



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

June 23, 2017

From the Dean

Some of you have probably received calls or messages from classmates who are urging you to give to the College of Law before the fiscal year ends on June 30. I want to let you know that you can earmark your gift so that the money directly impacts a group or cause you value most. We have special funds established for everything from co-curricular organizations – including the Trial Team, Moot Court Team and *Law Review* – to scholarships to professorships. You may even earmark your gift when you [give online](#), using the dropdown menu of designation codes for the College of Law. If you have questions about earmarking your gift, please call the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs at 850.644.3945. Thank you to everyone who has already given and to those who plan to make a gift in the near future!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2001



In 2001, the faculty approved two certificate programs—International Law and Environmental, Natural Resources and Land Use Law. The international and environmental law certificates still exist today, along with a certificate in business law. Although just outside the “top tier” in overall ranking, for the first time, *U.S. News & World Report (2001)* ranked FSU Law among the top environmental law programs in the country at #18. During the month of March 2001, the College of Law held its first Annual Fund Drive Phonathon. A total of 33 student workers made the calls—the idea of Ed Walborsky ('79), chair of the Alumni Development Committee, to create what he called “a culture of giving.” That year, students also initiated the first student solicitation for our annual fund. