

## From the Dean

We are delighted to announce that we're hosting several virtual alumni receptions in May and early June. The receptions are a way for alumni in various locations to network and to hear about recent developments at the law school, including a career services update. Students will also be invited to attend the receptions and to connect with alumni. The first reception, for Tampa-area alumni, is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, from 12-1 p.m. We also have receptions planned for alumni living and working in Fort Lauderdale on May 14, Atlanta on May 20, Jacksonville on May 28, and Orlando on June 4. Area alumni will be receiving digital invitations in the coming weeks, so please look for those in your inboxes and RSVP to attend. I am looking forward to connecting with many of you during these virtual Zoom receptions!



-Dean Erin O'Connor

## Professor Abbott Addresses the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Global Response

[Frederick M. Abbott](#), FSU Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, has worked with international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), for more than 15 years as they have worked to raise awareness of the potential for a global pandemic outbreak and have encouraged governments to invest in preparedness. He is co-chair of the Global Health Law Committee of the International Law Association that earlier this month released a [statement regarding the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The statement reiterated "fundamental principles and rules of international law important to containing and ending the pandemic, safeguarding the rights of individuals and groups, and ultimately returning international society to a normal functioning state." The principles and rules address cooperation, support to the WHO, fundamental human rights, food security and trade, pooling and availability of technologies, temporary restriction to rights and freedoms, humanitarian assistance, ongoing conflicts, limitations to economic sanctions, the U.N. Security Council's role and international financial institutions.



More recently, as the federal government was announcing a suspension of funding for WHO, Abbott authored a piece for *Health Policy Watch* titled, "[Confronting COVID-19 in a World Without WHO – Seriously?](#)" and was quoted in the *Bloomberg* article, "[Trump Is Urged to Limit Patent Rights on Ventilators, Treatments.](#)" This week, Abbott was quoted in a *Bloomberg Law* article, "[Covid Seen as Tipping Point to Lower Drug Prices, Patent Sharing.](#)"

During 2008-09, Abbott prepared background studies for a WHO mechanism (the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework) on sharing information about biological materials and genetic sequences necessary for developing vaccines and treatments. During the Ebola outbreak in 2015, he chaired a Global Health Security meeting in Geneva among a substantial group of government, industry and NGO stakeholders that identified gaps and potential solutions for the problems that arise during outbreaks. This included work on shortening timelines for developing vaccines and treatments for previously unknown viruses, as well as funding their production to address global requirements, including for low-income environments.

"Suggestions we were not prepared for this pandemic because 'we did not see this coming' are misaligned with reality," Abbott said. "Something very much like the current pandemic was anticipated by the scientific community and numerous warnings were conveyed. Governments and industry around the world were unwilling to make the investments that might have significantly reduced the severity of this pandemic (and future pandemics). It remains to be seen whether "things will be different this time."

## Alum Profile: Nicholas V. Iarossi, III ('01)

[Nicholas V. "Nick" Iarossi, III](#) is a co-founding member of Capital City Consulting in Tallahassee. He has more than 20 years of lobbying experience on local, state and federal government policy issues. Iarossi represents a diverse client base in industries including financial services, insurance, environmental, gaming, retail, education, alcohol, information technology, tobacco and procurement. He has lobbied to pass countless pieces of legislation on behalf of his clients and secured more than a billion dollars in legislative appropriations. He is often relied on to assist clients with crisis management, message development and political branding. In 2018, *Influence Magazine* named Iarossi one of the 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics.



*"I'm very proud of the tremendous growth of Capital City Consulting and the successes we've had for our clients. The reality is, I was very fortunate to attend Florida State University for both undergraduate studies and law school. On top of getting a great education, studying in Florida's capital city allowed me to develop a unique skillset working in the Capitol, as well as a powerful network of friends that helped shape my career decisions. I couldn't have done this without all those people and opportunities."*

## Student Profile: 3L Gabriella Hernandez

**Desired Practice Location:** Southwest Florida  
**Expected Graduation:** May 2020

**Field of Law Sought:** Family or public interest law



Originally from Bonita Springs, Florida, Gabriella Hernandez is about to become a double 'Nole. She earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Florida State University and will graduate from FSU Law in May 2020. During the spring 2020 and fall 2019 semesters, Hernandez participated in the Public Interest Law Center Gender and Family Justice Clinic, where she advocated on behalf of people who were incarcerated and formerly incarcerated on family law matters, including child custody and visitation, child support and divorce. She also helped individuals file petitions for injunctions at the Refuge House Injunction Office. In December, she testified before the Florida Senate Judiciary Committee against a Senate bill that dealt with temporary or concurrent custody of a minor child by an extended family member. Through the clinic, Hernandez also created and presented family law workshops at local correctional and detention facilities. During the summer after her 2L year, Hernandez was an intern for the Office of the State Attorney at the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida in Fort Meyers. She drafted briefs and proposed orders for post-conviction relief for judges. Hernandez is also fluent in Spanish. If you are interested in hiring Hernandez after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*"Transferring to FSU Law was the best decision I have made. During my time here, I have gained a new set of transferable skills and experiences that has prepared me for life after law school."*



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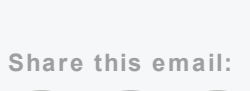
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