

Saint Thomas More Society, Sacramento

Seeking the Spirit in the Law

January 2023



ADVOCATUS

Occasional Newsletter of the Saint Thomas More Society, Sacramento

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Founded in 1987, the St. Thomas More Society, Sacramento (STMS) is an independent board-governed organization, sponsored by Catholic lawyers, with its membership open to attorneys and other legal professionals and legislative advocates of any religious persuasion who subscribe to its purposes.

The purposes of STMS are to serve as a mutual support group, to foster individual spiritual growth, to further interfaith understanding, to promote the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and to advocate, encourage, and model respect, civility, and ethics in the practice of law.

STMS does not engage in advocacy or take stands on controversial political questions; nor does it engage in fundraising.

The official first meeting of the current "St. Thomas More Society of Sacramento County" took place on May 10, 1988, in the basement of the Cathedral, after Bishop Francis A. Quinn galvanized a group to put together a local Red Mass -- a tradition (from the 13th century) of requesting that the Holy Spirit bless public officials and members of the legal community with guidance and understanding in their work.

STMS became an affiliate of the Sacramento County Bar Association (SCBA) in 2005 and has been a frequent sponsor of SCBA events, including the Bench Bar Reception.

STMS has, since 2006, co-sponsored an annual Ethics luncheon with the J. Reuben Clark Law Society (JRCLS) and the Brigham Young University Management Society (BYUMS).

MCLE Opportunity!

STMS is partnering with the Sacramento County Public Law Library in presenting an MCLE Webinar with Judge Lawrence Brown

BRINGING JUSTICE TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS

Start Time: 12:15 PM

End Time: 1:15 PM

Date: January 11, 2023

Location: Online Webinar

MCLE Credits: .5 Implicit Bias; .5 General
(see State Bar note, next page)

Register at

<https://saclaw.org/product/instructor/hon-lawrence-brown/bringing-justice-to-those-suffering-from-mental-illness-webinar/>

Some who come in contact with the court system may suffer from various mental illnesses. Recognizing any impediments those individuals have or assistance they may need, while recognizing any biases we may bring to the table, enables us to both respect the individual and promote the administration of justice.

Using examples from Sacramento's diversion courts, Judge Lawrence Brown (Sacramento County Bar Association's 2022 *Judge of the Year*) will describe some methods for bringing justice to those suffering from mental illness in the Sacramento area.

STMS Members get a discounted price!

STATE BAR IMPOSES NEW IMPLICIT BIAS CE REQUIREMENT

In January 2019, the Board of Trustees updated the State Bar's 2017–2022 Strategic Plan to include an objective focused on modifying the current elimination of bias MCLE curriculum and increasing the number of hours.

Concurrently, the California State Legislature advanced AB 242, adding Business and Professions Code section 6070.5 to require the State Bar to enact rules incorporating the topic of implicit bias and bias-reducing strategies into its MCLE curriculum for all attorneys.

Subsequently, rule 2.72 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, related to attorney MCLE requirements, was amended effective September 24, 2020, to incorporate this new implicit bias education requirement. As such, on and after January 1, 2022, while all attorneys will still be required to complete 25 hours of MCLE every three years, the total hours must now include no less than seven hours as follows:

- At least four hours of legal ethics.
- At least two hours dealing with elimination of bias. Of the two hours, at least one hour must focus on implicit bias and the promotion of bias reducing strategies.
- At least one hour of education addressing competence issues.

Specifically, this new implicit bias education requirement will begin applying to attorneys in [MCLE compliance group 3](#) who must report compliance for the period ending on January 31, 2023.

STMS Web Site

To visit our web page, please go to
<http://www.sacstms.org>

Find us on LinkedIn:
Saint Thomas More Society, Sacramento, California
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3957972>

Find our Facebook Group under
Saint Thomas More Society, Sacramento
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1033969703325108/>

STMS is an affiliate of the Sacramento County Bar Association and encourages joint membership.
<http://www.sacbar.org>

RECENT ACTIVITIES

July 28, 2022 Feast Day Event

STMS was pleased to present our 11th annual *Fr. McDermott Award for Integrity* to **Bishop Jaime Soto** at an in-person event at Cristo Rey High School on July 28, 2022.



In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Jaime Soto as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento. On November 29, 2008, Bishop Jaime Soto became the head of the Sacramento diocese upon the retirement of the Most Reverend Bishop William K. Weigand.

Thanks to **Paul Starkey** (2017 awardee) for being our Master of Ceremonies and Deacon **Sergio Diaz** (2019 awardee) for introducing the Bishop at our Feast Day Event.

The Fr. McDermott Award for Integrity is named for the late Rev. Charles Sylvester McDermott, former Vicar for Theological and Canonical Affairs for the Diocese of Sacramento, and a founding member of STMS. Father Sylvester served as the group's unofficial chaplain and advisor for many years. (See: <https://www.scd.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/Vol5No1McDermottFatherCharlesSylvester.pdf>)

The Father McDermott Award for Integrity recognizes persons of high integrity who can often go unnoticed in this hustle and bustle world.

