



Sir Thomas More
1478-1535

THOMAS MORE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Thomas More Scholarship Program at Gonzaga School of Law provides a unique opportunity for highly motivated and talented individuals to realize their commitment to serving public interest through Law. These Scholars are awarded a full-tuition scholarship so that they may pursue careers in public service unencumbered by substantial law school debt. Founded in 1980, there are over 250 alumni around the world serving their communities in public service work.

Meet Our New Thomas More Director

This year we have the privilege of welcoming one of our own Thomas More Scholar graduates as the new Director! Genevieve Mann, ('03) returned to Gonzaga in 2014 where she directs the Elder Law Clinic for University Legal Assistance.



[More about Professor Mann](#)

From the Director...

Welcome to the inaugural Thomas More Newsletter! I feel so lucky to be director of this exceptional public service law program here at Gonzaga. As I am sure many of you can attest, the Thomas More Scholarship program not only shaped my law school experience and legal career, but provided me with a nurturing, supportive community of peers. It was a gift to meet like-minded law students who shared a strong social concern for the welfare of others. I dipped back into that supportive well throughout law school for reassurance that I was on the correct path and guidance as I navigated the public service legal world. Since law school, I have met Thomas More Scholars I did not know in law school and felt an instant connection based on shared experience and inspiration.

Now, I get to witness this community of enthusiastic, driven and compassionate students in action. After 34 years, much about the program remains the same: connecting over monthly potlucks, serving the community together, and sharing a commitment to public service work. While the core beliefs and activities of the program remain constant, the program continues to evolve to best educate students to enter the public service workforce prepared to serve clients. With this year's graduating class, we passed 250 Thomas More alumni engaged in work that includes civil legal aid, criminal defense, government and politics, and the Washington Supreme Court!

My hope as director is to strengthen the connections between TM alumni and the current scholars. I also hope to revitalize the entire TM community to enrich the work we all do daily. I know many of you are motivated to give back or reconnect to the

program that helped guide your legal path. I welcome your ideas, input and suggestions to strengthen the program or ways you can benefit our scholars. I hope you will consider joining us for a service project, 1L orientation or even a Friday night potluck! If you live out of town maybe you can return to Spokane for our reunion this summer - August 11-13, or mentor a scholar or recent graduate in your area.

I would love to hear where your public service journey has taken you. So please send me an email at manng@gonzaga.edu.

Yours in service,

Genevieve

Present Thomas More Scholars, What Are They Up To?

Current TM Scholars

1Ls

Mary Calderon
Jerusha Dressel
Josiah Lara
Rebecca Smith

2Ls

Emily Hazen
Samantha Holland
Jason Jay
Angela O'Meara
Emily Sauvageau

3Ls

Bailey Black
Dana Corral
Devin Curda
Sarah Freeburg
Corinna Pilat



Devin Curda

Devin Curda, a 3L Thomas More Scholar, worked with the City of Spokane Civil Enforcement Unit over the past year. He dialogued with neighbors and community organizations to halt urban blight and improve the quality of life of Spokane families. By using civil mechanisms to tackle the proliferation of drug houses, he assisted in ensuring a safe community environment. Devin will head to Idaho this summer to continue this work with the City of Boise. He will also get experience as a Rule 226 Legal Intern Limited License in court. Devin is grateful for the continued opportunities that the TM program offers and is excited to meet the incoming 1L group when he returns in August!

Emily Hazen 2L Thomas More recipient, Emily Hazen, is interning in Washington D.C. over the summer for the nonprofit organization, Protect Our Defenders. Protect Our Defenders is the nation's leading organization dedicated to ending the epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the



United States military. The organization uses multifaceted efforts, such as policy advocacy, military-court legal challenges, and research reports exposing systematic abuse with the intention to change the U.S. military culture around sexual abuse. The ultimate outcome is creating a fair and impartial military justice system for service members. The Pro Bono Network is the only program in the country providing free legal services specifically for survivors of military sexual assault and sexual harassment. Services often include victim legal representation for the military justice process, protection from retaliation, corrections to discharge records, and assistance to obtain needed health care. As an intern, Emily will be working on legal research supporting policy initiatives that fundamentally reform how the Department of Defense deals with

sexual assault and sexual harassment. Due to the intimacy of the small organization, Emily will work side-by-side with staff members and receive substantive experience on military sexual assault casework and policy efforts.

