - Schedule of Services and Events

Lenten Reconciliation Services - Chapel of the Assumption, Tuesday, April 4, 3:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. followed by the opportunity for private confessions at 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week:

Passion Sunday Vigil (Alumni Mass), Sat., April 8, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 4:30 p.m.

Passion Sunday, April 9, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 13, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 7:00 p.m., Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper and *Solemn Procession with the Blessed Sacrament*. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, Chapel of the Assumption.

Good Friday, April 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 15, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the summer 2006 as well as the fall and spring 2006-2007 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 06 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 has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation action recommended now: Recent Congressional action has changed the laws affecting Stafford Loan Consolidation effective July 1, 2006. Students will no longer be able to consolidate while in-school; nor will spouses be allowed to consolidate their separate Stafford education loans into one loan. In addition, the new Stafford interest rate on July 1st will be a fixed 6.8%. Consolidation of Stafford Loans prior to that date will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the Consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

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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 Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship award is presented annually at the Berks County Bar Association Law Day Event in Pennsylvania. Please visit www.bccf.org for an application to the Howard Fox Memorial Law Scholarship. Completed applications must be returned to Berks County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 212, Reading, PA, 19603-0212 by

April 1, 2006.

The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) awards prizes to three law students from the Americas for the submission of the best research papers. First prize is \$800; second prize is \$600; and third prize is \$400.00. For topics and requirements, please telephone (202) 466-5944, visit www.iaba.org or email iaba@iaba.org. Deadline is **April 14, 2006**.

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Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship. An award of \$10,000, in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, will be given by the Federal Circuit Bar Association to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 28, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for

more information.

LexisNexis announce the Seventh Annual *James William Moore Federal Practice Award*. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the 68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Federal Circuit Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2006 George Hutchinson Writing Competition. First place prize is \$3,000. Second and third place cash prizes may also be awarded. Rules and further information may be found www.fedcirbar.org. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2006**.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be

received by **August 1, 2006.**

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006.**

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 29

April 3, 2006

By MSA

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

HOUSING RE-APPLICATION

Housing re-application for current residents for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 academic year will take place in March and April 2006. Law and graduate housing will be in Chaminade Hall next year. All rooms will be singles, suite-style, sharing a bathroom with the room next door. Each room has its own sink. Another residential perk next year will be free laundry. Lounge renovations aimed at creating more comfortable common living spaces are underway this semester.

If you have any questions, please consult Ann Karam in the Residence Life office at extension 4313. To select a different room for next year, scheduled dates are **April 4th - 5th**. Please refer to your *Guide to Room Selection* which was placed in your hall mailbox on Wednesday, March 8th. Residency requirements for Chaminade Hall include being 21 years old by August 15, 2006 or being a law/grad student. Reapplication materials are available for you to print at www.stmarytx.edu/edu/reslife/. Information about the lottery process is also available at that address.

FIESTA FAREWELL

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 5th**, as we bid farewell to the Class of 2006 and welcome them as “Almost Alumni!” Program begins at **Noon** in the **Law School Plaza**. Festivities include Campus Ministry service awards, a blessing prayer for third year students, the graduation picture (please dress appropriately) followed by Fiesta lunch. Everyone is invited!

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS BOARD OF ADVOCATES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Board of Advocates (BOA) is an honorary advocacy organization composed of a maximum of twenty St. Mary's students. The BOA promotes the development and use of

practical skills in oral and written advocacy from St. Mary's law students. The Board is responsible for organizing all internal advocacy competitions at St. Mary's School of Law. Competitions include mock trials, moot courts, negotiations competitions and of course, First Year Moot Court. Each year the BOA facilitates six advocacy competitions in which local attorneys and judges act as competition judges and provide feedback and critiques following each competition. Furthermore, the Barristers' Ball, an annual ball that honors excellence in advocacy, is organized by the BOA. Membership in the BOA is announced at the Barristers' Ball every April.

If you are interested in supporting advocacy, regularly meeting with licensed attorneys and judges, and being a member of a great St. Mary's organization, BOA applications are available on the 1L Legal Writing TWEN site, under the Oral Argument/Moot Court tab. Please submit fifteen copies of your BOA application to the box at the Circulation Desk in the Law Library by **5:00 p.m., April 7th**, and sign up for an interview time. Interviews are scheduled for the afternoons of April 10-12.

REGISTRATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| ♣Friday, April 7, 2006 | 8:00 am to 3:00 pm | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 2Ls with lottery numbers 1000 to 5500
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |
| ♣Thursday, April 13, 2006 | 8:00 am to 3:00 pm | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 2Ls with lottery numbers 5501-9999
{2Ls academic year 2006-2007} | | |

Course Changes for summer 2006, fall 2006, and spring, 2007:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
| ♣Thursday, April 20, 2006 | 2nd year only | Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105 |
| 8:00 - 12:00 noon | | |
| 1:00 - 5:00 pm | | |

You will be enrolled in the classes in the order listed as long as the classes are open; once a class has been closed, you will be enrolled in the next available class listed on your form.

Registered students may revise schedules for summer, fall, or spring with no penalty according to the schedule listed above. After fall and spring registration, an Add/Drop Penalty of \$10 may be assessed.

UPCOMING SEMINAR

Attention all Law Students who want to be sole-practitioners. On **April 8th**, the Law Practice Management Committee, State Bar of Texas will be hosting a course entitled, "Planning to Conquer the Real World of Private Practice." The seminar will be from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the **Alumni Room**. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP and email dsheppard@texasbar.com. DEADLINE to RSVP: **April 6th**.

EAP MOOT COURT TEAM TRY-OUTS

The **EAP Moot Court Team** will be holding **try-outs** on **Tuesday, April 11th** and **Wednesday, April 12th**. Moot Court is an invaluable experience and teaches skills that will be used in everyday trial practice. **Sign-up sheets** are posted in the Law Classroom Building **outside** room 101. Please be prepared to give one side of your first year argument and bring a resume. Anyone interested in being a brief writer should also bring a writing sample. Questions? Call or email Alison Hicks at (210) 232-5966 or ahicks2@stmarytx.edu.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Law Ministry is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on **Tuesday, April 11** beginning at **4:30 p.m. in the Law Plaza**. The Easter Bunny will visit us. There will be games, arts and crafts and face painting to celebrate the anticipation of Easter. The hunt for Easter eggs will begin at 5:30 p.m. All faculty, staff, students and family are invited. Donations are being accepted for plastic eggs and candy to fill the plastic egg.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please join us on **Friday, April 7th**, at Tapatio Springs Resort for a Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Any Baby Can, presented by St. Mary's University MBA Program. Entry Fee is \$100 per person. Fee includes: green fee, golf cart, lunch, raffle entry and more! To enter a team or make a donation, please contact Brandon Vasquez (St. Mary's MBA Program) at (210) 722-2594 or visit www.anybabycansa.org.

