



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

May 12, 2017

### From the Dean



On Sunday, May 7, we celebrated our most recent graduates at our 2017 graduation ceremony and reception. Congratulations to all of our wonderful grads and to their loved ones who helped them reach this milestone! We are all so proud of them and look forward to watching them grow and flourish as young professionals. The class of 2017 is special to me as they are the first class to graduate since I joined FSU Law. During the ceremony, attendees were treated to remarks by FSU President John Thrasher ('73) and to an encouraging speech by Chief Judge M. Casey Rodgers, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Professors Shi-Ling Hsu, Justin

Sevier and Nat Stern served as hooders during the event, after being selected for the honor by the grads. Immediately following the ceremony, graduates and their guests attended a reception at the Rotunda and the James Harold Thompson Green. Thank you to everyone who helped us send off our graduating 3Ls with warmth and celebration!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: Professors hood graduates during the May 7 ceremony.*

## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1995



The award-winning FSU Law Mock Trial Team was established in 1995. Now called the Trial Team, the group had previously shared a budget with the Moot Court Team and had been sponsored by the Student Trial Lawyer Association. In recent years, the team has won several national competitions, including two during the 2016-17 academic year. The team's success is possible thanks to the numerous alumni and friends of FSU Law who provide financial support and who serve as coaches each year. Also in 1995, Florida Supreme Court justices and College of Law Board of Visitors members convened at FSU Law to discuss the state of the legal profession and the role law schools should play in preparing new lawyers. According to the Summer 1995 issue of the alumni magazine, participants focused on the many changes that were impacting all aspects of the profession at the time, including heightened competition for legal services, technological innovations and the increased use of alternative dispute resolution. Another issue of the alumni magazine reported that the *Florida State University Law Review* “became one of a select group of law journals when its home page debuted on the Internet’s World-Wide Web” in June 1995. The article went on to explain what the “World-Wide Web” was and how readers could access the content online. The *Law Review* is currently working on publishing the inaugural issue for its new online publication.

*Pictured above: Members of the 2016-2017 Trial Team*

## Faculty Profile: Professor Jake Linford

Assistant Professor Jake Linford recently received an [Alternative Textbook Grant](#) from the Florida State University Libraries. The grant is designed to encourage faculty to develop and locate low or no-cost resources to replace textbooks and casebooks. Finding and using low cost materials is critical in an era when students increasingly report not purchasing textbooks due to rising costs. Professor Linford has used free casebooks in his courses for several years, so applying for the grant seemed a natural fit. In the near future, he plans to work with the FSU Libraries Alt-Textbook team to develop new open-source materials. Professor Linford focuses his scholarship on intellectual property and contract law. He teaches Contracts, Copyright Law, Trademarks and Unfair Competition, and Current Topics in Intellectual Property.



*“I’m fortunate that scholars in my field of intellectual property law are early innovators in free legal casebooks. I’ve twice taught from Barton Beebe’s Open-Source Trademark Law Casebook. I also frequently use the Open Intellectual Property Casebook by James Boyle and Jennifer Jenkins as a resource in my courses and seminars. They are excellent books, and you can’t beat the price.”*

## **Student Profile: 2017 Graduate Lauryn Collier**

Lauryn Collier is a recent FSU Law graduate from Charlotte, North Carolina. She graduated cum laude from North Carolina State University with a bachelor’s degree in animal science, with an industry concentration and a minor in criminology. While earning her J.D. at FSU, she also completed the FSU Event Management Certificate Program through the Graduate School. Collier’s impressive resume includes the Trial Team, where her team won the 2015 National Championship at the National Trial Advocacy Tournament sponsored by UF. She was also awarded Best 2L Advocate for the 2015-2016 Trial Team. During her 1L year, she was the fundraising chair for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and she served as vice president during her 2L year. As a Trial Team member for BLSA, Collier won the Southern Regional Championship in 2015 and placed fourth at the national competition in Portland, Oregon. Collier also participated in the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), where she was



national mock trial director for the 2015-16 Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition and oversaw and planned six regional trial competitions from San Diego to Chicago, as well as the national competition in Baltimore. Collier was also a student ambassador, a mentor in the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program and a research assistant for Dean Shi-Ling Hsu, the D'Alemberte Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs. Collier's work experience includes clerking for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Office of General Counsel. She was also an intern for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of General Counsel. During the spring semester of her 3L year, Collier worked as a certified legal intern for Leon County, where she drafted motions, memos, legal opinions and deposition questions, in addition to conducting legal research and attending meetings and workshops. Collier is also the event and marketing assistant at the Tallahassee Museum. What began as a project for her event management program turned into a part-time job managing marketing content, planning and executing special events, managing sponsor and donor relations, and drafting press releases and media statements. Collier is open to practicing in any location and in any area of law, although most of her experience is in local government and administrative law. If you are interested in hiring Collier, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*“I have a very open-minded attitude and learn quickly. My biggest strength is my flexibility and adaptability in a work setting, in the courtroom and with clients.”*

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