Public Community Forum CLE - 3L Project 2017



At the end of March 2017, another Thomas More 3L project made its way into TM history. This year's project originated as an aspiration to create a public community forum to discuss the resources available to youth in crisis and how those resources could be expanded or used more efficiently. With great interest from the community, the forum quickly developed into a CLE that featured twenty panelists representing the education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. The panelists were professionals from the legal and non-legal communities who saw this TM project as a vehicle to bring youth-oriented experts into the same room to learn from each other and collaborate for a more efficient system. The CLE highlighted underutilized resources, duplicative resources, and noticeably absent resources that were critical to aiding youth in crisis. Not only did the CLE educate those who are most likely to work with youth in crisis, it also re-energized youth-oriented experts to continue this CLE annually and to create smaller collaborations throughout the year.

Juvenile Record Sealing



For the fifth consecutive year, Gonzaga University School of Law students offered free public clinics to help community members seal their records. Founded by Thomas More Scholars, the Gonzaga Juvenile Records Sealing Clinic originally focused solely on sealing juvenile records. Although many states automatically seal records when one turns 18, Washington does so only after certain requirements have been met. For adults with a juvenile criminal record, this means access to employment, housing, and higher education can all be more difficult.

But in addition to the juvenile sealing services provided with the support of TeamChild, this year the clinic expanded to vacating adult convictions in partnership with the Center for Justice. There is a growing need in the community for this type of assistance, and the Records Sealing Clinic is excited to adapt to this new challenge.

Outreach also expanded, as Tribal TANF ("Temporary Assistance to Needy Families") as well as local youth centers became key allies in communicating with potential clinic participants.

Seventeen law students were involved in facilitating the clinics this year, along with various stakeholders from the Public Defender's Office, Team Child, Gonzaga University School of Law, and The Center for Justice.



Past Thomas More Scholars, Where Are They Now?



Karen Flynn '83

Without the Thomas More Scholarship from Gonzaga University School of Law, I doubt I would have been able to fulfill my dream of a social justice career. I was an undergrad at Santa Clara University and met an admissions representative from Gonzaga on law career day. I expressed my interest in being a Public Defender and her face brightened as she explained the Thomas More Scholarship, with its dedication to public service. I applied and was awarded a full scholarship on my birthday in 1980. I was from a lower income family. I had neither traveled nor lived away from home. I arrived a few months after Mount

St. Helens had blown, to a gray dusted campus. That did not matter as the faculty, staff, and students were superior and supportive. I was the youngest one in the class and learned so much from the other students, many who have had other careers before going to law school. The professors were great and very challenging for me. I worked in the legal clinic defending against elder abuse, represented a client charged with battery in a jury trial (not guilty verdict) and was executive editor for the Law Review. Gonzaga was perfect for me and nothing like "The Paper Chase."