TUTORING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for a tutoring position in the 2006-2007 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are due by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006**.

Tutors will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Director Thomas' home.

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 tutored subject.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching models.

Pay

Tutors are expected to attend each class session of the course they tutor and hold weekly tutoring sessions. In exchange, tutors will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is

more than \$15.00 per hour. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please call Director Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as staff writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who write the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six staff writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 12**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover the cost of printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Monday, June 5**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Monday, June 5 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than ten days after **Monday, June 5** to be considered for competition.

Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to Jason Smith at jsmith3@stmarytx.edu.

COMMENCEMENT 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Information on all events leading up to, and including, Law School Commencement 2006 can be found at www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06. Contact Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, with questions about any of the scheduled events, activities, or notices.

LAW MINISTRY

Lent 2006: Where God Fulfills Our Needs - Schedule of Services and Events

Lenten Reconciliation Services - Chapel of the Assumption, Tuesday, April 4, 3:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. followed by the opportunity for private confessions at 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week:

Passion Sunday Vigil (Alumni Mass), Sat., April 8, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 4:30 p.m.

Passion Sunday, April 9, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 13, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 7:00 p.m., Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper and *Solemn Procession with the Blessed Sacrament*. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, Chapel of the Assumption.

Good Friday, April 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 15, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Women's Law Association** will have its final meeting of the year on **April 4th**. We will meet from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Lunch will be provided. The format will be an open discussion about next year and beyond. This is a great opportunity for 1Ls to get personal advice and information from 2L and 3Ls about classes, extracurricular activities, jobs and anything else that may be on your mind as summer approaches. We will also be discussing officer elections. If you joined back in September and haven't made it to any of the meetings, then **this** is the meeting to attend.

The **Christian Legal Society** will host the screening of "Invisible Children" film. Please join the CLS on **Thursday, April 6th** from **12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium** as we view the movie. This one hour documentary is an intriguing and powerful look at the issue of child soldiers in Uganda. We will watch the movie and afterwards, discuss ways to get involved. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please visit www.invisiblechildren.com.

FACULTY KUDOS

Professor Bernard D. Reams was a guest speaker on March 23, 2006 at the **San Antonio Inns of Court**. He spoke on the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Gonzales v. Oregon* and The Oregon Death With Dignity Act.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR A TAXING TIME

Sarita East Kenedy Law Library - Robert Hu
(April 2006)

It is taxing this time of the year. With the **April 17** deadline fast approaching, here is some information which may help you tackle the daunting task and ease your anxiety when filing your tax return.

For starters, if you need tax forms the traditional way, you can get them at the Law Library's Circulation Desk. The two-volume *Reproducible Federal Tax Forms and Instructions* is on Reserve under the call number KF 6300 A33 R461. You can make copies of tax forms from this publication. Just ask the Circulation Desk. Alternatively, you can get tax forms and instructions online from the Internal Revenue Service's website at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. Besides the IRS website, there are other Internet sites that offer useful tax information, tools, and advice in addition to tax forms. The following is a roundup of some of the major websites available.

1. Websites for Federal, State Forms and Publications

Internal Revenue Service <<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>>

The IRS site has all the federal tax forms, publications, and instructions needed for filing individual and business tax returns. Forms and publications can be downloaded.

Federation of Tax Administrators <<http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html>>

This site links to all state tax agencies' websites and tax forms. All the state links are shown on a clickable map. The states are also arranged alphabetically by name.

1040.com <<http://www.1040.com>>

This site, sponsored by Drake Enterprises, Ltd., makes available all federal and state tax forms for searching and downloading. Also, it links to the tax agency addresses/phone numbers of all the states. Moreover, it offers helpful information, such as tax rate tables, tax calendar, and tax estimator.

2. Websites with More Than Tax Forms

Yahoo! Finance Tax Center <<http://financ.yahoo.com/taxes>>

This site is comprehensive for tax information and resources. On the menu are Forms (both federal and states), Tax Tools, and Tax Education. Also featured are tax tips and guides for investors. It is much beyond filing for your last year's tax returns.

UncleFed's Tax Board <<http://www.unclefed.com>>

Sponsored by National Tax Services, Inc., this site offers all the federal and state tax forms, plus articles, news and tips on tax matters.

Tax Time by Washington Post

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/business/personalfinance/tax/>>

This site provides forms, advice, columns and articles relating to tax topics.

3. Websites for Electronic Filing

Internal Revenue Service <<http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html>>

This site allows eligible taxpayers to file tax returns online free of charge through a partnership agreement between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, LLC.

Federation of Tax Administrators <<http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/edi/etalinks.html>>

The site links up to all the states where online filing is available. The links on the website are displayed on a clickable map.

1040.com <<http://www.1040.com>>

This site, sponsored by Drake Enterprises, Ltd., makes online filing available to people who have Internet access. Click on "File online" on the menu and enter your zip code to begin.

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Stafford Loan Consolidation deadline of March 31, does not pertain to St. Mary's law students: The deadline for Stafford Loan consolidation is still June 30, 2006. The interest rate for these loans is being quote at 4.75. This interest rate may be reduced by participating in

repayment incentives, such as having payments automatically withdrawn from a financial account as well as 36 month on-time payments. However, as a student who is in school and asking for entry into early repayment in order to consolidate the loan, your only concern now is to be sure to request "in-school deferment." By April 3rd, Sallie Mae will have in place some on-line enhancements in regards to applying for consolidation. There will be two separate sections, one for May graduates and another for continuing students. The one for continuing students is a 15 minute online session. The website for Sallie Mae is www.smartloan.com. One of the benefits of consolidating Stafford Loans prior to July 1st is that it will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower than the rate that will be in effect July 1st. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all the necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

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Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up to the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance.

