

# THE WITAN

St. Mary's University School of Law

Issue 16      December 6, 2004      By VRJ

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

## **MILLION DOLLAR GIFT**

By Dean Bill Piatt

Assistant Dean Al Hartman and I are very pleased to share this great news with you. A donor who has asked to remain anonymous has given us \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) for the Center for Terrorism Law. On December 2, Professor Jeff Addicott and I presented the check to the university, and President Cotrell announced the gift at the alumni reconnect that night. Jeff is doing a tremendous job, and is to be congratulated for his vision and his hard work. I also want to thank Professor Summers, Grace Uzomba, and all of the students who have served, and who are serving, as research fellows with the Center. Please join me in offering all of them our thanks and congratulations.

## **TRIAL ADVOCACY - SPRING 2005**

We have added another section of Trial Advocacy for the Spring 2005 semester. Judge Pat Boone will teach a section on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bexar County Courthouse. Judge Boone has taught the course for the last four years.

If you are interested, please contact Professor Schlueter (431-2212) or Ms. Catherine Mery as soon as possible to have your name added to the waiting list, posted on Professor Schlueter's door, LFB 270.

## **VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

For the third year St. Mary's Business School and Law School are sponsoring a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site to help low-income taxpayers file their tax returns. VITA will be located at the Center for Legal and Social Justice (law school clinic building). VITA is scheduled to operate every Saturday beginning on January 22, 2005 and ending April 9, 2005.

Students can volunteer as tax preparers or intake clerks. No training is necessary for intake clerks. However, volunteers that want to be tax preparers must attend a training session. The sessions will be held at St. Mary's on **January 8** and **January 15**. For further details on this training contact Dr. Mark Persellin at [mpersellin@stmarytx.edu](mailto:mpersellin@stmarytx.edu) or 431-2038. The Public Interest Law Association (PILA) in January will have a sign-up table in the classroom building for intake clerks.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Federal Bar Association** invites you to their monthly luncheon meeting on **Wednesday, December 8, 2004 at 11:50 a.m. at the Quarry Golf Club**. Our special guest speaker will be Congressman Charles A. (Charlie) Gonzalez of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas. Congressman Gonzalez is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee where he serves on the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet; the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection; and the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. As many of you are aware, he is also an alumnus of St. Mary's University School of Law. Cost for law students is only \$8.00. Reservations should be made no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2004 by either calling 289-0887 or email [w.c.kirk@worldnet.att.net](mailto:w.c.kirk@worldnet.att.net). For information regarding membership, please contact Brenda Ryan at [bryan@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bryan@stmarytx.edu).

### THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MINI BAR PREP SERIES – FALL 2004 – SPRING 2005

**ATTENTION: ALL MINI BAR PREP PARTICIPANTS**

The Office of Academic Excellence' Mini Bar Prep Series is well underway. Please mark your calendars for the following lectures, workshops and simulated testing:

<b>• DECEMBER 2004</b>	<b>NO LECTURES</b>	<b>PREPARE FOR FINALS</b>
• MPT Workshop	Thursday	January 13, 2005      2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
• MPT Simulated Test	Saturday	January 22, 2005      8:00 am - 12:00 pm
• Contracts I	Sunday	January 23, 2005      1:00 pm - 4:17 pm
• Contracts II	Saturday	January 29, 2005      9:00 am - 12:15 pm
• Contracts III	Saturday	February 12, 2005      9:00 am - 12:00 pm
• Texas Essay Workshop	Thursday	February 17, 2005      2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
• Texas Essay		
• Simulated Test Day	Saturday	February 26, 2005      8:00 am - 3:00 pm
• Torts I	Sunday	February 27, 2005      1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
• Torts II	Saturday	March 5, 2005          9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Constitutional Law I                      Saturday      April 9, 2005                      9:00 am - 12:20 pm
- Constitutional Law II                      Sunday              April 10, 2005                      9:00 am - 12:18 pm

The lectures and simulated test will be held in Law Classrooms 101, 102 and 103. The location of the MPT Workshop and Texas Essay Workshop will be announced at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academic Excellence at 210. 431.4340 or visit the office in the Raba Building, Room 106 A.