My superior education afforded me a clerkship with Washington State Supreme Court Justice James Dolliver, followed by a federal clerkship for two years in Sacramento. I then accepted a 31-year stint with the Sacramento County Public Defender, the last 14 years as the Chief Assistant, managing 100 attorneys. The Socratic method of teaching, moot court, and the legal clinic prepared me to be fearless and well prepared for my jury trials. As the Chief Assistant, I spearheaded complex litigation, taking on the challenge of representing over 1200 sex offenders against residency restrictions and the implementation of Propositions 36 (releasing over 150 Sacramento three strikers, whose last strike was not serious or violent). Finally, Proposition 47 allowed low level theft and drug possession charges to be re-designated misdemeanors and I spearheaded re-sentencing for over 5,000 clients. The scholarship allowed me to "serve others" my entire career and I would not have had it any other way. In retirement, I'm volunteering with children and farmers in my community. I travel to Europe with my husband on conferences, as he is Executive Director of the UC Davis Olive Center and provide ideas to my son John, who is a freelance writer and my son Jimmy, who is a junior at Santa Clara University and does standup comedy. I have donated yearly to Gonzaga since graduating, as a way of saying thank you for being there and allowing me to do all I have done and will do.

Jaime Hawk '04

I came to Gonzaga for law school to pursue my goal of being a public interest lawyer. The Thomas More Program has allowed me to pursue my passions within the law. I began my legal career working for Senator Ted Kennedy as a legal fellow on his Judiciary Committee staff in D.C. After that, I returned to Washington State and served for nearly a decade as a state and federal public defender litigating criminal cases. I also clerked for a federal judge and was *Of Counsel* at a Seattle law firm working on class action civil rights litigation with the ACLU of Washington. I now serve as the Legal Strategy Director for the ACLU-WA's Smart Justice Campaign. In this role, I develop legal and policy strategies to reduce over-incarceration and advance systemic reform of the criminal justice system. It is an exciting time to be working for one of our country's largest civil rights organizations.



Michele E. Storms '87

When I came to GU Law I had a clear vision for why I was in law school - I wanted to be a public interest lawyer, specifically I wanted to be a civil legal aid attorney. I was very fortunate to get a position as a civil legal aid attorney right out of law school. From there my career has taken unexpected but happy turns. After 6 years I left Evergreen Legal Services in Seattle to join the faculty at UW School of Law, teaching in the clinical law program. After 8 years there (including starting a brand new clinic focused on child advocacy) I returned to legal aid first at Columbia Legal Services and then at the Northwest Justice Project in the role of a state-wide advocacy coordinator. I landed back at the UW law school in 2006 to run the Gates Public Service Law Program. After 10 years at the law school and becoming an assistant dean I left this past fall and in September joined the ACLU of Washington as Deputy Director. It is an exciting time to be at the ACLU and this organization continues its strong tradition of upholding civil rights and civil liberties. In my role I support the executive director in carrying out organizational policy and I also supervise several brilliant policy experts (including Jaime!) in carrying out their work ranging from criminal justice reform to health care access to technology and privacy issues to name a few. I also work directly on law enforcement reform projects around the state, working directly with communities and law enforcement agencies to ensure good policing policy and safe communities. This year represents my 30th year since graduating from GU Law. I am grateful for the grounding in social justice that was provided at the law school and the support from the Thomas More Program. I am immensely grateful for my career which I can truly say has been 100% in the public interest, whether serving clients, teaching students or lifting up our rights under our laws and the constitution – I am proud to be a lawyer.

Rob Doughten '02



After completing law school, I served as a judicial law clerk with the Department of Justice's Honors Program at the New York and Los Angeles Immigration Courts. I am currently a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State serving a two year tour in Washington DC as the European Branch Division Chief of American Citizen Services. In that position, I manage a team that coordinates and assists our embassies and consulates and provide routine and emergency services for U.S. citizens living and residing in Europe. I've also worked in Moscow, Russia; Maputo, Mozambique; Bucharest, Romania; and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Kris Riley '14

After graduating, I returned to my hometown of Reno, Nevada, and was fortunate to clerk for the Honorable Elliott A. Sattler of the Second Judicial District court. Judge Sattler is a general jurisdiction trial court judge, which allowed me to gain hands-on experience in both civil and criminal cases. Following the clerkship, I joined the office of the Washoe County Public Defender on the Family Court Team. I was delighted to find that out of the team of six lawyers three are Gonzaga Law graduates (Jennifer Rains '02, Veronica Chavez '01).