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of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 30

April 10, 2006

By MSA

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

SUMMER OPPORTUNITY FOR LAW STUDENT

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RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS FOR THE CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW

The Center for Terrorism Law is now considering 2Ls, 3Ls, and L.L.M.s for possible positions as paid **Research Fellows**. Please submit your resume and cover addressing your interest in working at the Center and any specific area of strength that you have. Submissions will be accepted until **5:00 pm, Monday, May 1, 2006**. You may drop off your resume and cover letter with Ms. Jessica Vogler at the Center for Terrorism office in Raba. If you have any questions, please contact the Center at 431-2219.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The **Easter Bunny** is coming and needs your help. **Tuesday, April 11, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**, St. Mary's University School of **Law Plaza**. Bring your family for fun activities and visit with the Easter Bunny. Children from area shelters and local youth programs will join us. The games begin at 4:30p.m. and the **Egg Hunt** will begin at **5:30 p.m.** Donations of candy and/or plastic Easter eggs from faculty, staff, and students are most welcome. **Volunteers** are needed to fill the Easter Eggs on Monday, April 10, anytime during the day. Volunteers are also needed for the

Bunny Games and the Easter Egg Hunt. (Report for Bunny duty at 3:30 p.m.). This event is sponsored by Law Campus Ministry, Phi Delta Phi and SBA Service Committee.

EAP MOOT COURT TEAM TRY-OUTS

The **EAP Moot Court Team** will be holding **try-outs** on **Tuesday, April 11th** and **Wednesday, April 12th**. Moot Court is an invaluable experience and teaches skills that will be used in everyday trial practice. **Sign-up sheets** are posted in the Law Classroom Building **outside** room 101. Please be prepared to give one side of your first year argument and bring a resume. Anyone interested in being a brief writer should also bring a writing sample. Questions? Call or email Alison Hicks at (210) 232-5966 or ahicks2@stmarytx.edu.

SPRING 2006 EXAM ROOM ASSIGNMENT

A schedule of the room assignments for the Spring 2006 Exam period is available on the law school website, www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2005_2006/2006SpringExamRoomSchedule.pdf

CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

The University Academic Council has approved the request that the graduating members of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*, *The Scholar*, **Order of Barristers**, and **Phi Delta Phi** be permitted to obtain and wear **honor cords** as part of their **academic regalia at graduation exercises**. Eligible students may **purchase the cords from the Law School** at the **times and locations noted below**. Students may wear more than one cord if they belong to more than one group and they wish to purchase the cords. **Only those students whose names appear on the lists provided to the Law School by the student organizations may purchase the cords.** **Cost is \$10.00 per cord**, payable by **cash in the exact amount** (no change will be given) or **check made out to "St. Mary's University"** to either Ms. Yvonne Olfers or Ms. Bebe Gonzales. (Please note that purchase is made through the Law School and not The Herff Jones Graduation Center.)

In conjunction with the distribution of graduation apparel:

Wednesday, May 3 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

Thursday, May 4 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

[Because this is during finals, Ms. Olfers and Ms. Gonzales may not be available this entire time due to commitments with exam administration.]

During the week prior to graduation:

Monday - Friday, May 15 - 19 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 pm LAB 105 - Ms. Gonzales

GRADUATION 2006

An updated edition of the Law School's *Commencement 2006 Schedule of Events*, which includes updated information on the graduation reception, is available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06). The Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, 150 E. Houston, is the

site for the reception, which will be celebrated the evening before graduation on **Friday, May 19, 2006, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

REGISTRATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

♣ Thursday, April 13, 2006 8:00 am to 3:00 pm **Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105**
 2Ls with lottery numbers 5501-9999
 {2Ls academic year 2006-2007}
Course Changes for summer 2006, fall 2006, and spring, 2007:

 ♣ Thursday, April 20, 2006 **2nd year only** **Turn in to Bebe Gonzales
Law Admin 105**
 8:00 - 12:00 noon
 1:00 - 5:00 pm

You will be enrolled in the classes in the order listed as long as the classes are open; once a class has been closed, you will be enrolled in the next available class listed on your form.

Registered students may revise schedules for summer, fall, or spring with no penalty according to the schedule listed above. After fall and spring registration, an Add/Drop Penalty of \$10 may be assessed.

TUTORING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for a tutoring position in the 2006-2007 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are due by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006.**

Tutors will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Director Thomas' home.

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 tutored subject.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching models.

Pay

Tutors are expected to attend each class session of the course they tutor and hold weekly tutoring sessions. In exchange, tutors will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please call Director Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as staff writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who write the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six staff writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 12**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover the cost of printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Monday, June 5**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Monday, June 5 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than ten days after **Monday, June 5** to be considered for competition.

Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to Jason Smith at jsmith3@stmarytx.edu.

LAW MINISTRY

Lent 2006: Where God Fulfills Our Needs - Schedule of Services

Holy Thursday, **April 13**, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 7:00 p.m., Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper and *Solemn Procession with the Blessed Sacrament*. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, Chapel of the Assumption.

Good Friday, **April 14**, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, **April 15**, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, **April 16**, Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11:00 a.m.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Federalist Society** will hold an informational meeting on **April 11th**. The meeting will begin at **3:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium**. We will discuss goals and activities we will seek to accomplish over the next year, and provide general information to interested non-members.

Snacks and sodas will be provided. For more information on the Federalist Society, go to www.fed-sec.org.

