



# FLORIDA STATE LAW

TALBOT "SANDY"  
D'ALEMBERTE

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1933-2019

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2019

## Remembering Sandy



When Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte passed away on May 20, 2019, we lost a brilliant legal mind and beloved visionary. Sandy lived an amazingly full and extremely productive life. As detailed in the many tributes written about Sandy in the days following his passing, Sandy made countless contributions to Florida State University, the state,

the legal profession and the world. He also left an important and permanent legacy at the law school, and it is hard to imagine our community without his enthusiastic vision and compassion. As dean of the College of Law from 1984-1989, Sandy raised the profile of FSU Law in the eyes of the rest of the world. Along the way, he helped us raise our own expectations of ourselves, an ambition that we carry to this day.

Sandy’s transformation of our physical facilities and programs brought gravitas to our institution and forever increased opportunities for our students. His ambitious vision to beautify and expand the law school was the impetus for adding the iconic building that is now named the D’Alemberte Rotunda, and relocating to our campus the four historic houses that surround it. The Rotunda, James Harold Thompson Green

and historic buildings have become the iconic symbol of the College of Law in all of our materials. Sandy also significantly increased our financial resources, established three endowed chairs while he was dean, and created multiple new programmatic offerings, including a Dispute Resolution Center, the Caribbean Law Institute and an innovative pro bono requirement for all students. As FSU president, his establishment of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and an office for distance learning also opened up innumerable opportunities for law students. Sandy’s many contributions to the law school and university enrich our lives every day.

The cover story of this issue of *Florida State Law* details many of Sandy’s accomplishments and we hope it serves as a small tribute to his enormous legacy. It was written prior to Sandy’s passing with his gracious participation and only minor edits have been made since he saw it. Because of his grace, leadership, advocacy and much more, Sandy left the world a better place.

**Erin O’Hara O’Connor**  
*Dean and McKenzie Professor*

### Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte (1933–2019)



(L-R) Assistant to the Dean and Project Manager JoAnn Blackwell, Contractor Jerry Albritton and Dean D’Alemberte signing the Rotunda foundation in the fall of 1987.



Dean D’Alemberte on the roof during the raising of the Rotunda dome, March 31, 1988.



D’Alemberte at the unveiling and dedication of the new Dodd Hall stained-glass window in his honor in October 2017. The window above the entrance of the FSU Heritage Museum includes a portrait of D’Alemberte and four hand-painted black-and-white pendants representing important times in his life and career.

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# Celebrating an FSU Law Legend: Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte (1933-2019)

By Christi N. Morgan

*This article was written during the spring 2019 semester with President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus and Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte’s gracious participation, prior to his passing at the age of 85 on May 20, 2019. Very minor edits have been made since he saw it. We hope it serves as a tribute to his legacy and the lasting impacts he had on countless people around the world. D’Alemberte’s contributions to FSU Law will benefit our community forever.*

On Sunday, November 18, 2018, we gathered at the law school to celebrate President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus and Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte. We were joined by more than 100 of D’Alemberte’s friends and colleagues

to pay tribute to our fourth dean and to unveil the new location of his presidential statue. The bronze artwork was relocated to the Jefferson Street entrance of the law school and overlooks the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, which D’Alemberte established when he was president of the university. The statue previously was located outside the FSU College of Medicine, which also was established during D’Alemberte’s presidency.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to thank D’Alemberte for his many contributions to the university and around the world. FSU President John Thrasher (Dec. ’72), former ABA President Martha Barnett, International Bar

Association Executive Director Mark Ellis (’84) and Dean Erin O’Connor spoke about D’Alemberte’s remarkable career as a fierce advocate, an innovative academic, a trailblazing leader and an international human rights visionary.

Ellis commented on D’Alemberte’s global impact in helping to create the Central and East European Law Initiative when he was president of the American Bar Association from 1991-92. “The audacity of Sandy’s vision was quite extraordinary,” Ellis said. “In the 27 years of this program, it has sent over 5,000 volunteer lawyers and judges to countries throughout the world. It is now the largest pro bono legal assistance program that the United States



D’Alemberte addresses guests at the statue relocation ceremony honoring him.



(L-R) Chuck Ehrhardt, Jean Thrasher, John Thrasher (Dec. '72), Sandy D'Alemberte, Patsy Palmer ('07), Martha Barnett, Erin O'Connor and Mark Ellis ('84)

has ever undertaken, and that was Sandy's vision."

D'Alemberte, who co-taught International Human Rights with Ellis as recently as the spring 2019 semester, said he first conceived of the initiative because the communist system was unraveling and he wanted to help countries that were trying to move toward a market economy and a rule-of-law system. He connected with Homer Moyer, a Washington, D.C. lawyer who had similar thoughts, and they became co-founders of the ABA program.

D'Alemberte's innovative tendencies also greatly impacted Florida State University. As dean of the College of Law from 1984-1989, D'Alemberte transformed the school's programs and facilities.

"He accomplished a great deal

tangibly, financially and culturally," O'Connor said at the ceremony. "In his five years as dean, Sandy raised the profile of the Florida State College of Law in the eyes of the rest of the world. And along the way, he helped us raise our expectations of ourselves and I think that's something that we carry to this day."

Under D'Alemberte's leadership, the College of Law's picturesque James Harold Thompson Green and the iconic buildings that surround it took shape. From his office in the Cawthon House, one of the four houses overlooking the Green and the D'Alemberte Rotunda, D'Alemberte happily witnessed students playing Frisbee and other games, and families celebrating weddings. The D'Alemberte Rotunda has housed events featuring the law school's most

prominent guests, including Florida and U.S. Supreme Court justices and Nobel laureates.

As president of the university from 1994-2003, D'Alemberte was able to see the establishment of the medical school and the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. He also initiated many beautification projects, including a style manual for architects and the Master Craftsman Studio, which has created one-of-a-kind custom art pieces – including D'Alemberte's statue – that are displayed prominently around campus.

D'Alemberte counted among his top presidential accomplishments the establishment of the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. "It's amazing how many departments now participate in the human rights

program,” D’Alemberte said about the interdisciplinary center that welcomes contributions from numerous FSU units including the College of Law, the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice, and the College of Social Work.

At the November celebration, Barnett remarked on the fitting new location for D’Alemberte’s statue.

### **As president of the university from 1994-2003, D’Alemberte was able to see the establishment of the medical school and the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights.**

“There are so many places on campus where this statue could be located, the College of Medicine, the Center for Human Rights, even the football stadium,” she said. “But there’s only one place that it should be, and it’s at home here at the College of Law.”

Reflecting on the event, D’Alemberte remarked that the statue belongs at the College of Law because of his long association with the law school, going back to when it was established. “I was in the Legislature when we got our first funding for the school and a number of the early students at the school worked around the Legislature when I was there.”

Some of D’Alemberte’s fondest career memories stemmed from his time as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1966-1972. In part because a majority of lawmakers were freshmen during his first term, D’Alemberte quickly assumed leadership positions.

“By my second term, I chaired a

committee, and by my third term, I chaired the judiciary committee,” said D’Alemberte. “I had a staff director named Janet Reno and one of the more important things we did was we developed the judicial article for the state constitution.”

After leaving the Florida Legislature, from 1977-78, D’Alemberte chaired

the first Florida Constitution Revision Commission. He went on to become a sought-after authority on the Florida Constitution and taught on the topic at the law school. The second edition of his *Florida Constitutional Law* book was published in 2016.

D’Alemberte savored teaching both Florida Constitutional Law and International Human Rights for many years at FSU Law. “In both these subjects, I’ve really enjoyed having very good students,” said D’Alemberte. “In recent years, I’ve taught them in almost a seminar fashion and it’s really been delightful to have students not so numerous, to actually get to know all of the students and to involve all of them in discussions.”

In addition, D’Alemberte had an active law practice with his wife, Patsy Palmer (’07). For many of his cases, D’Alemberte served as local counsel for law firms seeking his expertise in Florida constitutional law. In some instances, because D’Alemberte and

Palmer were the only employees at D’Alemberte & Palmer, P.L.L.C., they associated with large firms including Carlton Fields and Wilmer Hale for major cases where they needed a larger team. “I have several clients, but not that many,” said D’Alemberte in January, who had been a partner at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami before he entered academia. “I think it’s fair to say that I have no paying clients. I do a lot of pro bono work.”

As the guest of honor at November’s statue relocation ceremony, D’Alemberte was the last person to speak. He graciously took the opportunity to thank attendees for their contributions to his life. He also shared that one reason why the new location of his statue was very meaningful was because it is just steps from his childhood home.

“Literally, if you walked straight out the back door of the Old Capitol and crossed the street, which was Adams Street, you would walk onto the front porch of my grandmother’s house,” D’Alemberte recalled. “So now, I’m returning to my old neighborhood. It’s only taken me 85 years to move three blocks.”

For the attendees, November’s ceremony was a way to thank D’Alemberte for his service and companionship. Many of the attendees had been friends with D’Alemberte for decades – some since childhood. “Sandy, you have been both an inspiration and friend to me for four decades,” said Thrasher at the event. “You’ve been my friend, my adviser, my mentor, and all I can say is, I love you very dearly. Thank you for everything you have done for our state, our nation and certainly, this university.” ■

# Justice C. Alan Lawson: Called to Serve

By Christi N. Morgan



Long before Justice C. Alan Lawson ('87) was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court, he contemplated careers in the military and medicine. As a high school student in Tallahassee, his goal was to become a pilot and he was a principal nominee to the U.S. Air Force Academy. Two weeks before Lawson was scheduled to report to the academy, his plans drasti-

cally changed due to a medical issue. During college, Lawson earned his EMT license and worked in the medical field. A business law course at Tallahassee Community College taught by former Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Karl set Lawson on the path to law school.

"It really was listening to him talk about the impact that you could have

in so many different ways with a law degree," Lawson recalled. "That is when I decided I wanted to go to law school and wanted to be a lawyer."

Although he was accepted to several Ivy League law schools, a conversation with the incoming dean, Sandy D'Alemberte, and a fellowship drew Lawson to FSU for law school. His public service mindset even led him to an unsuccessful run for a seat in the Florida Legislature as a law student. Lawson would fulfill a calling to public service after building a successful complex litigation practice at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami and Tallahassee.

Beginning in 1997, Lawson spent more than four years at the Orange County Attorney's Office. Lawson's first judicial appointment was to the felony division in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in 2002. He was then appointed on his first attempt to the Fifth District Court of Appeal in 2006, where he served for more than a decade, including two years as chief judge. Lawson became the Florida Supreme Court's 86<sup>th</sup> justice in December 2016.

"I was ecstatic to the bone; it is a complete privilege to do what I do," said Lawson. "I felt that way about the other levels of court and about being a litigator, but there is something about being the final arbiter about the most important issues in your state – particularly in a state this big – and about the governance role and responsibility



that you have. You feel like you have an opportunity to really do good if you buckle down and work hard and strive for excellence.”

Lawson estimates that the volume of cases before him now is about two-and-a-half times what it was at the Fifth DCA. “In addition to the high-profile, very difficult cases that take a lot of time, there are prisoner petitions and writs, and every day you are voting on cases.”

Even though there are many cases that the court doesn’t accept for jurisdiction and other reasons, justices spend a great deal of time thoroughly reviewing each request. The Florida Supreme Court also handles direct-appeal jurisdiction, death penalty, public service commission, and lawyer and judicial discipline cases.

In addition to a heavy caseload, Lawson spends a great deal of time working on governance issues and on “court responsibilities,” such as serving as the Florida Supreme Court’s liaison to a host of groups, including the Trial Court Budget Commission and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. On any given day, you will also find Lawson and his colleagues attending legal events, interacting with lawyers, law students and other citizens of Florida. Since joining the court, Lawson has many times walked the one block from his office – which has a picturesque view of FSU Law – to meet with students at his alma mater. He also was the featured speaker at the law school’s 2018 commencement ceremony.

“The education and training of young lawyers is the future of the profession,” said Lawson. “They are going to be the future judges and legislators and hope-

fully I can inspire them to never forget what we have in this country and the freedoms we have because we are a nation of laws. This is not just a job they are undertaking, but it is a responsibility to do justice well.”

One of Lawson’s greatest joys is serving on the court with his law school classmate, Justice Ricky Polston (’87). “It’s so much fun,” remarked Lawson, who took several classes with Polston and occasionally studied with him.

**“The education and training of young lawyers is the future of the profession,” said Lawson.**

“He was a friend and somebody I really respected and liked in law school. When I’m sitting up on the bench in oral argument and look down and see him there, I just can’t help but think of some of those classes where we were sitting in the same row and I might have looked down and seen him there all those years ago. He’s a great friend and an outstanding person, and I’m enjoying the time together.”

In addition to meeting Polston during law school, Lawson fell in love with his wife of 31 years, Julie, while he was a law student. The two had met several years earlier as undergraduate students and married shortly after Lawson graduated from FSU Law. The Lawsons have two children – a son, Caleb, and a daughter, Leah – and two-year-old twin grandsons, Ashe and Ames. Julie still resides in Orlando to be near the grandchildren and Lawson travels to be

with them most weekends.

“The biggest challenge of the job is we’re spending more time apart than either of us would like, but we’ve had a concerted effort of trying to make sure that when we are together, we do things that keep us together and keep us strong in our relationship,” said Lawson. “When I’m at home, we’ll walk in the mornings together. We bought ourselves kayaks for Christmas and we’ve done some camping and hiking on the weekends. We love paddle boarding and really like the outdoors.”

Much of their free time is spent eating family dinners and playing with their grandsons. That means getting down on the floor with them and frequent “horse rides” for the toddlers on their grandparents’ backs. The Lawsons also love to travel and have been to Honduras many times for service work. Lawson even took a group of judges and lawyers to Honduras for a community service trip in 2018.

Lawson has a long history of service within the profession, serving on numerous bar and judicial committees going back more than 30 years. “I think one of the things that makes those extra things so rewarding is the relationships that you build with others who are contributing their time,” he said. “There are just so many good lawyers and people in this state who give so freely of their time to make the system better.”

From his first days in the profession, Lawson has been doing his best to be counted among that group. ■

# Kris Knab Honored for Exemplary Public Service Career

*By Beth N. Pannell*



Doug Mann and Kris Knab's children, Nathan and Erin Kenney, accepted the Exemplary Public Service Career Award on behalf of Knab. A portrait of Knab was revealed during the Homecoming Reception.

In October, we posthumously presented our inaugural Exemplary Public Service Career Award to alumna Kristine “Kris” Knab ('78), who passed away July 19, 2018. One of 49 nominees, the award committee selected Knab for her decades of service at Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. (LSNF), where she worked from 1978 until retiring in 2016. Knab's last 22 years at LSNF were as executive director.

“There were many worthy FSU law grads nominated for the first Exemplary Public Service award, but Kris stood out for the length, breadth and depth of her service,” said Nancy Daniels ('77), a member of the award committee. “She devoted her life to the representation of the poor in Florida and created a talented corps of Legal Services offices.”

Nominators called Knab a “champion for the underprivileged,” and submitted evidence of her skillful leadership of LSNF, especially during times of limited resources.

“Not only is Kris undeniably deserving, but her selection as the first recipient of this award would set an appropriately high bar for all future nominees,” wrote nominator Tom Powell ('76). “To the listed criteria for this award – exceptional character, integrity, humility, professionalism and ethics – I would add dedication, selflessness, generosity and unfailing respect for others, and say that she exceeds all conceivable expectations in every category.”

The Honorable Claudia Isom ('75) wrote, “Because this award honors FSU graduates who have given their life, or the entirety of their legal career, and souls to public service, I can think of no

**“There were many worthy candidates who have dedicated themselves to public service,” said Nancy Daniels ('77), “but Kris was a pioneer of the legal services movement in our state and country. She battled courageously to provide effective, strong representation to the poor and always conducted herself with grace and professionalism.”**

person better qualified than Kris Knab.”

Under her leadership, staff and pro bono lawyers in five offices covering 16 counties recovered Social Security



benefits, helped domestic violence victims, represented children in foster care, provided services to homeless veterans, obtained financial relief for public-housing residents and more.

Knab was also a successful social change agent and collaborator. She often wrote grants, reviewed cases, and worked with other nonprofit executives to improve the delivery of human services and increase recognition of the contribution the sector makes to the community.

Knab was involved in many community service activities, including the Orange Avenue United Tenants Association and the Leon County

Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and was no stranger to accolades. She was the first recipient of the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Public Service. She was honored by Tallahassee Community College as a Woman of Courage and Vision, the Girl Scouts named her a Woman of Distinction, and the Oasis Center for Women and Girls presented her with a Trailblazer Award. She also received a Legend Award from the Tallahassee Urban League.

“There were many worthy candidates who have dedicated themselves to public service,” said Daniels, “but Kris was a pioneer of the legal services movement in our state and country. She battled courageously to provide effective, strong representation to the poor and always conducted herself with grace and professionalism. Behind the scenes, she had a wicked, irreverent sense of humor and did not take guff from anyone.”

Knab was posthumously honored during our 2018 Homecoming Reception, and as the Exemplary Public Service Career Award recipient, an oil portrait of Knab is displayed prominently at the law school. ■

# Marlon A. Hill: Lawyer by Chance, Community Leader by Choice

By Beth N. Pannell



**M**arlon Hill never expected to run for office, or become a lawyer for that matter. He did not anticipate that he would have an integral role in building a courtroom at a Miami middle school. But, the influence of a few individuals, a hurricane and Hill's natural inclination to follow his passions and curiosities, helped guide the path to where he is today. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Hill came to the U.S. at age 14 and finished high school

in Miami. Hill is a double 'Nole, having graduated from the College of Business with a degree in international business and finance, with a minor in Spanish.

"It's always been a dream of mine to hold some sort of global, international, corporate position," he said. Hill was very involved with the Caribbean Students Association as an undergraduate student and met former law professor Elwin Griffith through the group. It was Griffith who encouraged Hill to

consider law school. In 1992, Hill's family had just endured Hurricane Andrew and Miami was devastated and offered few job opportunities. Hill decided to stay in Tallahassee and continue his education at Florida State Law.