As a member of the Family Court Team, I divide my time between representing parents

in child abuse and neglect proceedings and individuals who have been involuntarily hospitalized due to mental illness. I am immersed daily in social justice issues: race, poverty, disability. These difficult cases, often involving the most marginalized members of society, put a human face on the social justice issues the Thomas More program is designed to highlight.

The Thomas More Program fosters an environment of commitment to social justice, and a connection with other equally committed students and faculty. It is no secret that public interest law and the pursuit of social justice are not the most lucrative paths to follow in a legal career. I would not trade the intangible values gained in a career devoted to public service in the law for a different path. I am grateful to have been part of the Thomas More Program, which provided me the opportunity, and financial support, to pursue a career in public service. It is an honor and duty to carry the Gonzaga Law Thomas More spirit forward.

Silvia Irimescu '15

Since I moved to the United States from Romania 10 years ago, I have enjoyed learning new skills and starting new adventures. My first adventure was the University of Idaho where I was part of the college tennis team. Next, I graduated from Gonzaga Law School in May 2015, and then continued working for Gonzaga Law School in the Admissions Office as an Ambassador. My Zag experience is something that I will forever cherish. I was given the amazing opportunity to be a Thomas More Scholar for my three years at Gonzaga, which shaped my entire law school experience by encouraging me to become a leader, join different organizations, overcome my limits and discover new interests. Most importantly, the Thomas More Program kept me humble and gave me friendships that I hope will last a lifetime.



Since February 2016, I have been a deputy prosecutor for Kootenai County, Idaho, which has allowed me to spend a significant amount of time in court and to gain vast and diverse trial experience. It has been a wonderful experience advocating for justice and providing relief and comfort to victims. I have always been a dedicated volunteer and since college I have tried to be a leader in promoting public interest law. I hope that regardless of what the future holds, I will continue my pursuit of justice and I will be able to make a meaningful change in my community.

Professor John Morey Maurice Thomas More Scholarship Founder

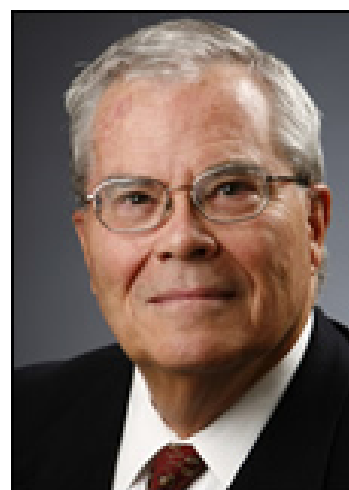
The founding father of the Thomas More Scholarship Program, Professor John Maurice, retired in 2013 and was awarded *Professor Emeritus* at the School of Law. Gonzaga University awarded him the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, for his contributions over the last forty years to the School. Roque Conceicao, John's partner, retired from his grounds work at Gonzaga in 2011.

Since retirement, Roque and John have enjoyed traveling, both internationally and nationally. Last year, they took a western tour of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. In addition to the sweeping views of mountains, they were greeted by the expanse of bison stretched across the landscape creating traffic congestion wherever they meandered. They headed for Cody, Wyoming, the last home of Buffalo

Bill, then North to Red Lodge, Montana, to experience Beartooth Pass, a 68-mile byway that winds through southwest Montana into northwest Wyoming and makes its way to Yellowstone's northeast entrance.

John and Roque have also spent time hiking the Inca Trail to the city of Cusco in southeastern Peru, as well as visiting Machu Picchu, a 15th-century Inca citadel in the Cusco Province - a place both had visited in 1974. Their travels then took them on to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, to visit with friends and family.

In addition to their travels, John has spent much time doing his etched copper, intaglio, which he prints on paper, while Roque keeps fit by working out in the gym.



