



## Newsletter from Dean Cieply | AUGUST 2014



# GREETINGS!

While I have only been on the Ave Maria School of Law campus for just over a month, I can honestly say I have been extremely impressed with the work ethic and professionalism of our faculty and staff. I have also very much enjoyed meeting with students and have similarly been impressed with the motivation, dedication, and degree of professionalism of our student body.

Fall classes began today, following last week's orientation program for our new Class of 2017 members that included seminars on how to prepare for success in law school and discussions on the rewards, expectations and challenges. On Thursday, the new law students had the opportunity to meet members of the local legal community at the Legal Professionals Reception.

The Fifteenth Annual Honor Code Signing Ceremony was held with Honorable John E. Steele, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida, administering the pledge on Friday. On Saturday, the students demonstrated Ave Maria's commitment to providing service to others by volunteering at six local charities. Law school is a substantial undertaking, and the orientation program is a way for the new students to become comfortable with each other and to feel a part of the tradition that is Ave Maria.

President and Dean Kevin Cieply welcoming the Class of 2017 to AMSL.

### Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, September 24**  
**Inauguration of Kevin Cieply**  
**Third President and Dean**  
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
*celebrated by Most Reverend*  
*Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of*  
*the Diocese of Venice*  
and Investiture Ceremony :  
St. Agnes Catholic Church  
1:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

**Thursday, October 30**  
**A Faith and Reason**  
**Signature Event**  
Featuring Ambassador Francis  
Rooney  
St. Thomas More Commons

**Tuesday, November 11**  
**A Faith and Reason**

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I welcome the Class of 2017 and all of our returning students. We look forward to serving you, growing intellectually with you, and engaging with you in the joy of life the Lord God has provided for us.

God bless,  
Kevin Cieply  
President and Dean



The Honorable John E. Steele, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida, speaks at the Fifteenth Annual Honor Code Signing Ceremony.



William Stallings '15, Student Bar Association President, presents "Succeeding in Law School: Managing Class Preparation, Stress, and Other Issues."

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## Ave Maria School of Law Alumni Sit for Bar Examinations

Three years ago, the members of the Class of 2014 began their legal education with the goal of becoming attorneys. In July, many of the 2014 graduates had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and perseverance as they sat for bar examinations throughout the country.

### Signature Event

Featuring Dr. Henry Lee,  
one of the world's foremost  
forensic scientists  
St. Thomas More Commons

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**Friday, December 5**

### Queen of Heaven Ball

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples



**Friday, May 1**

### Estate Planning Conference

Ave Maria School of Law

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I had the opportunity to accompany members of the Ave Maria School of Law faculty and staff to Tampa on July 29 to support those taking The Florida Bar examination. We enjoyed a lunch with our alumni in the Tampa Convention Center, and I was able to meet many of Ave Maria's newest alumni.

To all of our alumni who are now awaiting the bar examination results, please know the thoughts and prayers of the entire Ave Maria community are with you.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the Dean's Newsletter is the first day of each month.



## Inauguration of KEVIN CIEPLY

THIRD PRESIDENT AND DEAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014  
1:00 P.M.

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

*Celebrated by*

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice

AND INVESTITURE CEREMONY

*Please RSVP by September 12, 2014*  
(239) 687-5405 or danthus@avemarialaw.edu

## An Evening with our Michigan Alumni

On Wednesday, July 23, I had the privilege of meeting alumni in the Ann Arbor, Michigan, area during An Evening of Conversation and Cocktails event hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Alumni Affairs.

Alumni in attendance were Mr. David Atallah '09 (member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors), Mr. Jim Fifelski '03, Mr. Dean Kammash '04, Ms. Erin Kuenzig '09, Ms. Rebecca Mastee '09, Mrs. Sarah (Smith) Meinhart '07, Mr. Jason Negri '03, Mr. Derk Wilcox '03 and Ms. Katie Wilcox '09.

Also attending were Donna Heiser, Chief Advancement and Communications Officer and members of the law school's Board of Governors: Mr. James Fennessey and his wife Moira; Mr. Thomas Garlick; Mr. Richard Klaas and his wife Nancy; Mr. Ronald Rychiak; and Mr. Michel Saadeh. Professor Elizabeth Donovan and Professor Alex Vernon '05 were present as well.

Thank you to all who attended. I look forward to meeting many more members of the Ave Maria family at future events.



David Atallah '09, Katie Wilcox '09, Rebecca Mastee '09 and Sarah (Smith) Meinhart '07

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## Ave Maria's 15th Entering Class Assists Six Local Charities

As part of Ave Maria School of Law's Orientation Program for the Class of 2017, our new law students took up paint brushes, brooms, power washers and more as they participated in service projects as part of their volunteer commitment to the Naples community.

On Saturday, August 16, members of Ave Maria's 15th entering class volunteered at the following organizations:

- St. Matthews House Thrift Store
- The Shelter for Abused Women and Children Options Thrift Shoppe
- Naples Equestrian Challenge
- Guadalupe Center Resale Shop
- Greater Naples YMCA
- Harry Chapin Food Bank Naples Warehouse

The students performed a wide range of tasks for the community organizations, including painting the warehouse at the Guadalupe Center Resale Shop and both indoor and outdoor cleaning at the Greater Naples YMCA.

Our students are drawn to our distinctive mission and contribute to our community in immeasurable ways. We are honored to provide the thousands of service hours that are contributed annually by our students to various community service groups in Southwest Florida.

See coverage by the [Fort Myers News-Press](#) and [NBC2](#) of the students volunteering.

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## Board of Governors attend Annual Retreat in Ann Arbor, Michigan



The Ave Maria School of Law Board of Governors held its Annual Retreat recently in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Pictured above standing (l to r) are Mr. Richard Klaas, Mr. Ronald Rychlak, Mr. Peter Carfagna, Mr. James Fennessey, the Honorable Patrick Conlin and Mr. Thomas Garlick. Seated (l to r) are Dean Kevin Cieply, Mr. Thomas Monaghan and Mr. Michel Saadeh.

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Ave Maria School of Law was founded in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1999 and in 2009 relocated to Naples, Florida. It is licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education, License Number 4007 and is fully accredited by the American Bar Association.

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