Past Fr. McDermott Integrity Award Recipients:

- 2011 Bishop Francis A. Quinn
- 2012 Attorney Ronald Blubaugh
- 2013 Sister Jeanne Felion
- 2014 Attorney Vicki Jacobs
- 2015 Judge James Mize
- 2016 Sr. Libby Fernandez
- 2017 Attorney Paul Starkey
- 2018 Father Tom Piquado
- 2019 Attorney and Deacon Sergio Diaz
- 2020-21 Judge Jaime René Román (ret.)

November Red Mass

Coming back in person to celebrate the Red Mass with the Diocese of Sacramento and Bishop Soto on the Feast of All Souls, we prayed for those attorneys and judges who have died since the previous Red Mass.

Following Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the Diocese held a dinner at the Sutter Club and presented the Diocesan St. Thomas More Award to **Judge Basha** (ret.).

December Mass & Dinner

On December 14, STMS members joined for evening mass at St. Ignatius and then proceeded to a group dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

In honor of the Feast Day of our Lady of Guadalupe, we collected much-needed items for Wellspring Women's Center, which were delivered to them that week.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is STMS membership open to non-Catholics?

A: Yes. One of our mission principles is to be open to all persons who subscribe to the purposes of STMS.

Q: Are all St. Thomas More Societies Connected?

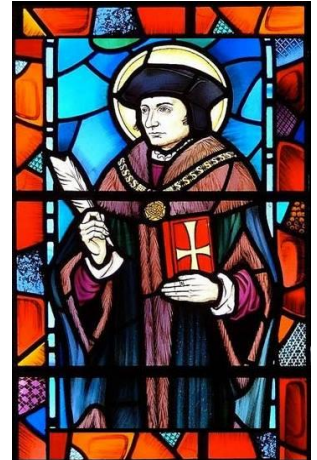
A: No. There is no national group and each group named after St. Thomas More has its own mission and/or purpose.

Q: Is this group just for attorneys?

A: No. Our membership is open to the legal profession, broadly defined: attorneys, paralegals, law office secretaries and administrators, judges and clerks, lobbyists, legislative advocates, government workers, students, retired legal professionals, and all who subscribe to the purposes of STMS.

THOMAS WHO?

Sir Thomas More was an English lawyer, writer, and statesman. He was at one time one of Henry VIII's most trusted civil servants, becoming Chancellor of England in 1529. However, More was also a passionate defender of Catholic orthodoxy, and was ultimately executed by beheading on July 6, 1535. In 2000, Pope John Paul II declared St. Thomas More "the heavenly Patron of Statesmen and Politicians." Although Pope Pius XI canonized Thomas More and John Fisher on 19 May 1935, and More's feast day was established as **July 9th**, the General Roman Calendar celebrates More with Fisher on **June 22** (the date of Fisher's execution).



(Nora, Christine, Heather, Plo, and Mary)

For more information about the STMS and/or our upcoming events, or to inquire about joining our Board, please contact one of our Officers:

President **Plauché (Plo) Villeré**

Vice-President **Nora Quartuccio** (Programs)

Treasurer **Mary Bressi**

Recording Secretary **Heather Cline Hoganson**

or one of our At-Large Directors:

Angela Lai, Bruce Timm,

Christine Bologna, or Christopher Bakes.



St. Thomas More Society (STMS) Sacramento, California

www.sacstms.org

Membership Application or Renewal / Dues Transmittal Form

TO: St. Thomas More Society Treasurer Mary Bressi, 1431 Teneighth Way, Sacramento CA 95818.

I subscribe to the following statement of purpose of the STMS:

The STMS is an independent organization sponsored by Catholic lawyers, governed by a Board, with its membership open to attorneys, other legal professionals, and legislative advocates of any religious persuasion who subscribe to its purposes.

The purposes of STMS are:

- ❖ to serve as a mutual support group,
- ❖ to foster individual spiritual growth,
- ❖ to further interfaith understanding,
- ❖ to promote the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and
- ❖ to advocate, encourage, and model respect, civility, and ethics in the practice of law.

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Annual dues are \$30, and \$5 for law students. Lifetime Dues are a one-time \$250.

Here is my check (made out to STMS) for calendar year 2023 in the amount of \$_____.

NOTE: Membership applications received after September 1 in any given year count as membership for current and following year.

Printed Name _____ (Optional) State Bar # _____

My mailing address is:

Phone _____ (day) (Optional) FAX _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I am... I am not... ...a member of the Sacramento County Bar Association.
(Optional) I belong to _____ Parish.

(Optional) Area of Practice: _____

Feel free to include any speakers or topics that you would like to see on this page!

Follow our FACEBOOK group: *Saint Thomas More Society, Sacramento* (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1033969703325108/>)
The Saint Thomas More Society of the Sacramento Area is an affiliate of the Sacramento County Bar Association (www.sacbar.org).