### **JULY 2005 BAR APPLICATIONS**

Applications for the July 2005 Texas State Bar Examination can be filed beginning November 30, 2004, through January 30, 2005. The fee for filing the application is \$300 if it is postmarked by the January 30, 2005 deadline; applications filed after that date must also include a \$150 late filing fee. Copies of the application are available on-line at the Board of Law Examiners' website: [www.ble.state.tx.us](http://www.ble.state.tx.us), "Forms Index."

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

*December Law Graduate Prayer Service:* Please join us as we honor the December Graduates at a Prayer of Thanksgiving on **Friday, December 17, 2004** at 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Law Administration Building. A ceremony for completion of legal studies will be held. Everyone is welcome.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF LAPTOPS FOR EXAMS**

Some (but not all) professors permit students to write answers to essay questions using a laptop. If a professor permits this option, and if a student plans to use a laptop for final exams, the student must register with ExamSoft or update her/his current installation prior to the beginning of the fall exam period (which begins on Monday, December 6, 2004). The website is [www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw](http://www.examssoft.com/stmaryslaw).

If a student's laptop computer does not have an external floppy drive and requires a USB device (such as a memory key), it is the student's responsibility to bring his/her own USB to the exam room – USBs are not provided by the Law School. Be sure to use a blank USB for your exams, one that does not contain any documents, outlines, old tests, resumes, pictures, etc. Disregard for this directive could impact the printing of the exam by the law school administration. The USB will be returned to the student within a day of the exam through the Computer Administration Offices, LF101A and LF101B. The use of a CD-Rom to save an exam is not permitted – no exceptions.

On the exam date, students will set-up their computers in Room 101 of the Law Classroom Building, 15-30 minutes in advance of the scheduled exam time. A full-time laptop proctor will be in the room. Students are then to report to the posted exam room to retrieve a copy of the exam and any special instructions from the professor. Students return to LC101, receive a disk from the proctor (unless the student is using her/his USB device), and follow the instruction to load the ExamSoft program. The laptop proctor will time the exams and collect the completed exams from the students.

In the event a professor allows a full “open book” examination, including all word processing programs on the student’s laptop, the student must save the completed exam in either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect – failure to use either of these programs could result in the law school administration not printing the exam.

Any problems with or questions about ExamSoft should be directed to Joe Bravo, Director of Computer Administration, Law School Computing, at [vbravo@stmarytx.edu](mailto:vbravo@stmarytx.edu) or 210-431-6702.

## WRITING COMPETITION

**The Southern Trial Lawyers Association** is seeking applications for its 2005 Civil Justice Scholarship competition. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship plus an all expenses paid trip to 2005 Mardi Gras. Competition is open to all law students. Deadline is **December 15, 2004**. For information please stop by Room 105 in the Law Administration Building.

**Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA)** Securities Law 2004 Writing Competition. First prize \$3,000, second prize \$2,000 and third prize \$1,000. Topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. Students registered at any accredited law school in the United States are eligible. Unpublished papers or papers published in the calendar year ending December 31, 2004 are eligible. Submission deadline is **December 15, 2004**. Mail submissions to: Linda M. Sulsenti, Vice President, Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc., Legal and Compliance Department, 600 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT 06830.

**National Center for Nonsmokers’ Rights** is sponsoring a new and unique Legal Research & Writing Competition. Twenty-three cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$5,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for Second, and \$1,000 for Third, all in addition to 20 special \$1,000 travel grants, and publication. Deadline for entry submissions is **January 15, 2005**. Complete rules and entry forms are available online at <http://nosmokingcontest.org>.

The *Wisconsin Women’s Law Journal* is currently seeking submissions. Contributions should center around issues involving gender and the law and/or public policy. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Senior Submissions Editors (Sarah Opichka and Mendocino Steele),

*Wisconsin Women's Law Journal*, 975 Bascom Mall, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 or submitted via an electronic submission through <http://law.bepress.com/expresso/>. For more information, contact the *Journal* office at (608) 265-2497 or e-mail [mtsteele@wisc.edu](mailto:mtsteele@wisc.edu).

**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 Roscoe Pound Institute** is offering 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 2005 topic is *Speak Softly, but How Big of a Stick? The Availability of Punitive Damages to Protect the Environment*. 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 as 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 form 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](http://www.roscoepound.org).