



Association of American Law Schools

AGENDA ITEM

President
Michael A. Olivas
University of Houston

December 16, 2011

Memorandum 11-18

President-elect
Lauren K. Robel
Indiana University-
Bloomington

TO: Deans of Member Law Schools and
Members of the House of Representatives

Immediate Past President
H. Reese Hansen
Brigham Young University

FROM: Susan Westerberg Prager, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: School Recommended for Admission to Membership in the
Association: **University of St. Thomas School of Law**

Serving through 2011
Katharine T. Bartlett
Duke University

The Executive Committee has found that the **University of St. Thomas School of Law** has met, and is capable in the future of continuing to fulfill, the obligations of membership in the Association as stated in the Bylaws and Executive Committee Regulations. The Executive Committee therefore recommends to the House of Representatives that the University of St. Thomas School of Law be admitted to membership.

Daniel B. Rodriguez
The University of Texas

This recommendation has been placed on the agenda of the First Meeting of the House of Representatives, which is to be held on Thursday, January 5, 2012, beginning at 5:15 pm during the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Serving through 2012
Dorothy Andrea Brown
Emory University

Ann C. Shalleck
American University

In recommending that the University of Saint Thomas School of Law, which is located in Minneapolis, be admitted to membership in the Association, the Executive Committee considered the report of the site team, composed of Professor Leonard M. Baynes, St. John's University School of Law, Chair; Professor Eric Andersen, University of Iowa College of Law; Professor Paula Galowitz, New York University School of Law; Professor Billie Jo Kaufman, American University Washington College of Law; and Professor Frank Motley, Indiana University Maurer School of Law. It also considered the affirmative recommendation of the Membership Review Committee and the correspondence and statements before it of the President, the Reverend Dennis J. Dease, and Dean Thomas Mengler.

Serving through 2013
Pat K. Chew
University of Pittsburgh

Paul Marcus
College of William and Mary

Executive Director
Chief Executive Officer
Susan Westerberg Prager

Managing Director
Jane M. La Barbera

Created in 1885, the University of St. Thomas is a Roman Catholic, comprehensive university with nearly 11,000 students, and 96 undergraduate minors. It has over 4,500 graduate students and includes professional programs in business, divinity, engineering, social work and applied psychology.

The University of St. Thomas operated a law school for a decade, from 1923-1933. More than 50 years later, the university commissioned a feasibility study to consider reopening the law school. The Board of Trustees then approved the reopening of the law school on the understanding that the school would focus on the Roman Catholic intellectual and moral tradition, and the school welcomed its first class in the 21st century in the fall of 2001. This fall there are 483 students and 27 tenure and tenure-track faculty. Students and faculty of varied faith traditions and philosophical perspectives in addition to the Roman Catholic faith are welcomed to the law school community. The law school is fully accredited by the ABA.

The University has demonstrated a remarkably strong commitment to creating a new law school at the University of St. Thomas. The university provided the land and bond financing for constructing a new law building which is reported to be an excellent facility. The University and Dean Mengler also pursued a highly successful fundraising campaign, raising a total of \$100 million during the school's first decade. The School of Law also established an endowment of approximately \$60 million, a truly remarkable achievement for a young law school.

A strong faculty has been assembled, whose members demonstrate a commitment to teaching and who evidence productivity in research, as well as a devotion to the school's vision of the role it can play as a Catholic law school dedicated "to integrating faith and reason in the search for truth through a focus on morality and social justice." The school is also committed to the professional preparation of its students and to encouraging students' integration of their faith and deepest ethical principles into their professional character and identity. The law school has developed some innovative programs to help achieve its integrated mission.

The Executive Committee recognizes the University of St. Thomas School of Law's considerable achievements and strengths. The Committee also believes that the faculty will contribute in significant ways to the work of this Association.

cc: AALS Executive Committee
Membership Review Committee
Deans of Non-Member Fee Paid Law Schools