During law school, Hill took interest in classes such as Immigration and International Business, both for which he received a Book Award. Hill was also a member of the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy* and a research assistant for professors in the area of international law. "I was on the transactional track as opposed to the litigation track because I was continuing my interest in international law, which was a reflection of my undergraduate studies and in part, my upbringing," he said.

After graduation in 1995, Hill worked a number of part-time jobs before attorney George Knox offered him a position at Adorno & Zeder. "There wasn't really an opening for me at the firm, but he made it happen and that opened so many doors for me. He continues to serve as a shining light."

Hill's first assignment was appeals and he recalls being "way out of his comfort zone." Soon, he was given the opportunity to work on corporate, real estate and government transactional matters. Hill was also responsible for managing the firm's Employees' Charitable Fund. That exposed him to the world of philanthropy and community engagement, which would play an important role in his life.

In 2001, Hill left Adorno & Zeder after his wife and college sweetheart Carla was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease and he needed to make an adjustment. With his high school friend Michelle Delancy, Hill opened delancyhill, P.A. In 2008, they were able to survive the economic downturn by digitizing their firm. Cloud office technology allowed them to save more than 50% of their operating expenses. Seven years later, they connected with friends and merged into minority-owned Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP (HM&B) in Miami.

Now a partner in the firm's Miami office, Hill is outside general counsel to for-profit corporations, mid-size companies, family-owned companies and multi-national companies, handling a suite of corporate transactions for his clients, protecting intellectual property and handling business immigration questions. Hill also manages the firm's strategic community engagement.

In addition to his practice, Hill finds time to play or watch soccer, and spend time with his wife and many nieces and nephews. He enjoys Miami arts and culture events, especially Caribbean and Latin American concerts and festivals.

In 2015, Hill was selected as a Genius Fellow by the BMe Community and awarded \$10,000 for an issue or project. BMe is a network of Black innovators and leaders across the country who are helping to create more caring and prosperous communities. With his firm, Hill adopted nearby Brownsville Middle School in the Miami urban core as their signature community engagement project. Attorneys from HM&B



**Southern U.S. District Court Judge Marcia Cooke (center) congratulates Brownsville Middle School Law Academy students on their ABA Law Day presentation.**

worked during MLK service days, and served as guest speakers and mentors at the school. Hill and HM&B, in collaboration with other community partners and Miami Dade Public Schools, also successfully raised funds to convert two Brownsville Middle School classrooms into a modern courtroom.

The courtroom, dedicated on May 29, 2018, is retrofitted with cameras, seating for 24 jurors and three jury deliberation rooms. It can also be rented by law firms, litigation consulting firms, and community organizations for mock trials and community meetings. "We're just trying to give students an opportunity to have a vision that they could be part of the legal profession, whether it's as a bailiff or an attorney or as a judge," said Hill. "We're exposing the opportunity of the world of jurisprudence to them through the courtroom and through the curriculum."

In 2018, HM&B's ground-breaking legal studies partnership at Brownsville Middle School was recognized as the Most Outstanding 2018 American Bar Association Law Day Student Program Activity.

Hill is also very involved in the Miami community from a civic standpoint.

He has served on the boards of many organizations, including The Miami Foundation, The Orange Bowl Committee, and the Miami Book Fair. And just a few months ago, he decided to run for Miami-Dade County Commission Seat District 9 in S.W. Miami-Dade County.

"Someone has to step into the gap of leadership," Hill said. "It's another platform for me to do what I've already been doing in the community at large, and I'm pursuing the opportunity with passion and purpose."

Although Hill's career path diverged, in some regard, from his original vision of being an international businessman, it wasn't all by chance or coincidence. "I think it's important for you to have some semblance of a vision for yourself without knowing whether that vision can be accomplished so that you can be guided by the types of classes you may take or the mentors you may choose," he said. "That comes with a lot of self-awareness and reflection on who you are and what you want to be.... I think it's important to give yourself that chance by visualizing the possibility." ■

# Ronald A. “Ron” Christaldi: Connecting Tampa with the World

By Christi N. Morgan



Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick partner Ron Christaldi ('96) has been entrenched in community service during his entire legal career. The importance of being civically minded was instilled in him by lawyers Lou and David de la Parte at the very first firm for which he worked, de la Parte & Gilbert.

“In Lou’s legacy and David’s mentoring, being politically active, supporting good policy and candidates, being involved in the community, taking on causes of people who need assistance – all of those things and my entire practice emanated from a culture that Lou and David had,” said Christaldi, who interviewed with the firm as part of FSU Law’s On-Campus Interview Program.

When Christaldi joined Shumaker more than a decade ago, his platform for community service work expanded. Since then, Christaldi has served as chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Board and has been advocating for high-profile projects to benefit the area. To better connect Tampa with the rest of the world, Christaldi has participated in international trade missions to Toronto, Mexico City, Bogota and Frankfurt.

He also has traveled to Cuba five times to assist in efforts to normalize relations with the country. “We took elected officials and city council people, the former CFO of Florida, president of the University of South Florida, hospital presidents, a former chief of police, and a wide variety of business and community leaders to begin to ready Tampa Bay for

trade and business with Cuba as the relationship between the U.S. and Cuba evolved. Ultimately, we got an invite to visit the White House to meet with Vice President Biden to discuss Cuban policy.”

About six months later, when Christaldi watched President Obama announce the relaxation of restrictions, he realized the impact of his efforts. “It was a very rewarding experience over several years.”

In addition, Christaldi is a member of the City of Tampa Sister City Program and helped foster sister-city relationships between Tampa and cities in Ireland and Italy.

Perhaps his most high-profile work involves trying to keep major league baseball in Tampa Bay. During the past year, Christaldi has worked with other community leaders on the Tampa Bay Rays 2020 project, which sought to build a ballpark for the baseball team in the Ybor City region of Tampa. While those efforts recently were put on hold, Christaldi is proud of the fact that they brought together team officials and community and business leaders, calling it “one of the most diverse, broad-sweeping grassroots efforts” the region has seen.

“I believe that the Rays and the city and county all still understand that, in Tampa Bay, that location is the most viable location financially and practically because it is an extraordinary urban environment and is ripe for something like a ballpark.”

As his community work increased, Christaldi’s practice also evolved to include a substantial amount of government affairs work. In 2017, after several

years of collaborating with external lobbyists and consultants, Christaldi decided to bring the governmental affairs component of his practice in house. As leader of the firm’s governmental affairs team, Christaldi holds the title of president/CEO of Shumaker Advisors Florida, LLC.

“We have a number of non-lawyer public affairs professionals and are able to help clients in a much more holistic way from a policy perspective and from a legal perspective, as well as having impacts on the community,” said Christaldi.

While his primary responsibility remains lawyering for his clients, Christaldi’s government affairs practice gives him the ability to further build relationships and to leverage those relationships to assist clients.

Christaldi spends much of his time counseling legal clients and in court. His practice areas include health care corporate, real estate and litigation – his list of long-term clients includes Moffitt Cancer Center – and he has been working on sophisticated transactions and complex litigation since he started practicing. Christaldi’s clients depend on his innovative nature when they have complex litigation issues or need to close huge deals.

“I’m blessed to have clients who are typically in the not-for-profit arena or who are advancing very good, meaningful purposes and looking for the most efficient, effective way to accomplish those goals. I find my clients and partners asking for my assistance on the complex problems where there is really no path that’s been beaten and we’ve got to figure out a way to find a solution,”



(L-R) Joe, Ron, Juliet and Michael Christaldi

said Christaldi, who credits FSU Law with helping him refine his problem solving skills and showing him how to creatively look at the law.

Although his work often involves large sums of money, one of Christaldi’s most treasured cases involved helping a single mother retrieve a \$500 security deposit. The pro bono case took four years to resolve, but the final result was worth it. Toward the beginning of the process, Christaldi told the woman and her daughter that it might take several years, but slow and steady would win the race, recounting the story of the tortoise and the hare.

“The day the woman came in to get the check with her daughter, they presented me with a little turtle and she said, ‘I told my daughter back then, when you do the right things, you prevail in the end.’” Christaldi said instances like this, where he was able to use the power of the law to help some-

*See “Christaldi,” continued on page 25*

# Alumni Spearhead Environmental Law and Policy in D.C.

By Christi N. Morgan

**B**ecause Florida State Law's program in environmental law is consistently ranked among the nation's top programs, students receive an outstanding foundation in the area and are taught by renowned scholars and experts. This has led to many FSU Law alumni practicing environmental law at high levels in government, private practice and non-profit organizations. Recently, FSU Law grads have assumed two of the federal government's top environmental law and policy positions.



Kathy Castor

## Kathy Castor ('91)

In December 2018, Congresswoman Kathy Castor was named chair of the newly created Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. The committee is a bipartisan group of U.S. House representatives charged with developing a comprehensive policy report and proposals to reduce carbon pollution and promoting a clean energy economy.

"Traditional committees tend to deal with issues within their defined jurisdic-



Matthew Z. Leopold

tions. For instance, the Transportation Committee deals with making public transit run on clean electricity, while the Armed Services Committee focuses on the national security threat of climate change," said Castor. "Having a single committee focused on the climate crisis allows us to develop overarching policy proposals and coordinate a national response that deserves attention from every part of our government. The climate crisis is an issue where we need to

think holistically about what we want the world to look like in 30 years."

Castor is in her seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Florida's 14th District. She has a long history of working to protect the environment, so leading the select committee is a natural extension of her previous congressional service. Before coming to Congress, Castor also served on the Hillsborough County Commission and chaired its Environmental Protection Commission.

"I entered public life to fight for a clean and healthy environment for my neighbors in the Tampa Bay area and across America, and to keep oil drilling off the coast of Florida," said Castor, who graduated from FSU Law in 1991. "Our worst fears became reality when the BP Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 people, injured many more and dirtied our beaches and Gulf of Mexico in America's biggest environmental disaster to date. I helped make sure BP was held accountable for coastal restoration to make up for the damage from the blowout and I've fought dangerous drilling off our coasts. We need to make sure Washington is serving communities



and states like ours that are on the front lines of the climate crisis.”

The committee’s priorities include formulating a comprehensive plan to dramatically reduce carbon pollution. Castor says that means creating a clean energy economy with high-paying jobs and halting the nation’s fractured, piecemeal response to climate damage.

“Scientists tell us we can cut carbon pollution 45 percent by 2030 and that can put us on a path to net-zero pollution by 2050,” remarked Castor. She says the committee also will focus on what the current Congress can do to protect communities and to create more clean energy and clean transportation.

Castor looks forward to bringing a focus on economic justice to the climate debate. “We need climate solutions that work for everyone. Solar installers and wind turbine technicians are the fastest-growing jobs in the country, and I want people to be excited about those jobs, including people who are already in the energy industry and young people who can make a career in solving the climate crisis.”

The congresswoman is passionate about the important work before her select committee. “The climate crisis is already at our doorsteps,” she said. “I’ve boarded up my home and fled potential storm surge with my family as Hurricane Irma threatened Florida, and we were lucky because we had plenty of warning. That’s not true for other families who suffer the dire consequences of climate-driven catastrophes. We need to mitigate the climate change that’s already underway and we need to do everything we can to cut the carbon pollution at the center of the changing

climate. Costs are rising along with temperatures.”

While the committee’s work is congressional business, Castor urges everyone to get involved. “We’re all in this together and we all need to solve the climate crisis together,” Castor said. “I hope everyone who cares about the climate crisis is writing and calling and visiting their members of Congress to talk about solutions and demand climate action now. We need it and it’s going to take support from people all over the country to make climate action a reality.”

Although the committee is new, members have already held hearings to begin studying the climate crisis. By March 2020, Castor and her colleagues will publish the committee’s public recommendations.

### **Matthew Z. Leopold (’04)**

Alumnus Matthew Z. “Matt” Leopold was confirmed by the United States Senate as general counsel for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2017.

“The best part of my job is getting to work on matters every day that make a difference for the health and safety of the American people and our environment,” said the 2004 College of Law graduate. “I think this is the best job in environmental law because the scope of the reach you have really touches all parts of our economy – from agriculture to utilities to mining to chemical manufacturing – so many of the important things that Americans depend on each and every day. It’s very interesting work, and from a lawyer’s perspective, it’s thrilling. I’m getting to work on

matters in the U.S. Supreme Court alongside the Solicitor General’s Office, on important questions about statutory interpretation and on the cutting edge of administrative law.”

As general counsel, Leopold serves as chief legal officer for the EPA. “I am responsible for all defensive litigation against the agency – challenges to our rulemakings, our permit decisions and adjudications. I’m responsible for being the primary legal counselor to the EPA administrator, as well interacting with my counterparts throughout the government and the White House,” said Leopold. “The issues that we face with air and water pollution regulation and the federal and state laws that form the framework of our nation’s environmental protection laws are fascinating.”

At the EPA, Leopold works on high-profile rulemakings, including the repeal and replacement of the Waters of the United States rule, the repeal and replacement of the Clean Power Plan with the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule, and the change in standards for automobile tailpipe emissions. He is also working on the administration’s action plan to address the health threat caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water and the rule to address lead and copper in drinking water systems around the nation, which Leopold says is the administration’s response to Flint, Michigan, and aims to protect particularly sensitive populations such as children.

“The environmental law field is a tremendous area of practice. It’s one that is often politicized, so my work

*See “Alumni,” continued on page 60*

# FSU SBA Achieves Remarkable National Success

By Christi N. Morgan

This past August, FSU Law Student Bar Association students traveled to Chicago for the American Bar Association's annual meeting. On the final full day of the meeting, they attended the Law Student Division Assembly, where it was announced that FSU's Student Bar Association (SBA) had been named the nation's best. While the accomplishment was exciting on its own, perhaps even more remarkable was that fact that the 2018 award marked the seventh time in 10 years that the FSU College of Law SBA was named the best SBA in the nation!

Each year, top law schools from around the nation compete for the National Achievement Award – also known as the SBA of the Year Award. It honors the country's best SBA and recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession.



Benjamin Gibson

FSU Law students first won the national award in 2008, under the leadership of Benjamin Gibson ('08), who is now a partner at Shutts & Bowen in Tallahassee. At the beginning of Gibson's presidency, he and other SBA board members set a goal to win FSU's first national title.

"In the beginning of 2007, Ashley Ligas ('08) and I were elected national officers with the ABA Law Student Division. We quickly learned that George Washington Law had won the 'Best SBA' award multiple years in a row. So, that served as inspiration and we became competitive, thinking, 'Hey, we should win that,'" said Gibson, who implemented many new initiatives at FSU after learning best practices from other law schools through his leadership role with the ABA. "Winning was really a nice acknowledgement of all the hard work that our entire SBA board put in."

In the decade since, FSU's SBA was also named the nation's best in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2018. In each of those years, the organization was led by strong presidents



Lilly Sharpe

who sought to build upon the accomplishments of previous years. FSU Law students who led the organization to national titles were not content to simply repeat what was done in the past. Those SBA presidents were: William Hall ('09), Alexandra Haddad Palermo ('12), Mike Koulianos ('13), Lindsay Kushner Scott ('14), Kristin DuPont ('17) and Lilly Sharpe ('18). Another common

factor in the award-winning SBAs is that the leaders were surrounded by strong executive board members who also wanted to raise the bar.

Many of the SBA procedures that Gibson instituted more than a decade ago are still in use today, and laid the foundation for FSU's strong record of nationally recognized excellence. In addition, FSU's first national SBA award became somewhat of a challenge to subsequent leaders.

"I think we established a culture of success, and each new leader learned from the previous one," remarked Gibson.

During his presidency, Gibson established a goal for SBA to become more of an advocate for the student body through his initiative "SBA's BIG 7 for 2007." The 2007-2008 SBA board set out to raise awareness about mental health issues. In his role as vice chair of the ABA Law Student Division, Gibson was instrumental in creating a tool kit with resources about mental health for student leaders and law school deans. Much of his national work greatly informed mental health awareness efforts at FSU. When Sharpe and her SBA board hosted an important mental health and wellness panel in 2018, they used the tool kit that Gibson helped create many years ago.

Not content with the status quo, recent executive boards have continued the innovation that is now expected from FSU Law SBAs. During Sharpe's presidency, SBA doubled the number of events they hosted compared to the previous year and sought ways to engage all students, including adding a carnival aimed at non-traditional law students and their families to the organization's long-running Diversity Week.



“Past boards have kept great records and we share a Google drive that is passed down every year, so you can look back and see which events were successful and which were not as successful,” said Sharpe. “We really learned from the successes of past boards and were able to capitalize on previous events and improve them.”

Another reason FSU SBA has been recognized repeatedly is a commitment to helping others inside and outside of the FSU and Tallahassee communities. Recent SBA boards have formed teams for FSU’s Dance Marathon and the Big Event – one of the largest, one-day, student-run service projects in the nation. During the past decade, SBA has also held events and led fundraising efforts for the victims of multiple hurricanes, the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. SBA students have also worked to benefit the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research, children in Sierra Leone, Ronald McDonald House, Big Bend Homeless Shelter and many other organizations.

Sharpe believes that the culture at the law school is a huge factor in FSU Law winning seven SBA of the Year awards. During her time on the SBA board, students shared their opinions for new projects because they felt their voices were

valued by the administration, which led to innovation and positive change.

“The law school is continuously changing and growing, in the way that our students interact and the way our programming is coordinated, and it revolves around student life and student happiness,” said Sharpe. “We have a really close-knit campus and we’re able to grow and think of programming that is fun and helpful.”

Sharpe also cited FSU Law’s strong sense of community as a reason why FSU has been able to win SBA of the Year, even when competing against law schools ranked among the nation’s top 20.

“People are excited to be at FSU Law,” said Sharpe. “Students want to participate in community service events on Saturday mornings with other students, and they’re willing to give up their lunch break study time to hear our speakers. It shows that FSU Law is producing quality future young lawyers and people who want to be involved in their community and with their classmates. Our campus creates long-lasting relationships and friendships, and I think that’s why SBA is so successful – because we are able to help encourage those relationships through our events.” ■

**FSU Law welcomed two new tenure-track professors at the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year. Michael Morley and Sarah Swan have become important members of our top-ranked faculty. The following Q&As provide a glimpse into their areas of expertise, why they joined FSU Law and their contributions in the classroom.**

## Professor Michael Morley

### What made you decide to become a law professor?

I love the energy and enthusiasm that gifted, dedicated law students bring to classroom discussions. It is exhilarating to have the chance to discuss both timeless and contemporary legal issues with a diverse student body from all walks of life and political persuasions. Being a law professor also allows me to focus on scholarship to attempt to expand the bounds of legal knowledge and potentially influence legal thinking on an even wider scale.