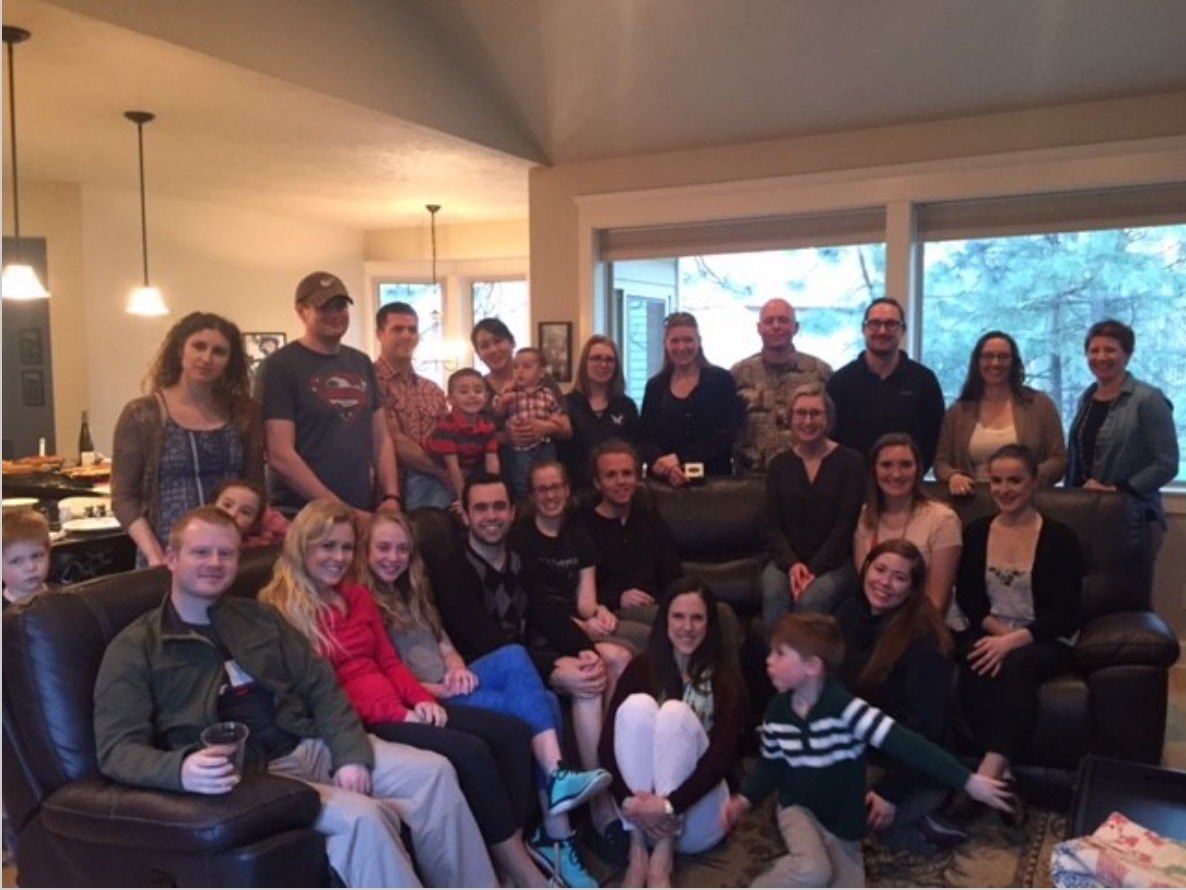
Save The Date!

**August 11 - 13 Alumni Reunion
Spokane, Washington**

- **August 11-13: All Classes Alumni Reunion**
- **August 12: Service Project**
- **August 13: Thomas More Alumni Brunch**

We would love for you to join us Sunday afternoon after the brunch for orientation for the incoming 1L Thomas More Scholars!

To obtain more details about the reunion and to RSVP, click [here](#).



Spring Potluck Gathering



Gonzaga University School of Law
<http://www.law.gonzaga.edu>