



Fides et Ratio

Newsletter from Dean Cieply | DECEMBER 2014



Merry Christmas!

As we finish this Fall semester and celebrate Advent and the Christmas season, it is a good time for us to reflect on our unique mission as a Catholic School of Law. Not only do we strive to set the standard for instilling morals and ethics in our program of legal education, but we also strive to uniquely adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church and to celebrate and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Our school stands as an honor to Our Blessed Mother Virgin Mary and all that she represents.

My prayer is that each of you and your families have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless,

Kevin Cieply
President and Dean

Queen of Heaven Ball a Great Success

On Friday, December 5, I had the privilege of attending the Ave Maria School of Law Queen of Heaven Ball at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. Each year, our law school awards more than \$3.7 million in scholarships to deserving students, and all proceeds from this event benefit our Scholarship Fund.

Honorary guests for the evening were Ambassador Michael Novak, American Catholic philosopher, novelist, 1994 recipient of the Templeton Prize and former Ambassador to The United Nations on Human Rights, and Thomas S. Monaghan, Chairman of the Ave Maria School of Law Board of Governors and Founder.

It was truly a wonderful evening, featuring a festive dinner, entertainment, and silent and live auctions. A highlight of the event was a "Tribute to our Founder," Mr. Monaghan. Thank you to our alumnus Andrew Bennett '13, who spoke so eloquently on the impact Ave Maria School of Law has had on his life. Also thank you to soloist and student Ashley Dorwart, harpist Kim Adamson and cellist Jeannine Cavaliere, for a beautiful musical performance. Ambassador Novak did a magnificent job of honoring Mr. Monaghan in his remarks, and held all of us spellbound as he presented "America: Near Its End or a New Beginning?"

I would also like to thank Vinny and Connie Von Zwehl, who served as the Queen of Heaven Ball Co-Chairs, along with the Ave Maria School of Law staff members and student and alumni volunteers for their work in making the event an overwhelming success.

My sincere appreciation to our sponsors, Naples Daily News, Butzel Long, Brown & Brown Insurance, Florida Blue, Life in Naples, Arthrex, Prestige Printing and Garlick, Hilfiker & Swift, for their generosity and support of our law school.

We have a unique law school, one that teaches students to treat the practice of law as a vocation—a calling by God. We need community support to accomplish our mission. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to those who attended our Queen of Heaven Ball and helped raise more than \$200,000 for the Ave Maria School of Law Scholarship Fund. Your contributions will truly make a difference.

To view a slideshow of photos from the Queen of Heaven Ball, click here.

<https://www.avemarialaw.edu/AveLaw/Slideshows/QueenOfHeavenBall/index.html>

New Estate Planning and General Practice Clinic Established at Ave Maria School of Law

Ave Maria School of Law's new Estate Planning and General Practice Clinic will begin serving clients in January.

The clinic is designed with two purposes in mind. First, it will serve the needs of the underserved in Southwest Florida. Its caseload will be primarily estate planning and probate in nature (although the clinic will assist individuals with selected consumer law matters). Its goal will be that of providing clients, as appropriate, with a basic will, financial power of attorney and advance directive. Second, the clinic will provide law students with direct, robust, and supervised experience in developing these plans for the clinic's clients. Students not only will be expected to assist in the preparation and development of estate planning documents but in the dialogue and explanation which forms the backdrop of every client meeting and interaction in this area.



The clinic will be the "successor" to an externship that has been in place since January 2014. With the assistance of Ave Maria School of Law student externs, almost 200 pro bono hours have been devoted to providing legal services to the underserved in Collier County. Transitioning the externship into a Clinic will allow it to be more of a regional resource to families and individuals who require counsel and assistance in the areas of estate planning, probate, and consumer law.

The clinic will be under the supervision of Visiting Associate Clinical Professor Greg Holtz. He has more than 29 years of experience in administering a variety of fiduciary, agency, and custody relationships, most recently as a wealth management advisor for The Private Client Reserve at U.S. Bank.

Ave Maria School of Law Holds Record-Setting Food Drive

Ave Maria School of Law students, faculty and staff participated in a record-setting Thanksgiving food drive in November. More than 1,600 canned food items were collected and delivered to Catholic Charities, allowing them to provide a Thanksgiving meal to 250 families in the local community.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Michelle Quiles, Class of 2016 and Justice of Phi Alpha Delta, and to Ulysses Jaen, Interim Library Director and Head of Public Services, for spearheading the food drive, as well as to everyone who contributed food items. This is an outstanding example of our law school community's commitment to continually provide service to others.



Alumni Association Election Results Announced

It is my pleasure to announce our newly elected and appointed members of the Ave Maria School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors:

President: Andrew Bodoh '10

Vice President: Jaime Hewitt '14

Treasurer: Royce Hood '12 (re-elected to a second term)

Chairs: Kristin Diaz-Garcia '10, Elyse Smith '13, and Katie Wilcox '09

Other members of the Board of Directors are Michael Acquilano '13, Alex Brockmeyer '13, Jim Devine '11, Ben Donovan '12, Kellie Fiedorek '09, Devin Mace '12, Matt Muggeridge '06, and William Sullivan '12.

Our alumni are critical to preserving and furthering our law school's distinctive and authentically Catholic mission. The Alumni Association Board of Directors plays an important role in fostering communication, fellowship, and mutual assistance between and among alumni and our entire law school community.

I want to congratulate and welcome the new members to the Board of Directors and thank the current and outgoing Board members for volunteering their time and talents to strengthen the connection between our alumni and our law school.



Professor Donovan Named New Director of Experiential Education

Professor Elizabeth Donovan has recently been named our new Director of Experiential Education. As part of her responsibilities, Professor Donovan will oversee all of our clinical programs, and she will also directly supervise our Externship Program. Her expertise in these areas and the dedication she consistently brings to each endeavor she undertakes will inevitably take these programs to new heights.

In her Human Trafficking Law Clinic, Professor Donovan represents victims of human trafficking and other violent crimes and engages in community outreach and training. She regularly speaks on the topic of human trafficking with academics, social service providers, law enforcement, lawyers, and other groups.

Professor Donovan holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Washington School of Law, a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Albany. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Florida Human Trafficking Coalition, and Co-Chair of the Collier County Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Queen of Heaven Ball 2014

Upcoming Events:

January 4-8

Cardinal Newman
Pre-Law Academy
Ave Maria School of Law

Friday, May 1

Estate Planning Conference
Ave Maria School of Law



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