### Please explain your area of expertise and why you specialize in that area.

My main areas of teaching and legal scholarship are election law, remedies and federal courts. In particular, my research focuses on the nature, structure and enforcement of the constitutional right to vote, as well as equitable remedies such as injunctions. Election law has always fascinated me because it is not only a theoretically intricate and historically rich field, but has tremendous practical importance.

Many of our insights from election law also have ramifications for other fields, such as the legitimacy of independent agencies insulated from political control, or the proper balance of power between elected officials and unelected bureaucrats.

### How do you bring your scholarship/research into the classroom?

Particularly during this past election cycle, it was very easy to bring my scholarship into the classroom because important developments were unfolding on a daily basis. During the 2018 election cycle, the State of Florida was in the midst of three statewide recounts, as well as close to a dozen lawsuits. It was a unique and exciting opportunity to expose students to both the procedural and substantive aspects of election litigation and watch new law being made.

### Why did you want to join the FSU law faculty?

Florida State is the perfect place to teach election law. Situated in Tallahassee, we are quite literally in the middle of the action when it comes to election litigation, recounts and other disputes relating to voting rights. The faculty is comprised of nationally renowned scholars who are always available to share advice on scholarly works-in-



Michael Morley

Sarah Swan

progress and teaching guidance. The students are highly motivated, insightful and devoted to their studies, leading to fascinating classroom discussions. The law school's Research Center has an extremely dedicated staff of research librarians who are able to help locate even the most obscure sources, and the campus itself is simply beautiful. It was a privilege to have the chance to join such an intellectually vibrant, nationally respected scholarly community.

### If you weren't teaching, what would you be doing?

Before transitioning to legal academia, I worked at the Supreme Court and Appellate Group of a law firm in Washington, D.C.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, watching movies and traveling.

### Can you tell us a little about your family?

My wife, Autumn, and I have been married for more than 13 years. We have two wonderful sons: Zachary Blaise, age eight, and Nicholas William, age four.

### **Is there anything else you'd like alumni to know about you?**

One of my most fulfilling professional experiences was working in the Army General Counsel's Office in the Pentagon, helping oversee the Army's civilian appellate litigation docket, advising on constitutional and international law issues, and assisting in the preparation of reports to Congress. Having the opportunity to work alongside heroes who had served around the world was both exciting and humbling, and I was particularly inspired by the senior Army leadership's vigorous dedication to both the rule of law and civilian control of the military.

## **Professor Sarah Swan**

### **What made you decide to become a law professor?**

When I was in high school, I wanted to be one of three things: a lawyer, an English literature professor, or a forensic psychologist. Being a law professor lets me incorporate elements of all three! I get to engage in deep textual analysis, teach, and explore how we conceptualize and understand wrongdoing.

### **Please explain your area of expertise and why you chose to specialize in that area.**

I focus on third-party responsibility – moments where we hold someone accountable, either directly or indirectly, for someone else's wrongdoing. For example, I've written about institutional and corporate responsibility for

facilitating or failing to prevent sexual assault. I've also written about local ordinances which allow entire families to be evicted for one person's alleged wrongdoing. Third-party responsibility is an incredibly powerful lever, and I worry that we actually have a tendency to use it in a heavy-handed way against individuals who may have little actual control over the actions of others, while soft-pedaling it when it comes to the institutions and corporations that do have control over the actions of others and yet enable or facilitate heinous conduct.

### **Why did you join the law faculty at Florida State?**

It's no secret in the law teaching community that Florida State has a terrific, scholarly faculty. It felt like a place where I could develop my scholarly skill set while being simultaneously challenged and supported. I was also impressed with FSU's commitment to diversity and ensuring access to legal education. Even though I wanted to be a lawyer when I was in high school, I had only ever seen them on TV – programs like the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program let students see the path to making those kinds of aspirations turn into reality.

### **How do you bring your scholarship/research into the classroom?**

I teach a Contemporary Topics in Tort Law Seminar that explores many current instances where we consider imposing liability on third parties, from parental liability for children who commit mass school shootings, to teens who text other teens knowing that the recipient is driving, to government liability for

police misconduct.

### **If you weren't teaching, what do you think you would be doing?**

I'd be a writer of some kind – probably a journalist writing on legal issues. I have deep admiration for people like Jill Lepore and Rebecca Traister who are able to translate complex legal and social issues into writing that resonates with a hugely broad audience.

### **What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Spare time? Ha! I have a three year old and a six year old.

### **What accomplishment are you most proud of? Why?**

As part of a fundraiser when I was a practicing attorney, I participated in a Survivor-style competition on a small, isolated island in Canada. I won!

### **Is there anything else you'd like alumni to know about you?**

One area that I'm always intrigued by is the interactions between law and popular culture. The vast majority of the public really gathers most of what they know about law from television shows and movies and podcasts. I've co-authored probably close to a dozen chapters on law and popular culture with a former professor of mine – which was a really good excuse to watch a whole lot of tv! One of our favorite things to write about was themes of law and justice on Buffy the Vampire Slayer. ■

# New Clinic and Project at the Public Interest Law Center



Our acclaimed Public Interest Law Center (PILC), led by Professor Paolo Annino, introduced new offerings this year for students. The College of Law welcomed Carla Laroche to the clinical faculty—she directs and teaches in the Gender and Family Justice Clinic, which enrolled its first students for the spring 2019 semester. The new Gender and Family Justice Clinic refocuses our clinical offerings in the area of family law and examines the intersection between mass incarceration, reentry and families. At the very heart of this clinic is an analysis of what families experience when a family member is incarcerated and what collateral barriers exist for families because of criminal justice involvement.

“Many people do not realize that

the rate of incarceration of women has increased by over 800% in the last 40 years, according to studies,” Laroche said. “Increased awareness of mass incarceration has drawn some attention to the challenges men face, but attention to women’s experience in jails and prisons and upon release has not been as robust. As the number of women with criminal records grows, the causes for their incarceration and what happens when they reenter society require deeper discussion and analysis.”

Utilizing a two-pronged approach, clinic students represent people who are incarcerated and formerly incarcerated on family law matters, including child custody and visitation, child support, divorce and injunctions for protection. Students also develop and teach family law workshops at Gadsden Correctional Facility, the only state prison for women in northern Florida, and Leon County Detention Facility, the local jail in Tallahassee. In class, the students explore and analyze the gendered nature of incarceration and reentry through casework, readings, class discussions, collaboration with classmates and reflection.

“I am honored to be supervising our passionate and dedicated law students as they address the gap in access to justice,” Laroche said. “By representing real clients on real cases, clinic students will strengthen their legal skills and be better prepared to practice law upon graduation. Students will have

a challenging experience confronting the many legal consequences of incarceration their clients face, and I am enthused to be guiding students on this rewarding journey.”

**“Many people do not realize that the rate of incarceration of women has increased by over 800% in the last 40 years, according to studies,” Laroche said.**

A first-generation Haitian-American, Laroche earned her bachelor’s degree in history with a women and gender studies certificate from Princeton University. She holds a master’s degree in public policy with an international and global affairs concentration from Harvard Kennedy School, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. While at Columbia, Laroche was accepted into Columbia’s Incarceration and Family Clinic, where she delved into the intersection between family law and incarceration. Laroche currently co-chairs a multi-year Women in Criminal Justice Task Force created by the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section and, in February 2019, she was appointed to the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Prior to joining FSU, Laroche was a fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Tallahassee, where she

advocated for the reformation of mass incarceration of children and adults in Florida, and supervised our law student externs. She was a law clerk for the Honorable Donald M. Middlebrooks, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida.

“Having the opportunity to support FSU law students full-time as a clinical professor is a dream fulfilled,” said Laroche. “Just like the students I mentored previously, my clinical students are dedicated to figuring out legal issues, asking insightful questions and learning about social justice concerns. It is simply invigorating.”

In addition, the fall 2018 semester marked the return to campus of FSU Law graduate Darby Kerrigan Scott ('07), this time as a clinical professor and director of the Immigration and Farmworker Project at PILC. Through the project, students assist immigrants and agricultural workers who face employment barriers, such as undocu-



Darby  
Kerrigan Scott

**“We help our clients evaluate potential paths of humanitarian relief under our immigration system, and we attempt to address their myriad other needs as well. The project involves direct client representation, community outreach in the rural counties of the Second Judicial Circuit, and law reform projects on a local, state and national level,” Scott said.**

mented status, lack of housing and lack of healthcare.

The Immigration and Farmworker Project, launched in the fall 2018 semester, is funded by The Florida Bar Foundation. FSU partners with the University of Florida’s Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic, with whom Scott team-teaches via video conference as part of this project.

“The project enables us to represent immigrant survivors of human trafficking, crime, abuse and other forms of trauma,” Scott said. “We help our clients evaluate potential paths of humanitarian relief under our immigration system, and we attempt to address their myriad other needs as well. The project involves direct client representation, community outreach in the rural counties of the Second Judicial Circuit, and law reform projects on a local, state and national level.”

Scott previously served as executive director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee, managing all programs, staff and development; as a program director at the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, concentrating on immigration and human trafficking matters; as an associate with Hopping Green & Sams, P.A.; and as a senior law clerk to the Honorable Robert T. Benton, II, of Florida’s

First District Court of Appeal. Scott currently serves on the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, where she chaired the Policy Committee from 2016-17. She previously served on the board of directors of PACE Center for Girls (Leon County) as secretary, on the board of directors of the Young Lawyers Section of the Tallahassee Bar Association as president, and on the board of directors of the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center. With a long-time interest in international and cross-cultural issues, Scott earned her bachelor’s degree in international affairs and Spanish from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She graduated from FSU College of Law in 2007 with high honors, earning a certificate in international law.

“It is a tremendous honor and privilege to return to my alma mater to lead this impactful project,” Scott said. “Immigration is a fascinating area of law that touches on international law issues as well as human rights issues. We focus on the humanitarian avenues for relief in immigration, and we are fortunate to work with amazing clients who have survived indescribable trauma and who inspire us every day. The work is both riveting and rewarding.”



(L-R) Carlos Gomez and Ryan Nicholas

## Moot Court Team Wins National Competition

On March 3, FSU Law’s Moot Court Team won first place in the 2019 William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition. This was the second time in three years that FSU Law has won the Bryant-Moore Competition, which was held at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. FSU Law students competed against teams from law schools including Georgetown, University of North Carolina, University of Virginia and William & Mary. Winning team members were second-year law students Carlos Gomez and Ryan Nicholas. FSU College of Law alumnus Karla Ellis ('96), who practices at the Law Office of Karla D. Ellis in Tallahassee, and Clinical Professor Jennifer LaVia, who directs our Veterans Legal Clinic, coached the team to victory. In addition, third-year FSU Law student Rima Nathan was named the competition’s Best Oralist. Congratulations to our talented student advocates and many thanks to their dedicated coaches!

## Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program



Alum Rebecca Bandy ('05) presents “Why Emotional Intelligence Matters” to students in October 2018.

During the spring 2018 semester, we rolled out the first phase of our new Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program, which is designed to support our students through a variety of programming that will prepare them for success as professionals in an evolving legal landscape. Through the program, spearheaded by our Student Advancement Office, students have opportunities to attend a wide range of interactive sessions on topics including mentorship, financial responsibility, mental health and wellness, pro bono service, technology, and trial and transactional skills.

In addition, all 3Ls may elect to have a professionalism mentor assigned to them – someone who can help them as they develop and hone their professional identities, and transition from law student to new lawyer. Many alumni are engaged in the program – from mentoring and serving as Raising the Bar speakers, to providing financial support and volunteering on the program’s alumni advisory board.



## Annino Wins ABA Criminal Justice Section Raeder-Taslitz Award



(L-R) Paolo Annino and Carla Laroche

Paolo Annino, our Glass Professor of Public Interest Law and Director of the Public Interest Law Center, received the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Raeder-Taslitz Award in November 2018. The award is given in memory of Myrna Raeder and Andrew Taslitz to a professor at an ABA-accredited law school who exemplifies ethical and professional conduct, demonstrates excellence in scholarship, teaching or community service, and has made a significant contribution to promoting public understanding of criminal justice, justice and fairness in the criminal justice system, or best practices on the part of lawyers and judges. Once again, Annino was recognized at the national level for his many contributions to the law school and impactful advocacy on behalf of Florida's children.

Clinical Professor Carla Laroche nominated Annino for this prestigious award. In her nomination letter, Professor Laroche wrote, "Paolo not only seeks to protect children's rights, but teaches law students how to be better lawyers. Future and current law students aspire to be taught by Paolo because of his mentorship, his trust in their abilities, and his passion for social justice. During their conversations, their in-class and in-court lessons, and their readings, students learn how to represent clients effectively and responsibly."

Alumni Bruce Blackwell ('75), Ashley Hamill ('18) and Haley Van Erem ('13) also provided letters in support of the nomination.

## Faculty Ranked Nation's 29th Best for Scholarly Impact

A 2018 study has ranked the FSU Law faculty first in Florida and 29th nationally in terms of scholarly impact. We were the only Florida law school ranked among the nation's top 50 schools and moved up 10 spots from the previous list released in 2015.

The 2018 study ranks the scholarly impact of law faculties at schools in the top third of all ABA-accredited law schools. Originally developed by Professor Brian Leiter of the University of Chicago Law School, the "scholarly impact score" for a law faculty is calculated utilizing the mean and the median of total law journal citations over the past five years for tenured faculty members.

"Impactful scholarship increases the visibility of our school and faculty, career prospects for our students and the value of an FSU law degree," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "It is an honor to work with such dedicated, influential colleagues."

# Welcome Reception for New Florida Supreme Court Justices

In March, we hosted a welcome reception at the law school for our three newest Florida Supreme Court justices: Justice Barbara Lagoa, Justice Robert J. Luck and Justice Carlos G. Muñiz. It was our honor to welcome them to Tallahassee and to FSU Law for the first time. Chief Justice Charles Canady and Justices Jorge Labarga, Alan Lawson ('87) and Ricky Polston ('87) also attended the event, where the full court mingled with students, alumni and professors. The reception was a wonderful opportunity to have all seven justices of the Florida Supreme Court assembled together at FSU Law. Justices enrich our community by speaking and teaching at the law school, and attending events with our students and alumni. They also regularly hire our students and graduates for externships and clerkships.



Justice Barbara Lagoa talks with students.



(L-R) Dean Erin O'Connor, Justice Carlos Muñiz, Justice Barbara Lagoa, Justice Robert Luck and FSU President John Thrasher (Dec. '72)

# Benavides Honored with Professionalism Award



Nancy Benavides

Associate Dean for Student Advancement Nancy Benavides has been named by The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism and Standing Committee on Professionalism as the 2019 Law Faculty/Administrator Professionalism Award winner. The honor is bestowed annually on "a faculty member or administrator of one of Florida's law schools who through teaching, scholarship and service to the profession, best supports or exemplifies the mission of the Standing Committee on Professionalism."

Among the many reasons Benavides is so deserving of this award are her successful leadership of our Summer for Undergraduates Program and her efforts to help other schools create similar law school diversity programs, her engagement in numerous legal organizations and committees that seek to increase professionalism, and her development of our robust Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program that is enriching the student experience and preparing students to be successful professionals. The award nomination was prepared by Dean Emeritus Donald J. Weidner and the following alumni submitted supporting letters: Sean T. Desmond ('00), Melanie S. Griffin ('06), Wayne Hogan ('72), Judge Stephanie W. Ray ('95) and David Varet ('12). "I have known Dean Benavides for over 15 years, and I can attest to her demonstrated commitment to promoting the ideals of character, competence, commitment and civility in the legal profession," Judge Ray wrote in her letter of support. "She has spent countless hours developing and implementing innovative programs at the law school that prioritize professionalism as an essential component of legal education and practice. These programs instill the ideals of professionalism in the next generation of lawyers as expectations of the profession, not simply aspirational goals."

one who really needed it, are most meaningful. Family is very important to Christaldi. His inspirational parents instilled in him the values of hard work and dedication, which Christaldi is now passing on to his three children: Michael (14), Joe (12) and Juliet (9). The family enjoys staying active and traveling. "There's not a lot of sitting around," joked Christaldi. "We love to go to the beach. My daughter plays softball and my oldest son plays baseball. We travel a lot. We've been to lots of major cities in the U.S. and to Italy, and we try to go skiing once a year in the Rockies. We try to get to the mountains in North Carolina once or twice a year. There is a shore town in New Jersey that I grew up going to, so we try to make a pilgrimage once a year, mainly for the pizza and the amusement rides." In keeping with his passion for the arts, Christaldi – a past chair for the Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and Arts – aims to expose his children to a wide variety of artistic and cultural events. They regularly visit museums and attend Broadway plays. During their trip to Italy in 2017, the family had the good fortune of being in Venice during Biennale, a gigantic modern art festival for which Christaldi was a sponsor. Christaldi cherished providing his children with the opportunity to see the exhibit he sponsored and to meet the artist, Jesse Jones. "It was such an extraordinary experience to hear the artist with my kids," said Christaldi about discussing the exhibit over lunch. "I was watching them talk and thinking, this is cool, this is what art was meant to be. Kids come about it in such a fresh, raw way. I think I got more out of that discussion than any other part of the trip." Although he is dedicated to service and creating a more vibrant Tampa Bay community, Christaldi describes his kids as his purpose. Whether they are in Tampa or thousands of miles away, Christaldi is at home whenever he is with them. ■

## "Christaldi," continued from page 13

one who really needed it, are most meaningful.

Family is very important to Christaldi. His inspirational parents instilled in him the values of hard work and dedication, which Christaldi is now passing on to his three children: Michael (14), Joe (12) and Juliet (9). The family enjoys staying active and traveling.

