



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

June 9, 2017

### From the Dean

Two weeks ago, we told you about some terrific students who are working for judges this summer as part of our 1L Judicial Externship Program. This week, I want to recognize several recent grads who have been selected for prestigious judicial clerkships at federal courts and at the Florida Supreme Court. Thank you to everyone at the law school who helped them secure these special opportunities – from writing letters of recommendation to helping students prepare for interviews, everyone at the College of Law is committed to helping students launch their careers. Many of our faculty members served as federal judicial clerks immediately following law school, so they are an especially helpful resource for students considering clerkships. We also have a faculty committee dedicated to helping students obtain these coveted jobs. Congratulations to the alumni listed below, most of whom will begin their clerkships following the bar exam!



- Britton Alexander, Judge John Antoon, II ('71), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- Lazaro Fields, Judge Federico A. Moreno, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

- Patrick Fitzgerald, Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia
- D. Bailey Howard, Justice Jorge Labarga, Florida Supreme Court
- Steven Reardon, Judge Carlos E. Mendoza, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- Kevin Sullivan, Judge Charles R. Wilson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

- Dean Erin O'Connor

## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1999



Kit Conrad, who graduated in December, sits at a sidewalk ramp near the law school.

With the help of a device called a portable ramp, Kit Conrad and fellow intern James Velazquez found numerous ADA sidewalk violations.



In February 1999, the College of Law hosted a day-long symposium, “Defining and Refining Professionalism: Assessing the Roles and Regulation of Lawyers in the 21st Century.” The symposium featured some of the country’s top legal scholars addressing the organizing concepts of lawyering and professionalism outside the courtroom. Also in 1999, an \$815,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development enabled the College of Law’s Caribbean Law Institute to continue developing model legislation for Caribbean nations in alternative dispute resolution, environmental law and fair competition. The institute was founded in 1988 as a joint project of FSU and the University of the West Indies, Barbados, to promote law reform. Also, the Winter 1999 issue of *FSU Law* magazine featured an article about students Kit Conrad ('99) and Christina Galindo ('99), interns at the College of Law’s Children’s Advocacy Center who negotiated enhancements that improved life for Tallahassee disabled citizens. Conrad, wheelchair bound himself, noticed the sidewalks and curbs in Tallahassee were in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. With the help of a fellow intern, Conrad evaluated 282 curb sites in downtown Tallahassee—measuring the slope of each cut. The survey found only 42% were ADA compliant. Galindo also saw disability

access issues when she surveyed a newly constructed city amphitheater in Kleman Plaza. After an enormous amount of time, red tape and public records requests, the students were successful. As a result of their work, the City of Tallahassee agreed to repair noncompliant curbs and add curb cuts where none existed, changing city policy. The city also repaired deficiencies at the amphitheater, lowering the stage to allow wheelchair access and adding a seating area that accommodated wheelchairs.

*Pictured above: Image from the Winter 1999 issue of FSU Law magazine.*

## **Alum Profile: Remembering Nick Lioce ('79)**

In March 2016, alumnus Domenick R. “Nick” Lioce passed away. He was a partner at Nason, Yeager, Gerson, White & Lioce, P.A., where he specialized in tax law. In addition, Lioce had served as president of the Palm Beach Tax Institute, chairman of the Tax Section of The Florida Bar, president of the American Academy of Attorney-CPAs and a member of the board of directors of Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company. He also was a talented musician, serving as the lead singer of Nick-O-Rockwa and the Contra Band. Lioce’s firm hosted a cocktail party on March 24 in Palm Beach Gardens to honor Lioce and announce the establishment of the Domenick R.



Lioce Scholarship Fund at FSU Law. The scholarship fund will be used to assist law students who have outstanding academic credentials, earned an undergraduate degree in accounting and are interested in pursuing a career in tax law. It was established with gift commitments from Lioce’s friends and family, including Nason, Yeager, Gerson, White & Lioce, P.A.; Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun, LLP; and the Tax Section of The Florida Bar. If you are interested in contributing to the fund, contact the law school’s [Kenzie Crane](#).

## **Student Profile: 2017 Grad Kristin Tellis**

Kristin Tellis graduated from FSU Law in May 2017. Originally from St. Petersburg, she earned a bachelor’s degree in strategic, management and legal communication from Howard University. While attending Howard University she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and interned for the Congressional Black Caucus.

During her accomplished law school career, Tellis was a member of the Black Law Students Association and served as community liaison. Tellis was awarded the Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Scholarship in 2015 and 2016, and was the 2017 recipient of the Equal Justice Works Public Interest Student Award. She was also a 2016 Ms. J.D. Fellow. She participated in Alternative Spring Break during her 1L year, assisting Florida Rural Legal Services with grassroots education regarding housing and employment rights for migrant farm workers. Tellis worked at the FSU Children's Advocacy Clinic the summer after her 1L year, as well as the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights in Clearwater, where she conducted legal research and investigated employment discrimination claims.



During her 2L year, Tellis was a Florida Gubernatorial Fellow with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, where she developed a legal article and policy proposal for the Florida governor addressing prosecutorial discretion and juvenile rights when transferring youth from juvenile to adult courts. During the summer after her 2L year, Tellis clerked for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Ghana in Accra. Last fall she interned in Washington D.C. at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section. She drafted memos and reports and conducted legal research for preliminary inquiries and investigation into juvenile fines and fees, juvenile prison conditions and police patterns or practices of discrimination cases in the Baltimore and Chicago police departments. This spring term, Tellis clerked for Thomas A. Warren Law Offices in Tallahassee. The office focuses on class action and fair employment/civil rights law. She also worked as a certified legal intern for FSU Law Professor Paolo Annino in the Children in Prison Project. She would like to practice civil rights law, but is interested in the areas of employment law, Section 1983 cases, immigration law, voting rights, prisoners' rights, juvenile law, housing law, and legal reform and policy. She is interested in moving to the Washington D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area and practicing. However, she is also open to jobs in New York and to staying in the state of Florida. If you are interested in hiring Tellis or would like to connect her with attorneys in the area of civil rights, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*“ I am exceptionally proud to be a two-time recipient of the Calvin Patterson Civil Rights scholarship. I have a fire for this work and a passion to help others that will not diminish. When I get an opportunity to step up and make a difference in the area of civil rights, public interest law and policy, I dive in and work extremely hard. ”*

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