PRO BONO CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2006

Laura Abraham	Maria C. Garcia	Thomas Mazurek	Paul Rushing
Matthew Adams	Troy J. Garcia	Frank McElroy	Shannon Salmon
Kyle M. Allen	Amanda Garza	Jamie McKey	Eric R. Sandvig
Kathryn Bale	April Glass	Rebecca McMinn	Matt Sharp
Donna Bloom	Amanda Goff	Sean Milligan	Amberly Sheppard
Karen L. Bogan	Roland F. Gonzales	Ricardo Montalvo	Andrew Simmons
Stephen Brearley	Esperanza Guzman	Victoria Mora	Brian Smith
Alfonso Cabanas	Jonathan Hardt	Teresa Morales	Amanda Stephenson
Tracy Cantu	Emile Harmon	Alejandro Moreno	Ruth A. Stepherson
Eric Carr	Taylor Heaton	Karen Muniz	John Stevenson
Art Carter	Sean Homrig	Guadalupe Navarro	Brian M. Stork
Catherine Casiano	Kari Honea	Bryan Oathout	Eric Tijerina
Casey Champion	Kurt Hopke	Amy Owen	Robyn Traywick
Cynthia M. Chapa	Teresa Howard	Tushar Pandya	Joseph M. Vacek
George Chumillo	Andrew Hurd	Jennifer Plemons	Ruben Valadez
Phillip G. Clayton	Robert Jackson	Jeremiah Poulton	Agatha M. Clements Wade
Justin Cook	Patricia Jay	Richard Ramirez	Kathleen Warner
Mario Cortes	Emily Kinney	Erica A. Ramos	Ava Michelle Weltz
Matthew C. Cotter	Veronica I. Legarreta	Christine Rankin	Nathaniel Wong
Jason Cruz	Erin Lucke	Jonathan Rightmeyer	Jennifer Wright
Stewart Davis	Molly Mandigo	Edward Robinson	Sergio Ybarra
Catherine Durbin	Sean Markey	Kathryn Rodgers	Amy Yi
Ashley L. Fischer	Todd A. Marquardt	Rachel Rogers	James R. Young
Jeffrey Garcia	Rashin Mazaheri	Eduardo Romero	Kyle A. Young

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR A TAXING TIME

Sarita East Kenedy Law Library - Robert Hu
(April 2006)

It is taxing this time of the year. With the **April 17** deadline fast approaching, here is some information which may help you tackle the daunting task and ease your anxiety when filing your tax return.

For starters, if you need tax forms the traditional way, you can get them at the Law Library's Circulation Desk. The two-volume *Reproducible Federal Tax Forms and Instructions* is on Reserve under the call number KF 6300 A33 R461. You can make copies of tax forms from this publication. Just ask the Circulation Desk. Alternatively, you can get tax forms and instructions online from the Internal Revenue Service's website at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. Besides the IRS website, there are other Internet sites that offer useful tax information, tools, and advice in addition to tax forms. The following is a

roundup of some of the major websites available.

1. Websites for Federal, State Forms and Publications

Internal Revenue Service <<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>>

The IRS site has all the federal tax forms, publications, and instructions needed for filing individual and business tax returns. Forms and publications can be downloaded.

Federation of Tax Administrators <<http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html>>

This site links to all state tax agencies' websites and tax forms. All the state links are shown on a clickable map. The states are also arranged alphabetically by name.

1040.com <<http://www.1040.com>>

This site, sponsored by Drake Enterprises, Ltd., makes available all federal and state tax forms for searching and downloading. Also, it links to the tax agency addresses/phone numbers of all the states. Moreover, it offers helpful information, such as tax rate tables, tax calendar, and tax estimator.

2. Websites with More Than Tax Forms

Yahoo! Finance Tax Center <<http://financ.yahoo.com/taxes>>

This site is comprehensive for tax information and resources. On the menu are Forms (both federal and states), Tax Tools, and Tax Education. Also featured are tax tips and guides for investors. It is much beyond filing for your last year's tax returns.

UncleFed's Tax Board <<http://www.unclefed.com>>

Sponsored by National Tax Services, Inc., this site offers all the federal and state tax forms, plus articles, news and tips on tax matters.

Tax Time by Washington Post

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/business/personalfinance/tax/>>

This site provides forms, advice, columns and articles relating to tax topics.

3. Websites for Electronic Filing

Internal Revenue Service <<http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html>>

This site allows eligible taxpayers to file tax returns online free of charge through a partnership agreement between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, LLC.

Federation of Tax Administrators <<http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/edi/etalinks.html>>

The site links up to all the states where online filing is available. The links on the website are displayed on a clickable map.

1040.com <<http://www.1040.com>>

This site, sponsored by Drake Enterprises, Ltd., makes online filing available to people who have Internet access. Click on "File online" on the menu and enter your zip code to begin.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

Come play a hand or two of Texas Hold'Em. **Tuesday, April 25th - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., University Center Conference Room A**, Cost is \$10.00 with a Free T-Shirt. For more information or to register, please call 431-6816. Sponsored by St. Mary's University Mission for Miracles and University Programming Council. Proceeds to **benefit** St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2006** as well as the **fall and spring 2006-2007** 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 06 classes. If tax returns have not been completed, the form allows for estimated income and asset information.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation deadline of March 31, does not pertain to St. Mary's law students: The deadline for Stafford Loan consolidation is still June 30, 2006. The interest rate for these loans is being quote at 4.75. This interest rate may be reduced by participating in

repayment incentives, such as having payments automatically withdrawn from a financial account as well as 36 month on-time payments. However, as a student who is in school and asking for entry into early repayment in order to consolidate the loan, your only concern now is to be sure to request "in-school deferment." By April 3rd, Sallie Mae will have in place some on-line enhancements in regards to applying for consolidation. There will be two separate sections, one for May graduates and another for continuing students. The one for continuing students is a 15 minute online session. The website for Sallie Mae is www.smartloan.com. One of the benefits of consolidating Stafford Loans prior to July 1st is that it will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower than the rate that will be in effect July 1st. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all the necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

Summer Loan Information: Costs sheets for summer sessions as well as the Loan Information Sheet are now available. 3Ls for 2006-07 should turn in the form as soon as possible. 2Ls for 226-07 should not turn in the form prior to April 20th, which is the day for course changes. The priority deadline for these form is **April 24, 2006** to allow sufficient time for process loan applications before the first day of class. It does not guarantee that your loan funds will be available on the first day of class.

Bar Study Loans: December, 2005 and May, 2006 graduates may apply for private loans for expenses related to the Bar. These are credit based loans and assist in paying expenses related to the Bar as well as supplementing living expenses during the period of time leading up the Bar Exam. Information sheets are available on our forms rack inside the Office of Financial Assistance.