"There's not a lot of sitting around," joked Christaldi. "We love to go to the beach. My daughter plays softball and my oldest son plays baseball. We travel a lot. We've been to lots of major cities in the U.S. and to Italy, and we try to go skiing once a year in the Rockies. We try to get to the mountains in North Carolina once or twice a year. There is a shore town in New Jersey that I grew up going to, so we try to make a pilgrimage once a year, mainly for the pizza and the amusement rides."

In keeping with his passion for the arts, Christaldi – a past chair for the Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and Arts – aims to expose his children to a wide variety of artistic and cultural events. They regularly visit museums and attend Broadway plays. During their trip to Italy in 2017, the family had the good fortune of being in Venice during Biennale, a gigantic modern art festival for which Christaldi was a sponsor. Christaldi cherished providing his children with the opportunity to see the exhibit he sponsored and to meet the artist, Jesse Jones.

"It was such an extraordinary experience to hear the artist with my kids," said Christaldi about discussing the exhibit over lunch. "I was watching them talk and thinking, this is cool, this is what art was meant to be. Kids come about it in such a fresh, raw way. I think I got more out of that discussion than any other part of the trip."

Although he is dedicated to service and creating a more vibrant Tampa Bay community, Christaldi describes his kids as his purpose. Whether they are in Tampa or thousands of miles away, Christaldi is at home whenever he is with them. ■

# Weidner Receives 2019 MLK Distinguished Service Faculty Award

(L-R) Joedrecka Brown Speights, the 2018 faculty award recipient, presents the 2019 MLK Distinguished Service Faculty Award to Don Weidner.



This January, Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Donald J. Weidner received the university's 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Faculty Award, which recognizes excellence and service in keeping with the principles and ideals of Dr. King. Weidner was selected after dedicating much of his career to the diversification of the legal field. As his nominators detailed in their letters of recommendation, Weidner has a profound and passionate commitment

to equality and diversity.

Alumnus Wayne Hogan ('72) cited Weidner's creation, development and sustainment of our summer program for undergraduate students, which has allowed more than 1,250 program alumni to explore and prepare for law school and legal careers. Now named in Weidner's honor, the program is the oldest and largest law school pipeline program in the nation. It was designed by Weidner to increase access to legal education for students traditionally

underrepresented in law school and has provided opportunities to hundreds of minority students, many of whom have gone on to law school and launched very successful legal careers.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Weidner's vision, leadership and commitment to this program have been important driving forces behind the advances in diversity so far achieved in our profession," said Dean Erin O'Connor.

FSU Law's John W. and Ashley E. Frost Professor Nat Stern, in nominating Weidner, provided several additional examples of Weidner's commitment to equality and diversity, including vigorous efforts to increase minority representation in the student body and faculty, increasing the involvement of minority alumni in the life of the law school, hosting guests and speakers who embodied the ideals of diversity and equality, and selecting diverse administrators during his time as dean. As dean, Weidner also was strongly committed to eliminating any disparity in student success and career outcomes based on race or ethnicity.

## Online J.M. Program Continues to Grow



J.M. students with Dean O'Connor during FSU Law's Law and Risk Management course over spring break

At commencement this May, we are honoring our first graduating class of students in the Florida State University Online Juris Master Program. There are 31 online J.M. students eligible to graduate in the spring or summer of 2019, including 14 students in the financial regulation and compliance concentration, 10 in the legal risk management and HR compliance concentration, and seven in the health care regulation concentration. The J.M. student body is very diverse. Students range in age from 25 to 65, and their years of professional experience range from just a few years to more than 20 years. 51.61% of online J.M. students identify as something other than Caucasian/white.

The FSU College of Law online J.M. program is a 30-credit-hour master's degree program in law that can be completed on a part-time basis, entirely online. Students in the program gain a strong foundation in regulatory compliance and legal risk management, and based on their specific career needs and goals, they choose one of three concentrations.

The College of Law currently offers more than 30 courses through the J.M. program and is continuing to add more. The J.M. curriculum is designed for professionals who regularly work with statutes and regulations. Students begin their studies by taking foundational courses in Contracts, Torts, Legislation and Regulation, Legal Studies and Research, and Regulatory Compliance. Beyond those requirements, students may personalize their curriculum within their chosen concentration. Each concentration has a menu of advanced course offerings to afford students a multi-faceted understanding of the laws impacting those areas.

"The program has set the bar and 'gold standard' for those seeking the challenge of a master's-level program that brings practical relevance to the complex realities of banking," said recent graduate Diana Perez, a business banking manager at U.S. Century Bank. "I valued being able to apply the knowledge gained to real-life situations and highly recommend the program."

## Pave the Way Campaign for Student Scholarships



Thanks to the generous support of many alumni and friends, we have raised more than \$1.1 million for student scholarships through our Pave the Way Campaign. Reaching this milestone puts us well on our way toward our \$2 million campaign goal. More importantly, we now have much-needed, additional funds to help recruit the best and brightest students to FSU Law. Contributions to the campaign make a significant difference for our students by reducing their burden of debt, opening opportunities to work in public interest and giving them the ability to participate in co-curricular and clinical programs. Investment in scholarships also provides legal education to students from underrepresented groups, first-generation lawyers and those with financial obstacles. Many students would not be able to attend FSU Law without scholarship assistance.

Thank you again to everyone who has already given to the campaign. If you have not yet contributed, please consider making a gift that will truly change lives. You can watch a short video about the impact of giving at [law.fsu.edu/pavetheway](http://law.fsu.edu/pavetheway). We need you – our FSU Law community – to help pave the way for the next generation of FSU Law students.

# HOMECOMING 2

FSU Law's 2018 Homecoming Weekend festivities began Friday, October 19, with a reunion reception for all alumni at the home of Dean Erin O'Connor and her husband Michael. During the reception, we honored our 2018 Alumni Award recipients. Bob Kerrigan ('71) received the Distinguished Alum Award, which recognizes a College of Law graduate who is distinguished professionally and who has rendered outstanding service to the community as well as to the College of Law. Carol Gregg ('74) was recognized with the Alumni Association Service Award, given to an FSU Law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the College of Law over an extended period of time. The Class of '66 Award was given posthumously to Professor Elwin Griffith and accepted by his wife Joyce and daughter Traci. This award recognizes a non-FSU Law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to our law school and to the community. Each recipient is inducted into the Class of 1966 to commemorate the FSU College of Law's first year. Finally, Kris Knab ('78) was honored posthumously with the inaugural Exemplary Public Service Career Award, recognizing an FSU Law graduate who has dedicated their career to public service and who has demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, humility and professionalism, as well as the highest regard for ethics. The award was accepted by Knab's children Erin and Nathan Kenney and her partner Doug Mann. An oil portrait of Knab was also presented at the reception. It is now displayed at the law school.

On Saturday, October 20, we invited all alumni to our Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, followed by the Law Alumni Tailgate Party on the law school's James Harold Thompson Green prior to the FSU v. Wake Forest football game. The 'Noles won the game 38-17!



(L-R) 2018 award recipients Nathan Kenney, Doug Mann and Erin Kenney, accepting on behalf of Kris Knab ('78); Traci Griffith and Joyce Griffith, accepting on behalf of Elwin Griffith; Carol Gregg ('74); Dean Erin O'Connor and Bob Kerrigan ('71).



(L-R) Hugh Bowen, Anne-Marie L. Bowen ('87) and Alexander Bowen ('19) at the tailgate.



# 018



(LEFT L-R) Candace McKibben, Judge R. Bruce McKibben ('84), Marguerita Coon, Judge Tim Coon ('78) and Judge Errol Powell ('79) at the Homecoming reception.

(MIDDLE LEFT L-R) Dean Glenda Thornton ('89), Ray Mazzie ('18) and Kevin McGavock ('17) at the reception.

(MIDDLE RIGHT L-R) Emily Baumann, Jett Baumann ('15), Byron "Trey" Wright ('15), Jerod Rigoni ('15) and Michelle Rigoni ('16) at the tailgate.



(L-R) Alex Anderson ('11), Rex Anderson and Crystal Anderson ('10) at the Homecoming tailgate.

(L-R) Brice Aikens ('06), Tammy Briant Spratling, Kareem Spratling ('06), Erik Sayler ('06), Jana Sayler and their children at the alumni tailgate party.

# FEATURED ALUMNI



**EUGENE E. STEARNS ('72)** was honored as a Grad Made Good at the annual Florida State University Homecoming Awards Breakfast in October. The award recognizes alumni who have made a significant difference through outstanding success in their chosen fields. Stearns is a shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. in Miami, where he serves as chairman of the firm's board of directors and chairman of the litigation department.



**MATTHEW D. KISSNER ('11)** received the On the Rise Award as part of the *Daily Business Review's* annual Professional

Excellence Awards. The award is given to attorneys under 40 years of age who have shown expertise in their practice areas while committing to community involvement. Kissner is a corporate and business transactions associate at Broad and Cassel LLP in West Palm Beach.



**C. H. HUNTER, III ('78)**, of Hill Ward Henderson in Tampa, has been named the 2018 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Florida Chapters American Board of Trial

Advocates (FLABOTA). He was presented with the award at the 21st Annual FLABOTA Conference in July. Hunter was honored for his excellent advocacy, distinguished career, superb reputation of high ethics and fair play, and participation in outstanding results. His practice emphasizes the defense of medical negligence cases, as well as legal professional liability, sexual abuse, and drug and medical device litigation.



**ROBYN BLANK JACKSON ('06)** was selected as the chief compliance and ethics officer at FSU. She has served as FSU's associate general counsel since 2011 and started her new position in March 2018.



**HALA A. SANDRIDGE ('84)**

took office as president-elect of The Florida Bar Foundation on July 1, 2018. She is co-managing shareholder of the Tampa office at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC.



**SALESIA V. SMITH-GORDON, R.PH. ('92)** was honored at the Illumination Awards Luncheon hosted by Northwest Community Consortium, Inc. on April 5, 2018 in West Palm Beach. She was recognized for her contributions to the Northwest community of West Palm Beach and the community at large. She also appeared on the cover of *Legacy* magazine as one of South Florida's Most Influential & Prominent Black Women in Business and Industry of 2018. Smith-Gordon is the founder of the Law Offices of Salesia Smith-Gordon in West Palm Beach.

**ROGER N. BEAUBIEN ('12)** now serves as director of cabinet affairs under Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. He served in DeSantis' transition as the intergovernmental affairs liaison, a role he also held during the DeSantis-Nuñez campaign. Prior to his campaign role,





**THE HONORABLE STEVEN LEIFMAN ('87)**, an associate administrative judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, received the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation in New York. The annual award prize recognizes individuals or organizations that are making a profound and lasting impact in advancing the understanding of mental health and improving the lives of people with mental illness and addiction disorders.



**GEORGE E. TRAGOS ('74)** received the Jack Edmund Award for Excellence and Civility in Criminal Law from the Tampa Bay Goldberg Cacciatore Inns of Court.

The award was established to recognize an attorney in the Tampa Bay area who has exhibited, both inside and outside of the courtroom, an exceptional legal knowledge and ability in criminal law, as well as professionalism and civility to his adversaries and the judiciary. Tragos is the managing partner of the Law Firm of Tragos, Sartes & Tragos, PLLC with offices in Clearwater, Tampa and St. Petersburg.

**LISA R. VICKERS ('90)** now serves as chief of staff to Florida Senate President Bill Galvano. Vickers previously served as a senior policy advisor to Senate President Joe Negron.

**KIRA ROMERO-CRAFT ('06)** was selected as a 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month honoree by U.S. Congressman Darren Soto. The honor recognizes nine individuals in Central Florida for their invaluable contributions to the community. Romero-Craft is the managing attorney of the Southeast Regional Office of LatinoJustice PRLDEF in Orlando.

**KENNETH E. LAWSON ('91)** now serves as executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. He was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis. Lawson previously served as president and chief executive officer of VISIT FLORIDA.



**GARY D. BEATTY ('86)** received the Norm Wolfinger Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the

improvement of justice and civil rights. Beatty retired in the summer of 2017 after an accomplished 30-year career in the Brevard County State Attorney's Office. He was the prosecutor in more than 150 jury trials and is widely recognized to be an expert in search and seizure law.



**MARK E. KAPLAN ('92)** was named vice president of government and community relations at the University of Florida. He started his new role in June

2018. Kaplan also was appointed to the board of Port Tampa Bay.



**TERRY E. LEWIS ('79)** was named the 2019 Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year in West Palm Beach by *Best Lawyers in America*. He also was named one of the 2019 Best Lawyers in America in the area of environmental litigation. He is a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. in West Palm Beach.



**MELISSA N. VANSICKLE ('02)**, partner at Broad and Cassel LLP in Tallahassee, has been elected to the executive committee of The Florida Bar Board of Governors. VanSickle represents buyers and sellers in all aspects of the sale and acquisition of commercial property, and developers in commercial and residential projects. She also serves as an adjunct professor at FSU Law.



**SEAN A. PITTMAN ('94)** was installed as the Orange Bowl Committee's 80th president and chair in January 2018. In this role, he appeared on national television during the 2018 College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Capitol One Orange Bowl. He has been a member of the Orange Bowl Committee since 2005. Pittman is the senior partner and chief executive officer at Pittman Law Group, P.L., with offices in Miami, Riviera Beach and Tallahassee. The firm specializes in the areas of government, administrative and corporate law.

**THE HONORABLE HEATHER D. PINDER RODRIGUEZ ('98)**, of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, received the 2019 Inspire Award from the Florida State University Alumni Association in March. The award recognizes alumnae who have distinguished themselves as leaders within their industry and whose hard work and determination serves as an inspiration to current students and young alumni of Florida State University.



**ANDREW GUTIERREZ ('12)** has joined NBCUniversal Media, LLC as counsel for business and legal affairs. He oversees the company's marketing, corporate affairs and communications, public relations, and sourcing departments as counsel. Gutierrez joined NBCUniversal after five years at Stone, Glass & Connolly, LLP in Miami.



**MICHELLE J. DENNARD ('04)** has been selected to receive the 40 Under 40 Award in economic development, the only award of its kind recognizing young talent among economic development professionals. She was one of 40 leaders chosen internationally from among more than 170 qualified nominees. Dennard is president and CEO at CareerSource Florida.



**E. ASHLEY HARDEE ('95)** was named the Justice Teaching John F. Harkness, Jr. Volunteer of the Year at The Florida Bar Convention in June. She is a senior trial court staff attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.

**ROBIN HASSLER THOMPSON ('84)** received the Rosemary Barkett Outstanding Achievement Award from the Florida Association for Women Lawyers in June. She is the president of Robin H. Thompson & Associates in Tallahassee.

**CARLOS TRUJILLO ('07)** was confirmed by the United States Senate on March 22, 2018, and is now the official U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States.



**MELANIE S. GRIFFIN ('06)**, of Dean Mead in Tampa, received The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Outstanding Woman Lawyer of Achievement Award in June at The Florida Bar Convention. She is the founder of Spread Your Sunshine, which empowers females to break the glass ceiling and achieve their dreams.

**GORDON C. MURRAY, II ('12)** was named Volunteer of the Year by the *Tallahassee Democrat* in May 2018. The honor recognizes local volunteers who have "poured selfless service into the capital city's community to make it a better place." Murray is special counsel and director of membership for the Florida Justice Association, and the president and founder of the Innovative Community Engagement Foundation.



**BENJAMIN J. GIBSON ('08)**, of Shutts & Bowen LLP in Tallahassee, was named general counsel to Florida Governor-elect Ron DeSantis' transition team. He also was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission for a four-year term ending on July 1, 2022. Gibson's practice focuses on government, political and corporate clients, representing them in government affairs, appellate, litigation and administrative matters.



**SEAN M. ELLIS ('02)** has been elected to serve as president of the Southwest Florida Real Estate Council. He is a partner at Roetzel & Andress in their Fort Myers and Naples offices. Ellis focuses his practice on condominium and community association law, and real estate law.

**BENJAMIN A. ODOM ('04)** was promoted to vice president, ISC Legal and deputy general counsel at International Speedway Corporation. As vice president, he leads the company's legal department on all legal matters, including contract drafting and review, litigation and regulatory compliance.

## ANNUAL FUND

Please help us reach our goal of 31 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by **JUNE 30** to: Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601. You can also give online at [give.fsu.edu/law](http://give.fsu.edu/law). If you have any questions about giving to this year's Annual Fund, contact Becky Shepherd at 850.644.0231 or [rshepher@law.fsu.edu](mailto:rshepher@law.fsu.edu). Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and the College of Law!



**THOMAS M. GONZALEZ ('75)**, a partner at Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing, P.A. in Tampa, received the 2018 Hillsborough County Bar Association Outstanding Lawyer Award in January. The award recognizes an attorney who has made a significant difference in the practice of law and the community due to personal and professional ethics and conduct. Gonzalez practices in the areas of labor relations, equal opportunity law, wage and hour law, and all employment and personnel related matters.

**DANE W. NORMAN ('11)** became deputy chief of staff at the Office of Trade at U.S. Customs and Border Protection in April 2018.



**TRAVIS A. VOYLES ('17)** is now the director of oversight at the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency. He manages all oversight matters within Congress, including Congressional hearings, briefings and investigations.

**DAVID J. GILLIS ('09)**, of The Law Offices of David J. Gillis, PA in Fort Lauderdale, represented a client charged with a crime who was acquitted at trial. The client had no criminal record and Gillis applied for an expunction. While applying, Gillis learned that expunction of a criminal record was only available if the case was dismissed by the prosecution prior to trial, not upon acquittal by a judge or jury. In response to his research, Gillis approached the Florida House of Representatives to initiate a bill to amend the statute to make those acquitted at trial eligible for expunction. The bill passed the House and the Senate unanimously, and was signed into law, effective October 1, 2018.

# CLASS NOTES

Congratulations to the following alumni on their accomplishments during the past year! To view the full notes and more recent alumni news, visit [law.fsu.edu/classnotes](http://law.fsu.edu/classnotes).

