



St. Thomas More Society of the Diocese of Wilmington

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Semi-Annual Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Red Mass – October 5th at St. Ann’s Church at 6:00 P.M.

The 22nd Annual Red Mass, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, will be held at **6:00 P.M. on Monday, October 5, 2009 at St. Ann’s Church, 2103 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware.** Dinner will be provided in the Church Hall following the Mass, compliments of Morris James, LLP.

The Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington, who will preside over the Mass said “The Red Mass reminds our lawyers and justices – and all of us – that we are to clearly live out our faith and its values in the public forum. Our public service is a direct imitation of Jesus who was the Servant of all. I look forward to recommitting myself as we celebrate this year’s Red Mass.”

The Red Mass refers to a Mass celebrated annually in the Roman Catholic Church for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors, student and government officials. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession. The Red Mass is now celebrated annually on or near the first Monday in October when the United States Supreme Court convenes its annual session.

The term “Red Mass” refers not only to the red vestments worn by Royal Judges, participating in the Pope’s tribunal, but also to the traditional use of the color red as representation of the Holy Spirit. The history of the Red Mass extends to the medieval period. Although it is believed that the first Red Mass was celebrated around 1200, it was not until 1245, in Paris that the Red Mass was actually documented. As of 1310, the Red Mass

had become an annual tradition in England to commemorate the beginning of each new court term. From England, the tradition of a yearly Red Mass spread throughout Europe. The tradition was adopted in the United States in the early 20th century and the St. Thomas Society of Delaware has sponsored a Red Mass annually since 1987. For more information on the Red Mass or the St. Thomas More Society, please contact the Society’s President, Ryan Newell, at (302) 888-6434 or rnewell@cblh.com.

Also, anyone in the legal community interested in singing at the Red Mass, please contact Dick Kirk at rkirk@bayardlaw.com or at (302) 429-4208.

Fall Lecture – *The Trial of St. Thomas More* on November 19th at First and Central Presbyterian Church

David R. Oakley and Louis Karlin, authors of “A Modern Lawyer’s Guide to the Trial of St. Thomas More” will deliver the St. Thomas More Society Fall Lecture on **Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Memorial Hall, First and Central Presbyterian Church, Rodney Square in Wilmington.**

“More’s trial is one of the most famous since the trial of Socrates. Unlike Socrates, however, More was an experienced judge and lawyer who had prepared himself for his final trial over several years. At this trial, he was determined to bring all of his experience and training to bear—to defend not only himself and his family, but also his country, his church, the English tradition of law, and the future of Christendom. His keen sense of history assured him that his trial, like that of Socrates, would not be forgotten. Despite the opposition of his king, of all the bishops then in England (except the imprisoned Bishop Fisher), of

his entire family, and of most of his friends, More stood fast in his convictions. He knew that, along with these people, the rest of history was waiting to hear his defense.”

Presenters David Oakley and Louis Karlin are criminal trial attorneys and fellows at the Center for Thomas More Studies in Dallas, Texas. They will be explaining, prosecuting and defending the case against More.

The lecture is free and preceded by a reception beginning at 6:00 P.M. No reservations are required. Please call Jim Haley, Jr. at 656-7247 or Matt Boyer at 884-6585 with any questions.

This is also the date of our Annual Meeting at which we elect members to the Executive Committee. All person interested in serving on the Executive Committee can contact Ryan Newell at 888-6434 or Matt Boyer at 888-6585.

Office and Trial Practice – October 23rd at The Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington

The Delaware State Bar Association and The Delaware Bar Foundation are sponsoring *Office and Trial Practice Seminar* on **Friday, October 23, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.** at the **Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Delaware.** Delaware and Pennsylvania attorneys will receive 6.0 CLE Credit, including 3.0 Enhanced Ethics.

The co-moderators of the seminar are Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland and Harvey Bernard Rubenstein, a past president of the bar association and the St. Thomas More Society.

Robert S. Bennett, Esquire will present the Keynote Address, “Pursuing Ethical Behavior and a Balanced Life in the Law.” Mr. Bennett has served as Special Council to the United States Senate’s Select Committee on Ethics in several major investigations, as Personal Attorney to President Clinton in the Paula Jones case, and represented Judith Miller in the CIA leak investigation.

Some of the many high profile clients and corporations that Mr. Bennett represented include Enron, HealthSouth, and KPMG. Mr. Bennett successfully represented two former Secretaries of Defense, Clark Clifford (D.) and Casper Weinberger (R.). In 1981 and 1982, he served as a legal consultant to the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee regarding the appointment of Alexander M. Haig, Jr. as Secretary of State. Mr. Bennett advises management, audit committee and board of directors on Sarbanes-Oxley matters, and he assists boards and audit committees in conducting internal investigations.

The program includes topics on “Corporate Law: Current Developments,” “Corporate Transactions: Best Practices,” and “Ethical Hot Spots: Family and Real Estate Law.” The afternoon sessions will include Judicial Panels discussing “Litigation Excellence and Ethics,” and “Humor in the Court – When does it work and When does it Back fire?” For further information, please contact the DSBA at (302) 504-1472 or www.dsba.org.

Pro Bono Attorneys Needed for Preparation of Visa Applications

The Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) is coordinating the formation of an immigration "SWAT" team to assist members of our local community in the preparation and filing of specific visa applications. They are looking for attorneys willing to lend pro bono assistance in the preparation of such visa applications. The expectation is that a single project may involve between 4-6 hours of work, and does not involve any appearance in court (immigration or otherwise).

The St. Thomas More Society supports the DSBA's effort and encourages the members of the Society to strongly consider making themselves available for this project. For more information, please contact Marcos Ramos at ramos@rlf.com.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

Friday, February 19, 2010

The Rubenstein-Walsh Seminar in Professionalism and Ethics held at

The Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

The 22nd Annual St. Thomas More Dinner at Greenville Country Club.