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 Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is seeking entries for the Best Labor and Employment Law Article Award for the 2005-2006 State Bar year. The best article, note or comment, by a law student, on a labor or employment law subject will receive a cash award of \$1,000. The winning article and author will be announced at the 2006 State Bar Convention in early June. The student will also receive a plaque from the Section. The Law Review publishing the article will receive a matching cash award upon execution of permission to reprint the article. Articles must be published, or have been selected for publication, by April 14, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by midnight **April 14, 2006**. No prior entries may be resubmitted. All entries must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch of the author. All entries should be submitted to: Valorie C. Glass, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., P. O. Box 3725, McAllen, Texas 78502 by forwarding a hard copy and a diskette in WordPerfect or MS Word. For more information on the award and past winners, please visit www.laborlaw.org. For any other questions regarding the award, please contact Valorie C. Glass at (956) 682-5501.

The ABA Section of Family Law announces its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Applicants may submit an essay on any aspect of Family Law and entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest. However, if the law in one state reflects a significant development or trend, that too could be an appropriate subject for an entry. The top three prize winners all receive a *Certificate of Recognition*, consideration of publication of the article, a letter to the law student's dean, and a one-year complimentary Section of Family Law membership. Deadline for articles is **April 15, 2006**.

The International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 31

April 17, 2006

By MSA

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

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

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

Ian C. Crawford
Scott R. Davis
Matthew P. Lathrop
Elizabeth M. Stanley

PILA \$750 STIPEND FOR SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST WORK

The Public Interest Law Association is now accepting applications for a \$750 stipend given to a law student who works in the public interest field during the summer. The student must submit a proposal detailing the type of public interest work, the organization with which he or she will be working, a confirmation from the organization of the work to be done, and how the stipend will assist the student in completing their public interest work. Applications will be accepted until **April 24, 2006**. The winner will be announced April 26, 2006. To apply, type your proposal and submit it along with a confirmation and place it in Box #236 or email it to stmupila@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please call Joaquin Amaya, Director of the Public Interest Law Program at 431-5765 or Shelly Weltz, PILA President at 431-5764.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITY FOR LAW STUDENT

Needed – Access to Justice Intern! The new Access to Justice internship will provide a unique opportunity for one St. Mary's law student to work with attorneys who serve low-income communities in South Texas. The nine Texas law schools have partnered with Texas Rio Grande

Legal Aid to offer internships in Eagle Pass, Laredo, Weslaco, and Edinburg. St. Mary's is offering a \$1,500 stipend for the 6-week internship. The stipend is for covering costs for housing, meals and transportation. We encourage our Spanish speaking South Texas law students to apply. For more information, please call Joaquin Amaya, Director of Public Interest Law Program at 431-5765.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS FOR THE CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW

The Center for Terrorism Law is now considering 2Ls, 3Ls, and L.L.M.s for possible positions as paid **Research Fellows**. Please submit your resume and cover addressing your interest in working at the Center and any specific area of strength that you have. Submissions will be accepted until **5:00 pm, Monday, May 1, 2006**. You may drop off your resume and cover letter with Ms. Jessica Vogler at the Center for Terrorism office in Raba. If you have any questions, please contact the Center at 431-2219.

FREE EARPLUGS

We understand that **quiet study** is particularly important during the period leading to and through final examinations. Starting this week, the Law Library will give away free, disposable **earplugs** to any student who wishes to use them. If you would like a pair, just ask the Circulation Desk. Good luck on your exams!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Sports & Entertainment Law Society is sponsoring a presentation by filmmaker and Emmy-Award winner Laurel Ladevich, from San Anselmo, California, on **Thursday, April 20**, from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the **Atrium**. Lunch will be served. Laurel Ladevich is currently an independent filmmaker whose career spans three decades, during which time she has worked in feature films, television, and documentaries. A production staff member of Lucas Films during the production of the original Star Wars trilogy in the late 70s and early 80s, Laurel has had the opportunity to work closely with the most successful filmmakers of her generation, such as George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard and Robert Redford. Among Laurel's own credits are *Special Effects*, a large-format film which Ladevich co-produced for NOVA, and which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1997. In 1999, Ladevich wrote, directed and produced *Fly Girls*, a hour-long documentary for The American Experience on PBS, and for which she shared in an Emmy for Best Prime-Time Series that season. She has written two dramatic screenplays, *Fly Girls* and *Racing the Dream*, which she is **currently** redeveloping and rewriting with 2nd-year **St. Mary's** law student **Terrence Rogers**. She has recently been the Post Producer on several independent features, including James Redford's *Spin* and Finn Taylor's *The Darwin Awards*, which premiered and sold at the Sundance Film Festival this year. Just recently, Laurel finished supervising the foreign-version-release of *Mission Impossible III*. **Come listen** to Laurel Ladevich speak about her experiences and needs in the **field of Entertainment Law**. She may also have a few interesting anecdotes!

FACULTY KUDOS

Associate Dean Michael Ariens's article, "The Ethics of Copyrighting Ethics Rules," 36 U. Toledo L. Rev. 235 (2005), has been named one of the best Intellectual Property articles of 2005. It has been selected for republication in the 2006 edition of the Intellectual Property Law Review, published by West Group of New York.

SPRING 2006 EXAM ROOM ASSIGNMENT

A schedule of the room assignments for the Spring 2006 Exam period is available on the law school website, www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2005_2006/2006SpringExamRoomSchedule.pdf

CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATION HONOR CORDS

The University Academic Council has approved the request that the graduating members of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*, *The Scholar*, *Order of Barristers*, and *Phi Delta Phi* be permitted to obtain and wear **honor cords** as part of their **academic regalia at graduation exercises**. Eligible students may **purchase the cords from the Law School** at the **times and locations noted below**. Students may wear more than one cord if they belong to more than one group and they wish to purchase the cords. **Only those students whose names appear on the lists provided to the Law School by the student organizations may purchase the cords.** **Cost is \$10.00 per cord**, payable by **cash in the exact amount** (no change will be given) or **check made out to "St. Mary's University"** to either Ms. Yvonne Olfers or Ms. Bebe Gonzales. (Please note that purchase is made through the Law School and not The Herff Jones Graduation Center.)

In conjunction with the distribution of graduation apparel:

Wednesday, May 3 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

Thursday, May 4 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

[Because this is during finals, Ms. Olfers and Ms. Gonzales may not be available this entire time due to commitments with exam administration.]