## 1969

John E. Roberts

## 1971

Carl P. McDonald

## 1972

Peter M. Dunbar  
Eugene E. Stearns

## 1974

Joseph R. Boyd  
Stann W. Givens  
Edwin J. Stacker  
George E. Tragos

## 1975

Thomas M. Gonzalez  
The Honorable Claudia R. Isom

## 1977

Robert S. Goldman  
The Honorable Jose R. Rodriguez

## 1978

C. H. Hunter, III

## 1979

James L. Bacchus  
Terry E. Lewis  
Alaine S. Williams

## 1980

David A. Yon

## 1983

Larry E. Metz  
Cari L. Roth  
Thomas P. Scarritt, Jr.

## 1984

The Honorable Rodney B. McKibben, Jr.  
Hala A. Sandridge  
Jeffrey A. Stoops  
Robin Hassler Thompson

## 1985

Mark E. Holcomb  
James M. O'Brien  
Wayne M. Pathman  
Kevin W. Wood

## 1986

Gary D. Beatty  
Jane B. Ohlin

## 1987

Lawrence M. Korn  
The Honorable Steven Leifman

## 1988

Jose J. Arrojo  
Michael W. Jackson  
Dawn P. Whitehurst

## 1990

Susan Tillotson Bunch  
Samuel P. Queirolo  
Lisa R. Vickers

## 1991

Ramon de la Cabada  
Kenneth E. Lawson

## 1992

Donna E. Blanton  
Mason C. Hall  
Mark D. Hobson  
Mark E. Kaplan  
Salesia V. Smith-Gordon, R.Ph.

## 1993

The Honorable Wendy L. Berger  
Michael Shelley

## 1994

Marc W. Dunbar  
Travis L. Miller  
Sean A. Pittman  
Sten T. Sliger  
Dena H. Sokolow

## 1995

Benjamin L. Crump  
E. Ashley Hardee  
Marlon A. Hill  
Jeanne M. Miller  
Raykel E. Tolson  
The Honorable T.K. Wetherell  
Tina Willis

## 1996

Bert L. Combs  
Jorge A. Mestre  
Jorge L. Piedra

## 1997

James W. Seegers

## 1998

Susan S. Bloodworth  
The Honorable Heather D. Pinder  
Rodriguez

## 1999

Earnest A. DeLoach, Jr.  
Shannon L. Novey  
Kenneth D. Pratt

## 2001

Autumn Beck Blackledge  
Elmer C. Ignacio  
Michael A. Sjuggerud

## 2002

Jeanne B. Curtin  
Sean M. Ellis  
Vinette D. Godelia  
Marc A. Huling  
The Honorable Carlos E. Moore  
Adam C. Sabocik  
Melissa N. VanSickle

## 2003

Christian M. Givens  
Marion D. "Drew" Parker  
Gigi Rollini  
Sarah E. Spector

## 2004

Michelle J. Dennard  
Janeia R. Ingram  
Benjamin A. Odom

## 2005

David W. Childs  
Christopher J. Kest

## 2006

Arielle Demby-Berger  
Melanie S. Griffin  
Robyn S. Jackson  
Justin Keen  
Kira Romero-Craft  
Amelia A. Savage  
Eileen M. Stuart  
F. Joseph Ullo

## 2007

Jeffrey L. Burns  
Sara F. Davis  
Mohammad Sherif  
Carlos Trujillo

**2008**

Benjamin J. Gibson  
 Jared M. Lee  
 Eric L. Reichenberger  
 Daniel R. Russell

**2009**

Shane T. Costello  
 David J. Gillis  
 Alyssa S. Lathrop  
 Adam J. Richardson  
 Jonathan M. Sykes  
 Jeffrey J. Wilcox

**2010**

Crystal D. Anderson  
 Faudia “Anisah” Bacchus  
 Nicolette L. Bidarian  
 Jacob T. Cremer  
 Andrew G. Fay  
 Brian T. Guthrie  
 Laura Westerman Tanner

**2011**

Alexander J. Anderson  
 Megan Fay  
 Matthew D. Kissner  
 Melanie R. Leitman  
 Dane W. Norman

**2012**

Roger N. Beaubien  
 Ryan D. Chesnut  
 Andrew Gutierrez  
 Brett G. Mereness  
 Jacquelyn A. Mereness  
 Gordon C. Murray, Jr.  
 Alexandra H. Palermo  
 Erin M. Van De Walle

**2013**

Erika J. Barger  
 Douglas H. Dean  
 Nelson A. Faerber, III  
 Gregory A. Gidus  
 Aaron R. Gott  
 Adrian A. Lukis  
 Kimberley F. Wells

**2014**

Modoline Altendor  
 Matthew D. MacNamara  
 Alan C. Martin  
 Jacob S. Slotin

**2015**

Benjamin W. Buck Jr.  
 Grant R. Dostie  
 Scott J. Kalish  
 Kayla E. Platt Rady  
 Austin S. Turner

**2017**

Robert S. Byther  
 Tabitha R. Herrera  
 Amanda Qadri  
 Travis A. Voyles

**2018**

Daniel Buchholz  
 Julianne M. Ference  
 Tawanna R. Franklin  
 Brandon Holmes  
 Raymond Jack

**In Memorium**

Thomas A. Beenck ('74)  
 Steven W. Johnson ('79)  
 Kristine “Kris” E. Knab ('78)  
 Albert C. Penson ('81)  
 Mark C. Reid ('00)  
 George H. Sheldon ('79)

# CLASS NOTES ARE ONLINE!

“Class Notes” are now being published exclusively online at [law.fsu.edu/classnotes/](http://law.fsu.edu/classnotes/). You can browse notes by class year as often as you would like – notes will be published within a few weeks of when they are submitted. Photos will also be published with the notes if they are provided. We hope you enjoy the new online notes, which allow us to share your news more quickly!

If you have anything that you would like to include in “Class Notes,” please submit a note using our online form at [law.fsu.edu/alumni/submit-class-note](http://law.fsu.edu/alumni/submit-class-note). You can also share information by emailing [rshepher@law.fsu.edu](mailto:rshepher@law.fsu.edu) or mailing:

**FSU College of Law, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601**



# FACULTY NOTES

**Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of *Florida State Law*.**

## Frederick M. Abbott

EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR  
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



**Book:** INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN AN INTEGRATED WORLD ECONOMY (with Thomas Cottier

& Francis Gurry) (4th ed., Kluwer/Aspen Publishers 2019). **Chapters:** *Public-Private Partnership as Model for New Drug R&D: the future as now*, in THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GOVERNANCE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (M. Chon, P. Roffé & A. Abdel-Latif, editors) (Cambridge University Press 2018); *Health and intellectual property rights*, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON GLOBAL HEALTH LAW (G-L Burci & B. Toebes, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018). **Articles:** *The UK Competition Appeal Tribunal's Misguided Reprieve for Pfizer's Excessive Pricing Abuse*, 49 IIC-INT'L REV. INTELL. PROP. & COMPETITION L. 845 (2018); *Let International Competition Negotiations Sleep a While Longer: Focus on Tools and Capacity*, 49 IIC-INT'L REV. INTELL. PROP. & COMPETITION L. 259 (2018); *Book Review of* INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND

CLIMATE CHANGE: INTERPRETING THE TRIPS AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES by Wei Zhuang, 21 J. INT'L ECON. L. 233 (2018). **Committee Report:** *Second Report of the Global Health Law Committee* prepared for the International Law Association 2018 Sydney Biennial Conference, (2018) (Contributor and editor). **Presentations:** *Intellectual property and public health: current challenges for the balance between innovation and access* (Xiamen, China, WTO and China Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Summit on Global Trade, Technology Innovation, Intellectual Property and Development, October 2018); *IP, Trade and Development* (Xiamen, China, WTO and China Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Summit on Global Trade, Technology Innovation, Intellectual Property and Development, October 2018); *NAFTA 2.0 and Related Trade and Investment Developments with Implications for the Pharmaceutical Sector in Mexico* (Mexico City, Mexico, ANIFAM Workshop, October 2018); *Developments and Trends in Competition Law and Practice* (Washington, D.C., 5th Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest, Session on Using Competition Law to Promote Access to Medicines and Other Health Technologies, September 2018); *Reflecting on the WTO Tobacco Plain Packaging Panel Report* (Sydney, Australia, 2018 Bien-

nial Conference of the International Law Association, Panel Chair, August 2018) (Sydney, Australia, ILA Global Health Law Committee Working Session, Panel Co-Chair, August 2018); *US Section 301, China and Technology Transfer: everything old is new again? [or: Law and Its Limitations Revisited (Again)]* (Durham, North Carolina, Duke University School of Law, Seventh International Intellectual Property Roundtable, April 2018).

## Paolo Annino

GLASS PROFESSOR OF  
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW



**Presentation:** *Direct File of Juveniles* (Tampa, Florida Bar Criminal Justice Summit, Panel Moderator, October 2018).

## Robert E. Atkinson, Jr.

GREENSPOON MARDER PROFESSOR



**Chapter:** *A Primer on the Neo-Classical Republican Theory of the Nonprofit Sector (And the Other Three Sectors, Too)*, in RESEARCH

HANDBOOK ON NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (Matthew Harding, editor) (Elgar 2018). **Presentations:** *For-Profit Managers as Public Fiduciaries: A Neo-Classical Republican Perspective* (Melbourne, Aus-

tralia, University of Melbourne, Faculty of Law Conference on Fiduciaries and Trust, December 2018); *The Western Clergy as the Prototypical Profession: From First to Last – And Back?* (Melbourne, Australia, University of Melbourne, Faculty of Law International Legal Ethics Conference VIII, December 2018).

### Shawn J. Bayern

LARRY AND JOYCE BELTZ  
PROFESSOR OF TORTS



**Chapter:** *Artificial Intelligence and Private Law*, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON LAW AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(Woodrow Barfield & Ugo Pagallo, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018).

**Article:** *Methodological Failures in Leading American Economic Analyses of the Private Law*, 5 CRITICAL ANALYSIS L. 19 (2018). **Presentations:** *Discussant* (Evanston, Illinois, Northwestern University, Second Annual Junior Faculty Forum for Law and STEM, September 2018); *Should Robots and Artificial Intelligence Become Persons?* (Dufourstrasse, Switzerland, University of St. Gallen, Public Debate, Participant, April 2018).

### Courtney Cahill

DONALD HINKLE PROFESSOR



**Article:** *After Sex*, 97 NEB. L. REV. 1 (2018).

### Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte

PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *Discussion with Experts Featuring Nadine Strossen, former ACLU President* (Tallahassee, The Dorothy and Jona-

than Rintels Professorship for Holocaust and Related Studies, FSU Department of History, Moderator, November 2018); *Panelist* (Tallahassee, Constitutional Review Commission Event, November 2018); *The Role of Civility and Compromise in the Political Process Panel* (Tallahassee, FSU Joe Cresse Ethics in Government Lecture Series, October 2018); *Forty Years of the Constitutional Revision Commission Panel* (Tallahassee, Florida’s Historic Capitol, August 2018); *Welcome Speech* (Ponte Vedra, 11th Circuit Judicial Conference, May 2018).

### Marcella David

BETTY T. FERGUSON VISITING PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *Understanding the Legal Framework for Discussing Diversity* (Tallahassee, FSU Multicultural Leadership

Summit, January 2019); *So you Want to be an Academic Administrator: the Challenges of and Opportunities for Transformative Leadership in Today’s Academies* (Coralville, Iowa, The Way Up XXXII Conference, November 2018); *From Truman to Trump: The United Nations, Positivism and Populism* (Madison, Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin Law School, October 2018).

### Avlana K. Eisenberg

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *The New Prison Philanthropy* (Portland, Maine, University of Maine Law School, Faculty Workshop,

November 2018); *New Movements for Bail Reform* (Nashville, Tennessee, Vanderbilt University Law School, George Barrett Social Justice Program Conference, Panelist, October 2018); *The Prisoner and the Polity* (Orange, California, Chapman University School of Law, Junior Faculty Works-in-Progress Conference, September 2018); *Funding Prison Reform* (New York, New York, CrimFest, Criminal Law & Procedure Faculty Conference, July 2018); *The Prison-Educational Complex* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard Law School, Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum, June 2018).

### Shi-Ling Hsu

D’ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR AND  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROGRAMS



**Presentations:** *Inequality in a Climate-Changed Future* (San Diego, California, American Bar Association Sec-

tion for Environment, Energy and Resources Professors’ Workshop, October 2018); *A Climate Resources Trust* (Washington, D.C., Georgetown Law School, Celebrating Commons Scholarship, Plenary Address, October 2018) (Phoenix, Arizona, Arizona State

University, Sustainability Conference for American Legal Educators, May 2018); *Economic and Environmental Inequality* (South Royalton, Vermont, Vermont Law School, July 2018) (Victoria, Canada, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Annual Meeting, July 2018) (Chicago, Illinois, Society for Environmental Law and Economics Annual Meeting, June 2018); *A Game-Theoretic Model for Cooperation in Law Faculties* (Boston, Massachusetts, American Law and Economics Annual Meeting, May 2018).

### Steve R. Johnson

DUNBAR FAMILY PROFESSOR



**Article:** *Seminole Rock in Tax Cases*, 36 YALE J. ON REG.: NOTICE & COMMENT (December 10, 2018). **Presentations:** *Do Trends in*

*Multinational Income Tax Administration Offer Lessons for U.S. Multistate Income Tax Administration?* (Orlando, 2017 State Income Tax National Symposium, Institute for Professionals in Taxation, Keynote Speaker, January 2019); *Business Planning and Tax Consequences Based on Your Business Entity Choice* (Tallahassee, Entrepreneurship Day Conference, November 2018); *Correcting Capital Account Mistakes and Errors on Partnership Returns* (Strafford Continuing Professional Education National Webinar, Panelist, May 2018); *Wisconsin Central Ltd. v. United States* (Bloomberg Tax Daily Tax Report, Podcast, Commentator, September 2018); *Marinello v. United States* (Bloomberg Tax Daily Tax Report, Podcast, Commentator, September 2018).

### Jeffrey H. Kahn

HARRY W. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *GoTaxMe: Crowdfunding and Gifts*, 22 FLA. TAX REV. 180 (2018); *The Misfortune of the Deduction for Business and Personal Casualty Losses*, 21 FLA. TAX REV. 622 (2018). **Presentation:** *GoTaxMe: Crowdfunding and Gifts* (Gainesville, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Tax Colloquium, October 2018).

### Jay Kesten

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Chapter:** *The Law and Economics of the Going-Public Decision*, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF IPOs (Douglas Cumming & Sofia Johan, editors) (Oxford University Press 2018).

### Lawrence S. Krieger

CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND CO-DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS



**Chapter:** *Being the Happiest, Most Effective Lawyer You Can Be*, in BECOMING THE BEST LAWYER YOU CAN BE (Stewart Levine, editor) (American Bar Association 2018). **Article:** *The Surprising Master Key from the Lawyer Research on Happiness and Satisfaction*, 92-1 THE FLA. BAR J. 16 (2018). **Booklet:** THE HID-

DEN STRESSES OF LAW SCHOOL AND LAW PRACTICE (2018). **Presentations:** *Implementing A Factor Analysis of Wellness in Legal Education* (San Francisco, California, University of California – Hastings, Symposium on Law Student Thriving, January 2019); *Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: A Factor Analysis of Recent Data on Lawyer Well-Being* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2019); *Well-Being and Professionalism Advantage of the Public Service Lawyer* (Tallahassee, Staff Retreat, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, September 2018); *Data-Based Strategies for Attorney Mental Health and Ethics* (Sanibel Island, Workshop for Annual Conference of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys' Association, July 2018); *The New Science of the Thriving Professional Lawyer* (Orlando, President's Showcase, Annual Convention of The Florida Bar, June 2018); *Empirical Foundations for Training Law Students to Thrive as Lawyers – What Do They Need to Know?* (Chicago, Illinois, Association of American Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2018); *What Makes Lawyers Happy, and How to Actualize It in Your Practice* (Santa Rosa Beach, Annual Meeting of the Walton County Bar Association, May 2018).



**David E. Landau**

MASON LADD PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



**Book:** *THE EVOLUTION OF THE SEPARATION OF POWERS* (with David Bilchitz) (Edward Elgar Press 2018).

**Chapters:** *Constitution-Making and Authoritarianism in Venezuela: The First Time as Tragedy, the Second as Farce*, in *CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?* (Mark Tushnet, Sandy Levinson & Mark Graber, editors) (Oxford University Press 2018); *Courts and Support Structures: Beyond the Classic Narrative*, in *COMPARATIVE JUDICIAL REVIEW* (Erin F. Delaney & Rosalind Dixon, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018); *Institutional Failure and Intertemporal Theories of Judicial Role in the Global South*, in *THE EVOLUTION OF THE SEPARATION OF POWERS* (David Bilchitz & David Landau, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018); *Introduction: The Evolution of the Separation of Powers in the Global South and Global North* (co-authored with David Bilchitz), in *THE EVOLUTION OF THE SEPARATION OF POWERS* (David Bilchitz & David Landau, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018); *Socioeconomic Rights and Majoritarian Courts in Latin America*, in *CONSTITUTIONALISM IN THE AMERICAS* (Colin Crawford & Daniel Bonilla Maldonado, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2018). **Articles:** *Constitutional Design, International Law and Vulnerable Insiders: The Victims of Internal Armed Conflict in Colombia*, 57 VA. J. INT'L L. 679 (2018); *Presidential Term*

*Limits in Latin America: Transnational Constitutional Dialogue as a Double-Edged Sword*, 12 L. & ETHICS HUM. RTS. 225 (2018); *Tiered Constitutional Design* (with Rosalind Dixon), 86 GEO. WASH. L. REV. 438 (2018). **Presentations:** *Judicial Review of Peace: The Colombian Constitutional Court and the Colombian Peace Process* (Sydney, Australia, University of New South Wales, Conference on Peace Processes, Federalism and Constitution-Making: Comparative Perspectives on the Complexities of Conflict Resolution and Maintenance, December 2018); *La ruptura del principio de separación de poderes en el Estado constitucional contemporáneo* (Bogota, Colombia, Universidad Externado de Colombia, XIX Jornadas de Derecho Constitucional: ¿El Estado constitucional en jaque?, Opening Conference, October 2018); *Two Track, One Track, No Track: Varying Paths to Enforcing Socioeconomic Rights* (Toronto, Canada, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Remedies for Violation of Human Rights Symposium, September 2018); *Panelist* (Boston, Massachusetts, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Book Roundtable on “The Adventures of the Constituent Power: Beyond Revolutions?” by Andrew Arato, September 2018); *Abusive Judicial Review* (Hong Kong, China, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), Panel on Courts as Democracy Builders in Comparative Perspective, June 2018); *Constitution-Making and Authoritarianism in Venezuela: The First Time as Tragedy, the Second as Farce* (Hong Kong, China, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public

Law (ICON-S), Panel on Democracy in Crisis II, June 2018); *Constitutional Backsliding: Colombia* (Hong Kong, China, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), Panel on Constitutionalism in Context, June 2018); *Panelist* (Hong Kong, China, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), Book Roundtable on “The Alchemists: Questioning our Faith on Courts as Democracy Builders” by Tom Daly, June 2018).

**Carla Laroche**

CLINICAL PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *Delving into Implicit Bias for the Defenders of Justice* (Orlando, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical Uni-

versity College of Law, Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Circuit Implicit Bias Seminar, December 2018); *Women and Incarceration* (Tallahassee, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Third Thursday Lecture/Film Series, November 2018); *Women, Criminal Justice, and Families* (Tallahassee, Tallahassee Community College, Reentry Stakeholders' Symposium, November 2018); *Enhancing Justice by Reducing Implicit Bias: Strategies for Becoming a Bias Disrupter* (Washington, D.C., American Constitution Society National Convention, Moderator, June 2018).

**Jennifer Parker LaVia**

CLINICAL PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *Speaker* (Tallahassee, Florida Supreme Court Commission on Access to Civil Justice, December 2018); *Panelist* (Tallahassee, Florida Supreme Court Commission on Access to Civil Justice, August 2018).

**Tahirih V. Lee**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Chapter:** *By the Light of the Moon: Looking for China's Rich Legal Tradition*, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF LEGAL HISTORY (Markus D. Dubber & Christopher Tomlins, editors) (Oxford University Press 2018). **Presentations:** *Judicial Interpretation of Property Rights in Colonial Shanghai* (Houston, Texas, American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, November 2018) (Maastricht, Netherlands, Maastricht University, Association for Law, Property, and Society, Panel on "Property as Illusion of Permanence and Control: Examples from Revolutionary France, Colonial Shanghai, and Antebellum Territorial United States," May 2018).

**Jake Linford**LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS  
PROFESSOR

**Chapters:** *'Tell the Truth: Truth in Music Advertising Post Tam*, THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF MUSIC LAW AND POLICY (Sean O'Connor, editor) (Oxford University Press 2019); *Democratizing Access to Survey Evidence of Distinctiveness*, in TRADEMARK LAW AND THEORY: REFORM OF TRADEMARK LAW (Graeme Dinwoodie & Mark Janis, editors) (Elgar 2019). **Presentations:** *An Information Theory of Bad Faith Trademark Use* (New Orleans, Louisiana, J. Reuben Clark Law Society Faculty Group Conference, January 2019); *Equity and Intent in Trademark Law* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2019); *Legal Innovation in the Courts* (Lexington, Kentucky, University of Kentucky Law School, October 2018); *An Information Theory of Bad Faith Trademark Use* (Berkeley, California, 18th Annual Intellectual Property Scholars Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law, August 2018); *Commentator* (East Lansing, Michigan, Michigan State University College of Law, 10th Annual Junior Scholars in Intellectual Property Workshop, May 2018); *Participant* (South Bend, Indiana, Notre Dame Law School, Trademark Scholars' Roundtable, April 2018).

**Wayne A. Logan**

GARY &amp; SALLYN PAJCIC PROFESSOR



**Books:** COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION: LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE (with Margaret Love & Jenny Roberts) (3rd ed., Thomson Reuters 2018); CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: THE POST-INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS (with Stanley Adelman et al.) (5th ed., Carolina Academic Press 2018). **Articles:** *Challenging the Punitiveness of "New Generation" SORN Laws*, 21 NEW CRIM. L. REV. 426 (2018); *Fourth Amendment Localism*, 93 IND. L.J. 369 (2018); *Strange Bedfellows at the Supreme Court*, SENTENCING L. & POL'Y BLOG, (2018), [https://sentencing.typepad.com/sentencing\\_law\\_and\\_policy/2018/09/scotus-preview-guest-post-strange-bedfellows-at-the-supreme-court-.html](https://sentencing.typepad.com/sentencing_law_and_policy/2018/09/scotus-preview-guest-post-strange-bedfellows-at-the-supreme-court-.html). **Presentation:** *What the Feds Can Do to Rein in Local Mercenary Criminal Justice* (Champaign, Illinois, University of Illinois College of Law, April 2018).

**David L. Markell**

STEVEN M. GOLDSTEIN PROFESSOR



**Book:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: LAW AND POLICY (with Dan Bodansky, William W. Bushbee, Robert L. Glicksman, Emily Hammond & Daniel R. Mandelker) (8th ed., Aspen Law & Business 2019). **Article:** *Unraveling the Administrative State: Mechanism*

*Choice, Key Actors, and Regulatory Tools* (with Robert L. Glicksman), 36 VA. ENVTL. L.J. 318 (2018).

### Michael T. Morley

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *Election Emergencies: Voting in the Wake of Natural Disasters and Terrorist Attacks*, 67 EMORY L.J. 545 (2018); *Prophylactic*

*Redistricting? Congress's Section 5 Power and the New Equal Protection Right to Vote*, 59 WM. & MARY L. REV. 2053 (2018); *The Disparate Impact Canon*, 166 U. PENN. L. REV. ONLINE 249 (2018).

**Presentations:** *The Legality of Nationwide Injunctions* (Washington, D.C., The Heritage Foundation, Panelist, February 2019); *Voting Rights and Wrongs* (Los Angeles, California, UCLA Hammer Museum, Panelist, January 2019); *Reforming the Electoral College and Adopting a National Popular Vote* (Columbus, Ohio, Ohio State University, Federalist Society Student Chapter, Panelist, November 2018); *Disaggregating Nationwide Injunctions* (Stanford, California, Stanford Law School, Fourth Annual Civil Procedure Workshop, Panelist, November 2018) (Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia, Southeastern Junior-Senior Workshop, October 2018) (Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma, Tenth Annual Junior Federal Courts Workshop, September 2018) (Baltimore, Maryland, American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference, Panel on "Should One Judge Have All This Power," July 2018); *Nationwide Injunctions* (Manhattan,

New York, Federalist Society, New York City Chapter, Panelist, October 2018); *Perspectives on the Right to Bear Arms* (Tallahassee, Florida Government Bar Association, September 2018); *Beyond the Elements: Erie and the Standards for Preliminary and Permanent Injunctions in Diversity Cases* (Akron, Ohio, University of Akron School of Law, Center for Constitutional Law, "Erie at Eighty: Choice of Law Across the Disciplines," September 2018); *Election Emergencies: Voting in the Wake of Natural Disasters and Terrorist Attacks* (Birmingham, Alabama, American Society for Public Administration, Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Panel on Election Administration, September 2018); *Discussion Group on the Revised Discovery Rules in Practice* (Fort Lauderdale, Southeast Association of Law Schools, August 2018); *Reforming Modern Equity* (Fort Lauderdale, Southeast Association of Law Schools, Controversial Remedies Discussion Group, August 2018) (Fort Lauderdale, Southeast Association of Law Schools, Federal Courts/Civil Procedure Works-in-Progress Workshop, August 2018) (Chicago, Illinois, Notre Dame Remedies Roundtable, June 2018); *The Channels of Foreign Interference in American Elections* (Fort Lauderdale, Southeast Association of Law Schools, Panel on Russian Interference on the U.S. Election, August 2018) (Fort Lauderdale, Southeast Association of Law Schools, Voices in Constitutional Law Discussion Group, August 2018); *Participant* (Saint Louis, Missouri, Republican National Lawyers Association, Panel on Public Officials and the First Amendment, August 2018).

### Erin O'Hara O'Connor

DEAN AND MCKENZIE PROFESSOR



**Presentations:** *Cultivating a Rich Scholarly Community* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2019); *Scholarly Rigor and Intellectual Orthodoxy* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Federalist Society Annual Faculty Conference, January 2019); *Why Law Schools Should Offer a Course in Law and Economics* (Arlington, Virginia, George Mason University Antonin Scalia School of Law, June 2018).

### Erin Ryan

ELIZABETH C. & CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *Environmental Law. Disrupted* (with Inara Scott, David Takacs, Rebecca Bratspies, Vanessa Casado Pérez,

Robin Kundis Craig, Keith Hirokawa, Blake Hudson, Sarah Krakoff, Katrina Fischer Kuh, Jessica Owley, Melissa Powers, Shannon Roesler, Jonathan Rosenbloom & J.B. Ruhl), 49 ENVTL. L. REP. 10038 (2019); *Breathing Air with Heft: An Experiential Report on Environmental Law and Public Health in China*, 41 U.C. DAVIS ENVIRONS 195 (2018); *Debating the Fundamentals of the Fundamental Right to a Sustainable Climate: Juliana v. United States*, (with Mary Wood, James Huffman, Richard Frank & Irma Russell) 45

FLA. ST. L. REV. ONLINE 1 (2018), <http://www.fsulawreview.com/article/juliana-v-united-states-debating-the-fundamentals-of-the-fundamental-right-to-a-sustainable-climate/>; *Saving Mono Lake: How the Public Trust Doctrine Learned to Navigate the Public and Private Interests in Waterways*, 10 GEO. WASH. J. ENERGY & ENVTL. L. — (2018). **Presentations:** *Saving Mono Lake: Public Commons, Private Rights, and the Evolution of the American Public Trust Doctrine* (Iowa City, Iowa, University of Iowa, Faculty Workshop, December 2018); *The Public Trust Doctrine, Private Rights in Water, and the Mono Lake Story* (Tel Aviv, Isreal, Bar Ilan University, Public Workshop, Guest Lecturer, November 2018); *The Original Background Principle?: Public Commons, Private Property, and the Public Trust Doctrine at Mono Lake* (Williamsburg, Virginia, William & Mary Law School, 15th Annual Brigham Kanner Property Rights Conference: Background Principles of Common Law and Constitutional Property, October 2018); *Saving Mono Lake: Public Commons, Private Rights, and the Evolution of the American Public Trust Doctrine* (Tucson, Arizona, University of Arizona, Faculty Workshop, September 2018); *Federal Environmental and Natural Resources Law: Where Do We Go From Here?* (Essex, Massachusetts, Environmental Law Collaborative, Reframing Environmental Law in the Post-2020 World, Collaborator, July 2018); *Public Commons, Private Rights, and the Evolution of the American Public Trust Doctrine* (Cambridge, England, Cambridge University, Regulatory Issues in Property Law, May 2018); *Saving Mono Lake: The Public Trust Doctrine at a Crossroads* (Phoenix, Arizona, Ari-

zona State University, Fourth Annual Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators, Panelist, May 2018); *The Public Trust and Distrust: Beyond Mono Lake* (Maastricht, Netherlands, Maastricht University, Association for Law, Property, and Society Annual Meeting, Panelist, May 2018).

### Lauren Scholz

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *Privacy Remedies*, 93 INDIANA L. J. 94 (2018); *Law and Autonomous Systems Series: Toward a Consumer Contract Law for an Algorithmic Age*, OXFORD BUSINESS LAW BLOG (2018), <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/business-law-blog/blog/2018/04/law-and-autonomous-systems-series-toward-consumer-contract-law>; *On Contract Law's Increasing Distortionary Effect on Substantive Trade Secret Law and How to Stop It*, JOTWELL REV. (2018), <https://contracts.jotwell.com/on-contract-laws-increasing-distortionary-effect-on-substantive-trade-secret-law-and-how-to-stop-it/>. **Presentations:** *Introduction to Smart Contracts* (Tallahassee, Florida State University, College Blockchain Conference, November 2018); *Privacy Remedies* (Stanford, California, Stanford Law School, Faculty Workshop, November 2018) (Washington, D.C., George Washington University Law School, Privacy Law Scholars Conference, May 2018); *Consumer Algorithmic Contracts* (New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Law School, Information Society Project Ideas Workshop, October 2018) (Oxford,

United Kingdom, University of Oxford, Conference on The Law of Autonomous Systems and the Automation of Law, March 2018) (Orlando, Barry University School of Law, 13th Annual Conference on Contracts, February 2018); *Smart Contracts and Consumer Privacy* (Lyon, France, Lyons Catholic University, Impact of Technology on International Contract Law: Smart Contracts and Blockchain Technologies, May 2018); *Consumer Algorithmic Contracts & AI* (Nashville, Tennessee, Vanderbilt University Law School, Vanderbilt Law & AI Workshop, April 2018); *The Big Data Constitution: Constitutional Reform in the Cybersurveillance State* (New York, New York, Fordham University School of Law, Center on Law and Information Policy, March 2018); *Pseudo-Contract and Shared Meaning Analysis* (Orlando, Barry University School of Law, 13th Annual Conference on Contracts, February 2018); *Algorithmic Contracts* (San Diego, California, Association of American Law Schools, Annual Conference, Contracts Section, January 2018).

### Mark B. Seidenfeld

PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH



**Article:** *A Process Based Approach to Presidential Exit*, 67 DUKE L.J. 1775 (2018). **Presentations:** *New Faces in Administrative Law* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, Panel of Junior and Senior Scholars, January 2019); *The Theoretical*

*Bankruptcy of Textualism* (New Orleans, Louisiana, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, Legislation Section of the AALS Panel on 21st Century Textualism, January 2019).

### Justin T. Sevier

CHARLES W. EHRHARDT PROFESSOR OF LITIGATION



**Article:** *Evidentiary Trapdoors*, 103 IOWA L. REV. 1155 (2018). **Presentation:** *Consumers, Seller-Advisors, and the Psychology of Trust*

(Toronto, Canada, Law and Society Annual Member Conference, June 2018).

### Mark Spottswood

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Article:** *Truth, Lies, and the Confrontation Clause*, 89 U. COLO. L. REV. 565 (2018). **Presentation:** *Impeachment by Non-Dishonest*

*Prior Felonies — An Idea Whose Time Has Gone?* (Orlando, The Florida Bar Code and Rules of Evidence Committee, Hot Topics in Evidence Meeting, May 2018).

### Nat S. Stern

JOHN W. & ASHLEY E. FROST PROFESSOR



**Article:** *Judicial Candidates' Right to Lie*, 77 MD. L. REV. 774 (2018).

### Sarah L. Swan

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *Plaintiff Cities*, 71 VAND. L. REV. 1227 (2018); *Preempting Plaintiff Cities*, 45 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 1241 (2018). **Presentations:** *Preempting Plaintiff Cities* (New York, New York, Fordham Law School, State and Local Government Work-in-Progress Conference, September 2018); *Discriminatory Dualism* (New York, New York, Cardozo Law School, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2018); *Exclusion Diffusion* (Toronto, Canada, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation CME/CLE, June 2018).

### Donald J. Weidner

DEAN EMERITUS AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR



**Book:** THE REVISED UNIFORM PARTNERSHIP ACT (with Robert W. Hillman & Allan R. Donn) (Thomson Reuters 2018).

**Presentations:** *Major Issues in Limited*

*Liability Companies* (CLE Webinar, Upchurch Watson White & Max Mediation Group and the University of Florida Levin College of Law Institute for Dispute Resolution, December 2018); *Limited Liability Companies in a Nutshell* (CLE and CJE Webinar, Florida First District Court of Appeal Lunch & Learn Program, October 2018); *Language as a Tool of Mediation and Conflict Resolution* (with Howard R. Marsee) (Tallahassee, Florida State University College of Law, September 2018).

### Kelli Alces Williams

MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY



**Presentations:** *Externalizing Board Governance Means Changing the Board's Function*, (Los Angeles, California, University

of California, Los Angeles, Outsourcing the Board Conference, September 2018); *Consumers, Seller-Advisors, and the Psychology of Trust* (Toronto, Ontario, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2018); *Market Testing Boilerplate* (Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia College of Law, National Business Law Scholars Annual Conference, June 2018).

**Hannah Wiseman**

ATTORNEYS' TITLE PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *Constrained Regulatory Exit in Energy Law* (with Jim Rossi), 67 DUKE L.J. 1687 (2018); *Federal Laboratories of Democracy* (with

Dave Owen), 52 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 101 (2018). **Presentation:** *Inadequate Data and Uncertain Truths* (Orlando, American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Spring 2018 Conference, Science on Trial Panel, April 2018).

**Samuel R. Wiseman**

MCCONNAUGHAY AND RISSMAN PROFESSOR



**Presentation:** *Participant* (Champaign, Illinois, The University of Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy's Environmental

Ethics Initiative, Roundtable on Agriculture as/in Environment, September 2018).

**Mary Ziegler**

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER PROFESSOR



**Articles:** *The Jurisprudence of Uncertainty: Knowledge, Science, and Abortion*, 2018 WISCONSIN L. REV. 317 (2018);

*What is Race?* 50 CONN. L. REV. 279 (2018); *Rethinking an Undue Burden: Whole Women's Health's New Approach to Fundamental Rights*, 85 TENN. L. REV. 461 (2018); *After Life: Governmental Interests and the New Antiabortion Incrementalism*, 73 U. MIAMI L. REV. 78 (2018).

# World-Renowned Intellectual Property Scholars Convene at FSU Law

In March, FSU Law hosted some of the world's top intellectual property scholars for the Eighth International IP Roundtable. The scholars were in Tallahassee due to the work of Frederick Abbott, FSU Law's Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, and thanks to him, this was one of several occasions when we have welcomed top experts in the area to the law school. During the event, scholars discussed genetic information sharing and data protection; IP, trade and enforcement; the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, patentability and competition; artificial intelligence patents, traditional arts and complex exceptions; and other related IP topics. Jake Linford, the FSU Law Loula Fuller and Dan Myers Professor, also participated in the roundtable. We are privileged to be among law schools such as NYU and Duke in hosting this important event.