During the week prior to graduation:

Monday - Friday, May 15 - 19 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 pm LAB 105 - Ms. Gonzales

GRADUATION 2006

An updated edition of the Law School's *Commencement 2006 Schedule of Events*, which includes updated information on the graduation reception, is available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06). The Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, 150 E. Houston, is the site for the reception, which will be celebrated the evening before graduation on **Friday, May 19, 2006, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

TUTORING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for 1L and 2L students who would like to be considered for a tutoring position in the 2006-2007 school year. Applications are available from the Office of Academic Excellence and are due by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006.**

Tutors will be required to attend a one-day orientation on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Director Thomas' home.

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 tutored subject.
4. Possess a genuine desire to help others.
5. Utilize exemplary communication skills.
6. Exhibit a willingness to use creative and dynamic teaching models.

Pay

Tutors are expected to attend each class session of the course they tutor and hold weekly tutoring sessions. In exchange, tutors will receive a \$1,250.00 stipend per semester, which is more than \$15.00 per hour. Please visit the Office of Academic Excellence (Raba 106-A) for an application. For more information, please call Director Sharon Breckenridge Thomas at (210) 436-3541.

ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL WRITE-ON COMPETITION

St. Mary's Law Journal is excited to announce its write-on competition. The write-on competition is the process by which the *Journal* selects qualified applicants to serve as staff writers for the following year. The competition is designed to select applicants who have achieved academic success as well as those who are highly motivated and willing to learn. Staff Writers will be chosen from three categories of candidates. First, the applicants who write the top twelve writing entries will be selected for *Journal* membership. After those applicants are selected, the remaining applicants with the top twelve grade point averages will be selected. Finally, the remaining top twelve weighted scores (50% GPA and 50% writing score) will be selected for a total of thirty-six staff writer invitees.

The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 12.** 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover the cost of printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Monday, June 5.** Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of

Monday, June 5 or earlier or bring their applications to the Journal office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than ten days after **Monday, June 5** to be considered for competition. Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to Jason Smith at jsmith3@stmarytx.edu.

PRO BONO CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2006

Laura Abraham	Maria C. Garcia	Thomas Mazurek	Paul Rushing
Matthew Adams	Troy J. Garcia	Frank McElroy	Shannon Salmon
Kyle M. Allen	Amanda Garza	Jamie McKey	Eric R. Sandvig
Kathryn Bale	April Glass	Rebecca McMinn	Matt Sharp
Donna Bloom	Amanda Goff	Sean Milligan	Amberly Sheppard
Karen L. Bogan	Roland F. Gonzales	Ricardo Montalvo	Andrew Simmons
Stephen Brearley	Esperanza Guzman	Victoria Mora	Brian Smith
Alfonso Cabanas	Jonathan Hardt	Teresa Morales	Amanda Stephenson
Tracy Cantu	Emile Harmon	Alejandro Moreno	Ruth A. Stepherson
Eric Carr	Taylor Heaton	Karen Muniz	John Stevenson
Art Carter	Sean Homrig	Guadalupe Navarro	Brian M. Stork
Catherine Casiano	Kari Honea	Bryan Oathout	Eric Tijerina
Casey Champion	Kurt Hopke	Amy Owen	Robyn Traywick
Cynthia M. Chapa	Teresa Howard	Tushar Pandya	Joseph M. Vacek
George Chumillo	Andrew Hurd	Jennifer Plemons	Ruben Valadez
Phillip G. Clayton	Robert Jackson	Jeremiah Poulton	Agatha M. Clements Wade
Justin Cook	Patricia Jay	Richard Ramirez	Kathleen Warner
Mario Cortes	Emily Kinney	Erica A. Ramos	Ava Michelle Weltz
Matthew C. Cotter	Veronica I. Legarreta	Christine Rankin	Nathaniel Wong
Jason Cruz	Erin Lucke	Jonathan Rightmeyer	Jennifer Wright
Stewart Davis	Molly Mandigo	Edward Robinson	Sergio Ybarra
Catherine Durbin	Sean Markey	Kathryn Rodgers	Amy Yi
Ashley L. Fischer	Todd A. Marquardt	Rachel Rogers	James R. Young
Jeffrey Garcia	Rashin Mazaheri	Eduardo Romero	Kyle A. Young

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Come play a hand or two of Texas Hold'Em. **Tuesday, April 25th - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., University Center Conference Room A**, Cost is \$10.00 with a Free T-Shirt. For more information or to register, please call 431-6816. Sponsored by St. Mary's University Mission for Miracles and University Programming Council. Proceeds to **benefit** St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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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.

Tax benefits for education for tax year 2005: 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 is available at www.irs.gov in Publication 970. Use their search engine for that publication and review their index for the topics related to your situation. Appendix B has a good breakdown of the tax benefits.

Stafford Loan Consolidation deadline of March 31, does not pertain to St. Mary's law students: The deadline for Stafford Loan consolidation is still June 30, 2006. The interest rate for these loans is being quote at 4.75. This interest rate may be reduced by participating in repayment incentives, such as having payments automatically withdrawn from a financial account as well as 36 month on-time payments. However, as a student who is in school and asking for entry into early repayment in order to consolidate the loan, your only concern now is to be sure to request "in-school deferment." By April 3rd, Sallie Mae will have in place some on-line enhancements in regards to applying for consolidation. There will be two separate sections, one for May graduates and another for continuing students. The one for continuing students is a 15 minute online session. The website for Sallie Mae is www.smartloan.com. One of the benefits of consolidating Stafford Loans prior to July 1st is that it will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower than the rate that will be in effect July 1st. Federal

regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all the necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

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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 International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) announces its 2006 Legal Writing Contest. Student articles must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. First prize is \$2,000 and a plaque; second prize is \$1,000 and a plaque; third prize is \$500 and a plaque; and honorable mention is a plaque. Deadline for articles is **April 23, 2006**.

Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship & William S. Bullinger Scholarship. An award of \$10,000, in memory of Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, will be given by the Federal Circuit Bar Association to a law student showing financial need and demonstrated academic promise, either in undergraduate studies or in law school. Deadline for submission is **April 28, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for details.