## Faculty Media Hits

**Professor Frederick Abbott** authored the May 23, 2018 opinion piece, “US Section 301, China, and technology transfer: Law and its limitations revisited (again),” for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. He authored the July 3, 2018 *Intellectual Property Watch* piece, “Excessive Pricing And Sham Patent Litigation: The Pfizer And AbbVie Decisions.” He also was quoted in the July 31, 2018 *Medicine Maker* piece, “Make China Great Again.”

**Professor Paolo Annino** co-authored the June 12, 2018 *Tallahassee Democrat* opinion piece, “Local child sex trafficking victims would be helped by Children’s Services Council,” with Professor Terry Coonan.

**Professor Shawn Bayern** was featured in the October 7, 2018 *PBS NewsHour* piece, “Could an artificial intelligence be considered a person under the law?”

**Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte** was quoted in the April 16, 2018 *Florida Politics* blog piece, “Following Parkland, kid-backed climate lawsuit carries weight,” and the September 11, 2018 *Florida Times-Union* piece, “Amendment 11 would let Legislature shrink Florida’s prisons, if the Supreme Court approves.” He was mentioned in the September 19, 2018 *WJXT* article, “Miami Beach gets backing in minimum wage fight,” and was quoted in the September 28, 2018 *WFSU* piece, “Marsy’s Law: Unpacking The Victims’ Rights Proposal.” He also was mentioned in the October 25, 2018 *Tallahassee Democrat* article, “FSU forum focuses on ethics.”

**Dean Debra Henley** authored a piece for the Florida Society of Association Executives’ *Source* magazine titled “Associations & Law Students: The Perfect Match” on December 1, 2018.

**Professor Shi-Ling Hsu** was mentioned in the December 11, 2018 *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* piece, “Carbon emissions fee will help manage climate change.”

**Professor Steve Johnson** was quoted in the June 26, 2018 *Bloomberg BNA* article, “High Court to Decide If Federal Retirees Get State Tax Break.”

**Professor Jeffrey Kahn** was quoted in the January 11, 2019 *Bloomberg BNA* piece, “Tax Law Gets Rare Spotlight in Ruth Bader Ginsburg Biopic.”

**Professor Larry Krieger** was quoted in the November 8, 2018 *National Jurist* article, “Where the Happiest Lawyers Work.”

**Professor Jennifer LaVia** was quoted in the August 10, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* piece, “Pensacola veterans struggle to pay for legal help in civil court cases, panel says.” She was a guest on the November 8, 2018 *WFSU* program *Perspectives*, where she discussed the FSU Law Veterans Legal Clinic. She also was quoted in the January 1, 2019 *Florida Bar News* piece, “Veteran’s Clinics, License Restoration Program Ready for Replication.”

**Professor Wayne Logan** was quoted in the July 23, 2018 *Palm Beach Post* article, “When is someone too stoned on pot to drive?” He was a guest on the *KCUR 89.3 Up to Date* program on September 5, 2018, where he discussed criminal registration and community notification laws. He authored a post on the *Sentencing Law and Policy* blog on September 17, 2018. He also was quoted in the December 7, 2018 *Crime Report* piece, “How Our ‘Two-Tiered Justice System’ Exploits the Poor.”

**Professor Michael Morley** was quoted in the June 27, 2018 *Reuters* piece, “ACLU family separation case highlights alternate path for Trump challengers,” and the July 18, 2018 Institute for Free Speech piece, “Setting the Record Straight: A Response to CLC’s Attacks on Judge Kavanaugh.” He authored the July 24, 2018 *Conversation* piece, “Money, politics and Justice Anthony Kennedy: Revisiting Citizens United.” It was picked up by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times*. He was quoted in the August 28, 2018 *Bloomberg Law* piece, “N.C. Districts Still

“Kennedy’s opinion in *Citizens United* did not cause a corporate Armageddon for our political system. It was a victory for the fundamental First Amendment right of all Americans, individually or collectively through corporations, to engage in pure political speech about federal elections.”

– Michael Morley, excerpt from his opinion piece published in the July 24, 2018 *Los Angeles Times*

Gerrymandered; SCOTUS May Get Final Say,” and was featured on *WCTV* on September 6, 2018 regarding confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. On October 3, 2018, Morley appeared on *Fox 35* to discuss Amendment 4 and voting rights for felons. He was quoted in the October 25, 2018 *Politico Pro* piece, “Trulieve cancels voting-related giveaway that ran afoul of federal law.” He was a guest on the National Constitution Center podcast episode, “Voting Rights, Election Law, and the Midterms,” on November 1, 2018. He was quoted in the November 6, 2018 *News & Observer* piece, “Humidity, ballot size cause issues with voting machines in North Carolina, officials say.” On November 7, 2018, Morley was interviewed for the *Fox 35* piece, “Experts: Senate recount won’t have a huge impact,” and he was featured on *News 6 WKMG*, where he discussed the Florida Senate recount. Morley was featured on the *90.7 WMFE* Intersection podcast on November 9, 2018, where he discussed the recount process. He was quoted in the November 12, 2018 *Miami Herald* piece, “Florida may have two manual recounts. Here’s how it works and what’s to be counted,” and in the November 13, 2018 *NPR* piece, “In Tight Race, Maine Republican Sues To Block State’s Ranked-Choice Voting Law.” Morley was quoted in the November 14, 2018 *Politico* piece, “Nelson will likely come up short in recount battle against Scott.” He discussed the Florida governor and Senate race recounts on *C-SPAN* on November 14, 2018. He was quoted in the November 14, 2018 *Miami Herald* piece, “Legal decisions and deadlines loom as Florida’s forever midterms enter ‘prayer mode,’” and he appeared on *WTXL ABC 27* on November 15, 2018 to discuss the manual ballot recount process in Florida. Morley was quoted in the November 15, 2018 *Tampa Bay Times* article, “How did recounts in two large Florida counties turn out fewer votes?” He was also quoted in the November 18, 2018 *Miami Herald* piece, “You’ve got lots of election questions. We’ve got answers.” He was quoted in the November 26, 2018 *Palm Beach Post* article, “Florida election: Examining vanishing votes in machine recount” and in the December 4, 2018 *Florida Record* piece, “Florida

Supreme Court will lean conservative ‘for a very long time’ with DeSantis appointees.” Morley was quoted in the January 4, 2019 *Bloomberg BNA* piece, “Panels to End Gerrymandering Could Reach SCOTUS Again.” He was a guest on the *Ipse Dixit* podcast on February 12, 2019, where he discussed his “Disaggregating Nationwide Injunctions” article. Morley also was quoted in the February 28, 2019 *Miami Herald* piece, “A lot went wrong in Florida’s 2018 election. That may have actually been a good thing.” The piece was also published in the *Tampa Bay Times* and the *Bradenton Herald*.

**Professor Erin Ryan** was quoted in the August 26, 2018 *ARS Technica* piece, “What happens when climate change meets the courts?” She also was quoted in the February 9, 2019 *Northwest Florida Daily News* piece, “Some favor eminent domain over customary use.”

**Professor Justin Sevier’s** article, “Legitimizing Character Evidence,” was the subject of a January 12, 2019 *EvidenceProf Blog* post.

**Professor Nat Stern** was quoted in the September 18, 2018 *Law360* piece, “This Under-Addressed Issue Is Hurting Lawyers, Profs Say.”

**Professor Hannah Wiseman** was quoted in the August 3, 2018 *Regulatory Review* piece, “Negotiated Rulemaking and the Borrower Defense Regulation.”

**Professor Mary Ziegler** was a guest on the *ABA Journal* podcast on April 11, 2018, where she discussed the impact of *Roe v. Wade*. She was quoted in the May 3, 2018 *Wall Street Journal* piece, “Iowa Lawmakers Pass Bill Banning ‘Fetal Heartbeat’ Abortions,” and was a guest on *NPR’s All Things Considered* program on May 18, 2018, where she discussed the history of Title X. She was quoted in *The Atlantic* piece, “The Supreme Court Hands a Win to the Pro-Life Movement” on June 26, 2018, and in the June 27, 2018 *New York Times* piece, “Departure of Kennedy, ‘Firewall for Abortion Rights,’ Could End *Roe v. Wade*.” Ziegler authored the June 27, 2018 *Washington Post* opinion piece, “The Supreme Court’s big abortion hypocrisy.” On July 2, 2018, she was quoted in the *Vox* piece, “10 legal experts on the future of *Roe v. Wade* after Kennedy,” and she authored *The Atlantic* piece, “What Does the Future of Abortion Rights Look Like?” On July



“Today, with the fate of *Roe* uncertain, a focus on science and medical claims has pushed the two sides of the abortion conflict farther apart. Neither movement has changed its views about the Constitution. But now, abortion-rights and anti-abortion activists disagree on the basic facts about abortion — and who has the scientific authority to determine them... The role of science in the abortion debate also suggests that overturning *Roe* — or even removing abortion from constitutional law — will do nothing to de-escalate the conflict.”

– Mary Ziegler, excerpt from her January 22, 2019 opinion piece in *The New York Times*

3, 2018, she spoke on *Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)* about the future of the abortion rights debate and was quoted in the *ThinkProgress* piece, “What activists are doing to prepare for a world without *Roe v. Wade*.” Ziegler joined Ali Velshi on *MSNBC* on July 3, 2018 to discuss *Roe v. Wade* and the privacy of individuals to make intimate decisions. She was quoted in the July 6, 2018 *Univision* piece, “El derecho al aborto en EEUU ‘está en peligro’ con la partida de Kennedy de la Corte Suprema,” and in the July 9, 2018 *Tampa Bay Times* piece, “What would a post-*Roe v. Wade* Florida look like? We answer 5 vital questions.” On July 10, 2018, she was quoted in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* piece, “What adding Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court could mean for abortion rights and the ACA,” and she authored the *New York Daily News* piece, “How *Roe* is likely to go: Not with a bang, but a whimper.” She was quoted in the July 10, 2018 *PolitiFact* piece, “What Trump’s Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has said on abortion,” which was republished in the July 16, 2018 *Tampa Bay Times*. Ziegler appeared on *Fox 5 NY* on July 16, 2018 to discuss Brett Kavanaugh and the future of abortion jurisprudence. She was interviewed in the August 3, 2018 *Mother Jones* piece, “Overturning *Roe v. Wade* Could Affect Privacy Rights for Years to Come.” She was quoted in the August 13, 2019 *Fox News* piece, “Abortion on the Ballot: Red states already planning for possibility of *Roe* rollback,” and in the August 16, 2018 *Daily Caller* piece, “These States Have Laws Banning Abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is Overturned.” Ziegler was quoted in the August 25, 2018 *Anniston Star* piece, “Alabama voters to decide abortion amendment that may decide little.” She authored the Septem-

ber 4, 2018 *Washington Post* piece, “Brett Kavanaugh could shatter the alliance between the GOP and the antiabortion movement.” On September 7, 2018, she was quoted in the *Politico* piece, “Kavanaugh gives no ground on abortion,” and the *PolitiFact* piece, “Fact-checking Brett Kavanaugh’s Senate confirmation hearing.” Ziegler was quoted in the September 8, 2018 *Mother Jones* piece, “The Militant Wing of the Anti-Abortion Movement Is Back—And It’s Never Been Closer to Victory.” On September 21, 2018, she was quoted in *The Atlantic* piece, “A Conservative Judge Takes Aim at *Roe v. Wade* in Face of a Shifting Supreme Court.” She was featured on the *America Trends* podcast on October 18, 2018, where she discussed human reproduction and public policy. Ziegler was quoted in the October 19, 2018 *New York Times* piece, “With Kavanaugh on Court, Abortion Rights Groups Sharpen Their Focus on the States,” and in the October 26, 2018 *Vox* piece, “How Sandra Day O’Connor’s legacy could make it easier to gut abortion rights.” She was quoted in the November 20, 2018 *Newsweek* piece, “Ohio Considering Bill That Could See Abortions Punishable By Death,” and in the November 30, 2018 *ThinkProgress* piece, “Anti-abortion groups ask SCOTUS to reconsider *Roe v. Wade* and uphold Mike Pence’s anti-choice law.” On December 4, 2018, she was featured on the *NPR* program *All Things Considered* to discuss President George H.W. Bush’s legacy on abortion. She was quoted in the December 5, 2018 *Newsweek* piece, “Who is Joseph Silk? GOP Senator Trying to Ban Abortion Says It’s Like a Mother Killing a ‘1-Year-Old Child.’” Ziegler authored the December 6, 2018 *Newsweek* op-ed, “The Insidious Unraveling of Abortion Rights in America.” On January 18, 2019, she was quoted in the *National Catholic Reporter* piece, “*Roe v. Wade* may be in peril, but future of anti-abortion movement is unclear,” and in the *NPR* piece, “With Higher Stakes In The Abortion Debate, Activists March On Washington.” She was quoted in the January 18, 2019 *Washington Post* piece, “The Health 202: The one area of agreement between abortion rights foes and supporters might be crumbling.” She authored the January 22, 2019 *New York Times* piece, “The Abortion Wars Have Become a Fight Over Science,” and the January 28, 2019 *Washington Post* op-ed, “The culture war’s lone survivor.” On January 31, 2019, she was interviewed on the *PBS* program *NewsHour*, where she provided commentary on the future of abortion rights and regulation in states and on the U.S. Supreme Court. On February 8, 2019, Ziegler was a guest on the *NPR* program *All Things Considered*, where she discussed abortion laws that could reach the Supreme Court. She also was quoted in the February 20, 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* article, “Bills Would Prohibit Florida Abortions After Fetal Heartbeat.” The piece was also published in the *News Press* and *The Bellingham Herald*.

# Environmental Law Program Hosts National Scholars and Experts



(L-R) Kelly Zering, Shi-Ling Hsu, Laurie Ristino, Kelsey Eberly and Andy Curliss



Nina Mendelson

As one of the top 20 environmental law programs in the country, we are able to regularly host distinguished scholars in the area. In October, we welcomed Nina Mendelson, the Joseph L. Sax Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School,

as our Fall 2018 Environmental Law Distinguished Lecturer. Mendelson is a nationally recognized scholar who teaches and researches in the areas of administrative law, environmental law, statutory interpretation and the legislative process. Her presentation was titled, “Tribes, Cities, and Children: Emerging Voices in Environmental Litigation.”

Also in October, we hosted a timely panel discussion, “Hog Farming: Past, Present & Future,” to explore the intertwined economic, environmental and ethical issues of livestock farm-

ing. Panelists included:

- Andy Curliss, North Carolina Pork Council
- Kelsey Eberly, Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Laurie Ristino, George Washington University Law School
- Kelly Zering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University

This spring, on January 23, we hosted a panel discussion on energy resilience. The panel was moderated by FSU Law alum Robert Scheffel “Schef” Wright (’92), a shareholder at Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, and panelists included:

- Sara Rollet Gosman, University of Arkansas School of Law
- Kevin B. Jones, Vermont Law School
- Romany Webb, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School
- James Van Nostrand, West Virginia University College of Law



Richard Revesz

In February, we welcomed Richard Revesz, the Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at New York University School of Law, as our Spring 2019 Environmental Law Distinguished Lecturer. He presented

“Institutional Pathologies in the Regulatory State: What Scott Pruitt Taught Us About Regulatory Policy.” Revesz is one of the world’s leading voices in the fields of environmental and administrative law. He also co-founded the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law and serves as director of the American Law Institute.

In addition, the following scholars and attorneys visited FSU Law throughout the academic year to speak with students as part of our vibrant Environmental Certificate Enrichment Lecture Series:

- Michael Gray ('02), Appellate Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Christopher Holmes, Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science Department, Florida State University
- Bruce Huber, University of Notre Dame Law School
- Christine Klein, University of Florida College of Law
- Tara Righetti, University of Wyoming College of Law
- Noah Valenstein ('08), Florida Department of Environmental Protection



(L-R) Shi-Ling Hsu, Schef Wright ('92), Romany Webb, Sara Rollet Gosman, Kevin Jones and James Van Nostrand

## ALDF Named National Chapter of the Year



Laurel Tallent

In October, our Florida State University College of Law Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter (FSU ALDF) won the 2018 Chapter of the Year Award. FSU ALDF was selected to receive the award from among hundreds of national and international chapters. The award is presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and recognizes an Animal Legal Defense Fund chapter that has shown incredible efforts in advancing the field of animal law and advocating for animals through original projects and initiatives. FSU ALDF also won the Chapter of the Year Award in 2014.

The 2018 award was presented Friday, October 12, at the Animal Legal Defense Fund's annual Animal Law Confer-

ence in Chicago. Florida State law students 3L Laurel Tallent, who serves as FSU ALDF president, 2L Ashley Englund, 3L Jasmine Henry and 3L Judah Lieblich accepted the award at the conference.

FSU ALDF was honored following a year of many accomplishments. The organization hosted monthly lectures featuring prominent animal law experts, and screened two documentaries which were open to the entire FSU Law community and the public to increase awareness about animal law issues. In February 2018, FSU ALDF participated in the national Justice for Animals Week, hosting daily breakfast presentations by law professors who spoke about how their areas of expertise interacted with animal law. During the week, FSU ALDF also welcomed lawyers for daily afternoon presentations on different areas of animal law. FSU ALDF also provided students with monthly opportunities to give back to the community, including a dog washing event that raised more than \$500 for the Humane Society.

"We are thrilled that the work of our FSU Animal Legal Defense Fund has been recognized as exceptional at the national level," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "Congratulations and thanks go to the entire FSU ALDF board and especially to its president, Laurel Tallent, for her dedicated leadership and for Florida State's award-winning submission."



## Final Four Moot Court Competition

In October, 2L students Melody Deatherage, Heather Raya, Elisabeth Avilla and Kelsey Anthofer (pictured front row, L-R) presented oral arguments before justices of the Florida Supreme Court during the annual FSU Law Moot Court Team Final Four Competition. Deatherage was awarded Best Advocate by the justices at a reception following the competition.

# An Evening with the Bench and the Bar



(L-R) Justice Alan Lawson and Ben Gibson

In January, FSU Law hosted a special Evening with the Bench and the Bar, featuring alums Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson ('87) and Ben Gibson ('08), a partner at Shutts & Bowen. The event was moderated by graduate Melanie Kalmanson ('16), who is an associate at Akerman.

The alumni provided candid remarks about navigating stress during law school and law practice. Gibson, who serves on The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Mental Health & Wellness and Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, talked about the importance of researching prospective employers to find a job and work environment that fits your priorities. He also remarked that students should seek jobs where their talents line up with their passions. Justice Lawson quoted Thomas Jefferson and John Locke in relation to the pursuit of happiness and thriving in life. He stressed that what works for each person in terms of finding solutions to stress is different and urged students to spend the necessary time to work on themselves to thrive through life's toughest challenges. The alumni also discussed mental health resources available to students and lawyers.



Justice Alan Lawson with students

The session was well attended by students and was co-sponsored by several student organizations. Students were invited to submit questions before the event, which also included a dedicated Q&A portion. The event was part of the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program, which is facilitated by the Office of Student Advancement and includes efforts to support students through a wide variety of events addressing mental health and wellness.

## FSU Named SBA of the Year

For the seventh time since 2008 and for the second consecutive year, the FSU Student Bar Association (SBA) has won national SBA of the Year honors. FSU was named the top SBA in the nation by the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division on Saturday, August 4, 2018. The award, which is also known as the National Achievement Award, was presented at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago. It recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession.

FSU SBA was honored following a year of many achievements. SBA's robust programming included a Mental Health Week, a Diversity Week and a panel discussion on alcohol awareness to provide information on resources available to law students and lawyers. Students were also able to network with notable attorneys and judges, and to give back to the community through SBA events. SBA participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, raising more than \$1,600 to benefit the American Cancer Society, hosted blood and food drives to benefit the victims of three hurricanes, and formed a Dance Marathon team that raised almost \$3,000 to benefit children in need of specialized pediatric and medical care.



(L-R) 3Ls Cecilia Orozco, Brandon Sapala and Hillary Thornton accepted the award in Chicago.



Debra Henley (right) and her dance partner

## Henley Dances with the Stars

On December 6, Assistant Dean for Career Services and Professional Development and FSU Law alum Debra Henley ('88) participated in Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.'s Dancing with the Stars competition. The benefit event featured several additional FSU Law alums, including Rachel Hill Borntreger ('11), Jami Coleman ('08) and Jimmy Fasig ('97). Henley took home the People's Choice Award, while Borntreger and Fasig tied for second place performance.

# Enriching Spring Break Opportunities



Alternative Spring Break participants

In March, FSU Law students participated in our 11th annual Alternative Spring Break Program and traveled to Apopka to assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers by working with the Farmworker Association of Florida. The program, which is coordinated by our Public Interest Law Center, is an opportunity for students to observe the challenges faced by this population and to receive training on conducting outreach and educating workers about their legal rights. Student activities included working in nurseries, taking a “toxic tour” of Lake Apopka, talking with farmworkers, and learning about farmworker immigration issues, human and labor trafficking, the H2A guest worker program, pesticide exposure and heat stress.

In Tallahassee, many students attended our Law and Risk Management course, which is held every year during spring break. Taught by alumnus Fred Karlinsky ('92), the course provides students with a wealth of valuable information on risk management policy and tips for success in the practice of law and business. Speakers included industry specialists in Florida’s insurance market and leaders in Florida’s administration and public finance sectors.



Alternative Spring Break participants



Professor Fred Karlinsky (center) during a networking reception for Law and Risk Management students

# The Florida Bar President Visits Campus



Michelle Suskauer  
presents to students.

FSU Law hosted The Florida Bar President Michelle Suskauer in February. Suskauer, who practices criminal defense at Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A., in West Palm Beach, met with students and toured campus. During her inspirational presentation to students, she discussed the many Florida Bar resources available to law students and young lawyers – in areas such as mentoring, wellness, ethics, professionalism and law practice management. “We’re here to make your lives easier, productive and profitable,” Suskauer told the packed courtroom of students. She urged students to get involved in their legal communities and to be open to a variety of mentoring relationships. Having spent her entire career dedicated to service, Suskauer also encouraged students to fulfill their obligation to give back.



(L-R) 2L Katie Mesa, Michelle Suskauer and Nancy Benavides



Maribel Roig presents a time management workshop for students.



## Academic Programs Office Offers Enhanced Support

Last academic year, FSU Law began offering enhanced support to students through the Academic Programs Office. The office is charged with improving the academic success of students and coordinating academic program oversight. The professionals in this new office, led by Assistant Dean Maribel Roig, provide personalized advising to students on course selection, graduation requirements, study abroad programs and joint-degree programs.

The office offers enhanced legal writing and other academic support, and helps students and recent graduates who are preparing for bar exams. They counsel and advise students on a daily basis. In addition, the Academic Programs Office is responsible for maintaining and storing law school records. Creating this office was part of FSU Law's overall mission to provide greater levels of individualized support to all students.

## Thornton Named Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives



Glenda L. Thornton


Glenda L. Thornton ('89) joined FSU Law in July as assistant dean for strategic initiatives. She is an experienced executive and licensed attorney with more than 25 years of achievement in the law, business, healthcare and nonprofit environments. As assistant dean for strategic initiatives, Thornton spearheads special projects related to advancing the core mission and future direction of the College of Law and

advises the dean on current legal trends.

Before joining FSU Law, Thornton served as regional vice president, revenue cycle sales, at Accretive Health Inc. in Chicago. She previously served as general counsel at the Florida Lottery, of counsel at Bateman Harden, P.A. and a partner at Foley & Lardner, LLP. In addition, she is a very active community volunteer and has served as chair of many community boards, including the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. She also chaired the United Way of the Big Bend's 75th Anniversary Campaign.


# Social Media


Are you following the College of Law on social media? These were some of our most popular posts during the past year:

**FSU LAW** **Florida State University College of Law** 

We hope you fared the storm better than some of our trees. Hoping all our #FSULawFamily is safe! **#HurricaneMichael**


October 11, 2018  
293 reactions, 32 comments, 111 shares



**FSU LAW** **Florida State University College of Law** 

At 213 members strong, the J.D. class of 2021 is the largest group we have welcomed since 2009. This 1L class represents 61 undergraduate schools, 49 different majors, 25 states and 4 countries. They are also making history with the highest percentage of women (55%) and the highest median GPA (3.63) of any class to matriculate at FSU Law! Here is a photo of this impressive class taken last week during orientation.

August 27, 2018  
300 reactions, 16 comments, 53 shares




**FSU LAW** **FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw** 

@FSUCollegeofLaw

Today we welcomed 62 participants in our 2018 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. Since 1992, the program has hosted students from undergraduate institutions throughout the country for a month-long immersion into law school and the legal profession. **#FSULawSUG**

35 likes, 8 retweets | May 21, 2018



**FSU LAW** **Florida State University College of Law** 

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates who passed bar exams! FSU Law grads had the state's second-highest passage rate – 84.8% – on the Florida Bar Exam, compared to the average passage rate of 67.2% for all test takers. We are very proud of our grads!

September 17, 2018  
343 reactions, 3 comments, 25 shares

**FSU LAW** FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw @FSUCollegeofLaw 

Our dedicated, influential faculty has just been ranked the nation's 29th best in terms of faculty scholarship! Florida State is the only Florida law school ranked in the top 50. See our press release for more details.  
<https://fla.st/2LOxBWh>  
 37 likes, 9 retweets | August 16, 2018



**FSU LAW** FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw @FSUCollegeofLaw 

Our Immigration and Farmworker Project was launched during the fall 2018 semester with Clinical Professor and #FSULaw alum Darby Kerrigan Scott ('07). Students enrolled in the project learn important legal advocacy skills while assisting immigrants and agricultural workers who face employment barriers, such as undocumented status, lack of housing and lack of healthcare. In collaboration with the University of Florida, professors from UF and FSU team-teach the students in the project from both law schools in real time. This semester, FSU law students conducted multiple community presentations in Quincy, Fla. They also presented to the community and observed immigration court on a trip to Orlando. You can read about 2L student Katie Mesa's experience on the FSU Law Admissions blog.  
 December 20, 2018 | 126 likes

**FSU LAW** FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw @FSUCollegeofLaw 

Today we are excited to welcome a record number of 1L students to our optional One-Week Experience! Thank you to our student mentors, faculty and staff who are here this week to help incoming students with their transition into law school.  
 August 16, 2018 | 149 likes




**FSU LAW** FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw @FSUCollegeofLaw 

The President and Dean Emeritus Sandy D'Alemberte statue is ready for a new year and new semester! Are you?  
**#SpringAtFSU #FSULaw #Spring2019**  
 January 7, 2019 | 137 likes

**FSU LAW** FSU College of Law @FSUCollegeofLaw @FSUCollegeofLaw 

The annual #FSUvsUF powderpuff football game took place yesterday on the Green. The teams battled in chilly conditions, with the Noles bringing home a win! The final score was 22-13. Watch our Story for more coverage of the event.  
 November 16, 2018 | 128 likes




# OTHER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



3L **Bianca Báez Pearson** was selected as one of 14 law students to work in civil legal aid programs through The Florida Bar Foundation's 2018 Summer Fellows Grant

Program. Baez worked at LatinoJustice PRLDEF in Orlando, where she assisted with the Community Economic Justice project, which mobilizes, trains and deploys attorneys and others to provide free, bilingual disaster relief legal assistance.



3L **Amy Bhatt** wrote an article reviewing the SCOTUS decision, *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, that was published on The Florida Bar Business Law Section website.



3L **Madeline Ann Brezin** authored two op-eds in the *Tallahassee Democrat*. She wrote the July 9, 2018 piece, "Why You Should be Pro-Roe Even if You are Anti-

Choice," and the December 28, 2018 piece, "Medicaid expansion can help build storm resilient communities."



2L **Daniela Donoso** was invited to join the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Women in Criminal Justice Task Force. She will be the only law student on

the 15-member task force that includes attorneys, judges and academics from across the country.



2L **Karina Flores** presented to the Florida Senate Criminal Justice Committee on March 4, 2019, regarding solitary confinement of children and its harm. Flores is participating in the FSU Public Interest Law Center's Children in Prison Project.



2L **Josh Funderburke** won best advocate at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mock Trial Competition at the UC Davis School of Law in California.



2L **Christina Henry** was named best advocate at the John Costello National Criminal Law Trial Advocacy Competition in February 2019.



2L **Deborah R. Huveltdt** received the Jean Perwin Memorial Fund Scholarship Award through the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Scholarship Program in March 2019.

3L **Deni Kolev** spoke before Leon County commissioners in favor of a proposal to ban the placement of children in the adult criminal system. The Leon County Commission voted in favor of the proposal. Kolev was enrolled in the Public Interest Law Center's Child in Prison Project.



3L **Skye Musson** was honored with the prestigious 2018 Veteran Award from the FSU Women Student Union.



The 2018-19 Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Class XIV of thirteen students included four students from FSU Law, the most from any law school: 3L **Allison Beattie** (fifth from R), 2L **Hana Bilicki** (seventh from L), 3L **Paige Farach** (sixth from L) and 3L **Annalise Kapusta** (second from R).



3Ls **William Hamilton**, **Li Massie** and **Hunter Pratt** interned with the Florida Supreme Court last summer. FSU Law had the most students represented in the class of interns of any school. Other schools represented were Boston College, Emory University, Georgetown University, Stetson University, the University of Florida and the University of Miami.

3L **Hunter Pratt** and 2L **Alex Lenk** won second place in the Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition in Wisconsin in March 2019.

2L **Remi Abiodun**, 2L **Caron Byrd**, **Tawanna Franklin** ('18), 3L **Maria'h Givens**, 2L **Caitlin Harden**, 1L **Genevieve Lemley** and 2L **Jada Roulhac** were named to the newest class of the Innovative Community Engagement Fellows Program in January 2019.

Four FSU Law students published articles in the Winter 2018 issue of "Paw Review," The Florida Bar Animal Law Section newsletter. Published students were 2L **Kirsten Hirt**, 2L **Cailynn J. Houlihan**, 3L **Kristen Rivenbark**, and 2L **Chelsi Straubinger**.



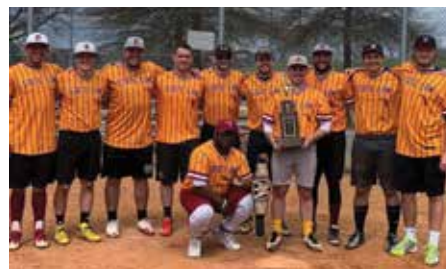
The FSU Vis Moot Court Team won the Second Annual Atlanta Vis Pre-Moot in March 2019. Team members included 3L **Andrew Faris**, 2L **Taylor Fleming**, 3L **Skye Musson** and 2L **Jemma Takx**. Team coaches were 2L **Samantha Blatz**, Michael Hoffman ('18) and Natalia Nincevic ('18). Pictured (L-R) are Musson, Takx, Faris, coach Blatz and Fleming.



2L **Elisabeth Avilla** (left in photo) and 2L **Kelsey Anthofer** won best brief and finished second at the August A. Rendigs, Jr. National Products Liability Moot Court Competition in Cincinnati in March 2019.



Ten of the 12 Florida House of Representatives legislative interns for 2018-2019 were FSU Law students. Pictured front row (L-R) are 3L **Lindsay Card**, 2L **Anastacia Pirrello**, 2L **Melody Deatherage** and 2L **Heather Raya**. Back row (L-R) are 3L **Grant Pattison**, 3L **Austin Engelbrecht**, 2L **McLane Edwards**, St. Thomas University law student William McRea, 2L **Zack Nations**, FSU grad student Kirsten D'Souza, 2L **Margeling Santiago** and 2L **Freddie Menard**.



In April 2019, the FSU Law men's softball team, La Russa's Lads, won the University of Virginia Law Softball Invitational in Virginia. It was FSU Law's seventh year competing in the tournament and first championship. FSU Law competed in the men's bracket, which included 10 teams from five schools. Team members included: 1L **Jorge Alfonso**, 3L **Mitchell Custer**, 2L **Evan Drake**, 2L **Ryan Dyson**, 2L **McLane Edwards**, 2L **Clay Gilman**, 2L **Bert Givens**, 1L **Grant Haas**, 2L **Mac Hudson**, 1L **Kevin Kane**, 2L **Ben Lagos**, 2L **Mike Maloney**, 1L **T.J. Percell** and 1L **Nathan Planitz**.

2L **Dayna Maeder**, Caitlyn Kio ('18) and Katherine Perdomo ('17) worked with Professor Paolo Annino in the Public Interest Law Center's Children in Prison Project to help the clinic's very first client during her final case hearing. She is now free and finished with probation—an outcome nearly 20 years in the making.



2L **Melody Deatherage** (center in photo) and 2L **Heather Raya** (left in photo) won best brief at the Cardozo BMI Entertainment and Media Law Moot Court Competition in March 2019. They are pictured with their coach, Professor Mark Spottswood.



3L **Jasmine Henry** (left in photo) and 2L **Malasia McDuffie** finished as runners-up at the National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law in Columbus, OH, in March 2019.



2L **Ryan Nicholas** (center in photo) and 2L **Carlos Gomez** (left) won first place, and 3L **Rima Nathan** (right) won best oralist at the William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition in March 2019.

# Students Give Back

The annual student give back campaign concluded in March and students once again gave at impressive rates. Collectively, students donated more than 1,100 hours of their time and more than \$3,500 to advance the College of Law. An incredible 88.27% of students donated either time or finances, with many doing both. The 1L class ended the campaign with the highest rate of participation – an impressive 91.51%! We are very grateful to students for their support, which communicates a great deal about the FSU Law community. In April, we held an appreciation event at the law school to thank students for their generosity.



Students enjoyed an appreciation event at the law school after more than 88% of current students participated in the annual student give back campaign.

## “Alumni,” continued from page 15

is in the newspaper every day. But it’s not often explained correctly,” Leopold said. “We are working to make sure that the actions EPA takes are defensible and within the bounds of our statutory requirements. I attempt to make sure we’re abiding by the law and that in dealing with these really important environmental problems that the nation faces, we do so in a way that respects the legal authority that Congress has given us without exceeding that authority.”

To help him ensure that his agency’s priorities are durable and defensible, Leopold manages a team of approximately 230 people, primarily comprised of lawyers. He also works closely with attorneys in the 10 regional EPA offices and with his counterparts at other federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Justice and Transportation.

Leopold has been preparing for his current role since he was in law school. After interning at the White House

as a 2L, Leopold knew he wanted to work in Washington, D.C. His first two positions after earning his J.D. were as Governor Jeb Bush’s environmental aide in D.C. and as an attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was one of the attorneys who brought the federal enforcement action against BP for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Both positions further solidified his love of D.C. and environmental law. Leopold also bolstered his substantive experience with a recent five-year stint in Florida, including serving as general counsel at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and practicing at Carlton Fields in Tallahassee.

Leopold developed a respect for the environment while growing up in the Tampa area. He enjoyed outdoor pursuits including camping, fishing, and hunting. Because of this, Leopold has relished opportunities to protect

the environment throughout his career. “I’ve had the chance to protect some of the most important natural resources in our country,” he said. “In Florida, I spent a lot of my time working on the Everglades restoration as well as filing and litigating *Florida v. Georgia* in the U.S. Supreme Court to protect the Apalachicola River and Bay.

Leopold credits FSU Law with propelling him into a fulfilling career.

“I’m grateful for these unique opportunities that I’ve had, and I think FSU was a great foundation for going to live and work in our state’s and nation’s capital,” said Leopold. “FSU exposed me for the first time to government, which then allowed me to specialize in this field. I’m really grateful for that opportunity and the doors that have opened because of it.” ■



**In April 2019,** we hosted **Nobel Laureate Tawakkol Karman** for a special reception. Karman is a journalist, politician, human rights activist and mother of three who founded Women Journalists Without Chains to promote freedom of expression and democratic rights. She later helped spark the Yemeni uprising during the Arab Spring uprisings and in 2011 shared the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the areas of peace and women's rights, becoming the first Yemeni, the first Arab woman and the second Muslim woman to win a Nobel Prize.



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