The American Judges Association (AJA) announces its Eighteenth Annual Law Student Essay Competition. The first prize for the contest is \$3,000; second is \$1,500; and third is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2006**. Please stop by LAB 105 for more information.

LexisNexis announce the Seventh Annual *James William Moore Federal Practice Award*. The principal subject of the submitted paper must be federal civil practice and procedure, including the civil jurisdiction and venue rules of the federal courts. Papers that deal

primarily with criminal procedure will not be acceptable. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and the CD-ROM version of the Civil and Appellate volumes of Moore's Federal Practice, including one year of updates. Deadline for submission of articles is **June 1, 2006**.

The 2006 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize will be awarded to the author of an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic that addresses issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism. Winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2006**.

The Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship and The American College of Tax Counsel are pleased to announce the 2006 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 **June 30, 2006**.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) announces the 68th Annual 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. Winning papers must be certified by the Dean to the Society by **June 30, 2006**. For additional information, please call ASCAP (212) 621-6280 or email NBMC@ASCAP.COM or visit the website at <http://www.ASCAP.com>.

The Federal Circuit Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2006 George Hutchinson Writing Competition. First place prize is \$3,000. Second and third place cash prizes may also be awarded. Rules and further information may be found www.fedcirbar.org. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2006**.

The Eisenberg Prize - \$2,000 for the best article on appellate practice and procedure published between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 as determined by The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The prize will be awarded at the October 2006 meeting of the AAAL. For more information please email bpalys@mgmtsol.com. Entries must be postmarked by **July 9, 2006**.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is accepting essays for the 2006 Law Student Essay Competition. The NACC will publish the winning essay in its 2006 Children's Law Manual. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and receive a scholarship to the 2006 NACC National Law Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Further information may be obtained from the NACC website at www.NACCchildlaw.org. Essay submissions must be received by **August 1, 2006**.

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation announces its 2006 Public Interest Fellowship Award. Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2006 through August 2007. Application deadline is **August 21, 2006**.

THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 32

April 24, 2006

By MSA

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

CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Center for Terrorism Law, Distinguished Speaker Series presents Colonel William Hudson, Jr., United States Army JAG on **Tuesday, April 25, 2006** from **12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Law Classroom Building 103**. Colonel Hudson will speak on Administrative Legal Issues Associated with Human Rights Training for Iraqi Police and Military.

Biography: **William A. Hudson, Jr.** is currently a Colonel in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps serving as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart. He has deployed two times to Baghdad, Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom I and most recently Operation Iraqi Freedom III to serve as the Staff Judge Advocate for Task Force Baghdad and the 3d Infantry Division. Colonel Hudson has served in Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) positions of great importance and responsibility to include Legislative, Special Forces Command (Airborne), Senior United Nations Force Legal Advisor, United Nations Mission in Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Defense Counsel, Trial Counsel and Chief of International and Operational Law. He has also been and Instructor of Law International Law Division, The Judge Advocate General's School, Charlottesville, Virginia and Senior Legal Instructor, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA. Colonel Hudson is a graduate of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He received his Master's in Law from The Judge Advocate General's School and is a graduate from the Army Command and General Staff College and in 2004 was selected to attend the Senior Service College at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He deferred attendance to deploy with the division and will attend NDU this summer. He is admitted to practice before the State of South Carolina, the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces and the United States Supreme Court.

Mission of the Center for Terrorism Law: The Center for Terrorism Law is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution dedicated to the study of legal issues associated with terrorism. The goal of the Center is to increase professional and public understanding of terrorism law and the balance between ensuring global security and protecting civil justice. The Distinguished Speaker Series is but one avenue to accomplish the Center for Terrorism Law's objective to ensure access to extensive information resources regarding terrorism law.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITY FOR LAW STUDENT

Needed – Access to Justice Intern! The new Access to Justice internship will provide a unique opportunity for one St. Mary's law student to work with attorneys who serve low-income communities in South Texas. The nine Texas law schools have partnered with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to offer internships in Eagle Pass, Laredo, Weslaco, and Edinburg. St. Mary's is offering a \$1,500 stipend for the 6-week internship. The stipend is for covering costs for housing, meals and transportation. We encourage our Spanish speaking South Texas law students to apply. For more information, please call Joaquin Amaya, Director of Public Interest Law Program at 431-5765.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS FOR THE CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW

The Center for Terrorism Law is now considering 2Ls, 3Ls, and LL.M.s for possible positions as paid **Research Fellows**. Please submit your resume and cover addressing your interest in working at the Center and any specific area of strength that you have. Submissions will be accepted until **5:00 pm, Monday, May 1, 2006**. You may drop off your resume and cover letter with Ms. Jessica Vogler at the Center for Terrorism office in Raba. If you have any questions, please contact the Center at 431-2219.

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Sr. Grace Walle**, FMI who will be receiving the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association *2006 Liberty Bell Award*. Sr. Grace will be presented with the award at "**Law Day**" on **Friday, May 5, 2006** at the San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel. Sr. Grace is recognized for her contributions to promoting justice and fostering of respect for and understanding of our legal system.

During "**Law Day**", Sr. Grace will also receive the yearly contribution, an honorarium, from the **Bexar County Women's Bar Association** for a single parent law student. This is the 11th year the Bexar County Women's Bar has contributed to St. Mary's University School of Law.

ARE YOU MOVING OR DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING?

If so, donations of household items, books, clothing and food is being accepted by Law

Ministry. Please bring your donations to Law Ministry in the Law Faculty Building, Room 105. If you would like to schedule a pick-up, please call Sr. Grace Walle at 436-3063. Items will be donated to those in need.

LOCKER RENEWAL

It is time to renew your rental locker agreement. If you will not be renewing your agreement, please **return your locker key** and pick up your deposit check no later than **May 26th** from Bebe Gonzales, Law Administration Building, Room 105. Items in locker will be discarded after May 26 and checks for any key not returned will be **deposited for payment**. Third year students who need their locker for bar purposes, please contact Bebe at 436-3540 or email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu so that your locker items are not discarded nor your check cashed.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 33

May 1, 2006

By MSA

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006-2007 EAP MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The EAP Mock Trial Team congratulates the students selected to represent St. Mary's in Mock Trial Competitions across the state and nation for 2006-2007. The 2006-2007 Mock Trial Team is:

Rebecca Lively	Scott Davis	Hailey Mullican	Jessica Baruch
Brian Carter	Jim Hamilton	Shan Egliskis	Brian Carter
Dayna Jones	Kacy Kovar	Monica Menzies	John Warren
Wendy Bishop	Ginny Urban	Megan David	Eli Huffman
Juanita Pelaez-Prada	Chris Love	Jeff Starnes	David Wishnew
Taylor Hamilton	Marc LaHood	Allen DeBard	Andria Blannan
Sereta Davis	Ryan Hill	Misty Haberer	Lilly Tade
Allison Skipper	Jared Gillman	Morgan Figueroa	Mary Nan Hays

Professor Martin Phipps also wants to congratulate those who participated in the try-outs and though may not have been selected encourages those students to continue development in St. Mary's internal advocacy program.

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Sr. Grace Walle**, FMI who will be receiving the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association *2006 Liberty Bell Award*. Sr. Grace will be presented with the award at "**Law Day**" on **Friday, May 5, 2006** at the San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel. Sr. Grace is recognized for her contributions to promoting justice and fostering of respect for and understanding of our legal system.

During “**Law Day**”, Sr. Grace will also receive the yearly contribution, an honorarium, from the **Bexar County Women’s Bar Association** for a single parent law student. This is the 11th year the Bexar County Women’s Bar has contributed to St. Mary’s University School of Law.

ARE YOU MOVING OR DOING ANY SPRING CLEANING?

If so, donations of household items, books, clothing and food is being accepted by Law Ministry. Please bring your donations to Law Ministry in the Law Faculty Building, Room 105. If you would like to schedule a pick-up, please call Sr. Grace Walle at 436-3063. Items will be donated to those in need.

LOCKER RENEWAL

It is time to renew your rental locker agreement. If you will not be renewing your agreement, please **return your locker key** and pick up your deposit check no later than **May 26th** from Bebe Gonzales, Law Administration Building, Room 105. Items in locker will be discarded after May 26 and checks for any key not returned will be **deposited for payment**. Third year students who need their locker for bar purposes, please contact Bebe at 436-3540 or email bgonzales@stmarytx.edu so that your locker items are not discarded nor your check cashed.

FREE EARPLUGS

We understand that **quiet study** is particularly important during the period leading to and through final examinations. Starting this week, the Law Library will give away free, disposable **earplugs** to any student who wishes to use them. If you would like a pair, just ask the Circulation Desk. Good luck on your exams!

SPRING 2006 EXAM ROOM ASSIGNMENT

A schedule of the room assignments for the Spring 2006 Exam period is available on the law school website, www.stmarytx.edu/law/pdf/2005_2006/2006SpringExamRoomSchedule.pdf

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is made through the Law School and not The Herff Jones Graduation Center.)

In conjunction with the distribution of graduation apparel:

Wednesday, May 3 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

Thursday, May 4 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Atrium

[Because this is during finals, Ms. Olfers and Ms. Gonzales may not be available this entire time due to commitments with exam administration.]

During the week prior to graduation:

Monday - Friday, May 15 - 19 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 pm LAB 105 - Ms. Gonzales

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An updated edition of the Law School's *Commencement 2006 Schedule of Events*, which includes updated information on the graduation reception, is available on-line (www.stmarytx.edu/law/?go=grad06). The Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, 150 E. Houston, is the site for the reception, which will be celebrated the evening before graduation on **Friday, May 19, 2006, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

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The write-on competition packet will be available to all 1Ls on the last day of finals, **Friday, May 12**. 1Ls may pick up the application in the law classroom building between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the *Journal* office. Packets will cost \$3.00 to cover the cost of printing. The packet will contain instructions outlining a current legal issue along with several different legal authorities. These authorities will range from cases to law journal and newspaper articles. The goal is to write a well cited paper utilizing the sources provided. The application deadline is **Monday, June 5**. Applicants must either mail their entries to the *Journal* with a postmark of **Monday, June 5 or earlier** or bring their applications to the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office by that date. Applications sent by mail must be received in the *Journal* office no later than ten days after **Monday, June 5** to be considered for competition. Questions regarding the *Journal* write-on competition may be addressed to Jason Smith at jsmith3@stmarytx.edu.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAFSA time again: The 2006-2007 Renewal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available for completion. Financial aid requests for the **summer 2006** as well as the **fall and spring 2006-2007** 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 06 classes. If tax returns have not been completed, the form allows for estimated income and asset information.

College Access Loan (CAL) increases annual limits: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has removed annual and aggregate limits on the CAL. So if you had applied for and previously received the prior maximum of \$10,000, 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.

Stafford Loan Consolidation deadline of March 31, does not pertain to St. Mary's law students: The deadline for Stafford Loan consolidation is still June 30, 2006. The interest rate for these loans is being quoted at 4.75. This interest rate may be reduced by participating in repayment incentives, such as having payments automatically withdrawn from a financial account as well as 36 month on-time payments. However, as a student who is in school and asking for entry into early repayment in order to consolidate the loan, your only concern now is to be sure to request "in-school deferment." By April 3rd, Sallie Mae will have in place some on-line enhancements in regards to applying for consolidation. There will be two separate sections, one for May graduates and another for continuing students. The one for continuing students is a 15 minute online session. The website for Sallie Mae is www.smartloan.com. One of the benefits of consolidating Stafford Loans prior to July 1st is that it will lock in at current interest rates which are 2 percentage points lower than the rate that will be in effect July 1st. Federal regulations do not allow the consolidation of alternative loans with the Stafford Loans. We recommend that students start the consolidation process no later than the end of April in order to complete all the necessary paperwork by the end of June. We recommend that all students not only 3Ls consider consolidating their Federal Loans.

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THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 34

May 8, 2006

By MSA

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LIBRARY REMINDERS

First, congratulations are in order for successfully getting another semester behind you. Second, we would like to remind you of a couple of items before you leave for the Summer. Please return your library books and/or carrel cabinet keys promptly when they are due. For **graduating students**, if you will not be on campus for the Bar review this summer, **please return your library books and cabinet keys on or before May 19**. If you will be on campus for the Bar review, you may renew your carrels at the Circulation Desk and **return all library books and cabinet keys on or before July 28**.

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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.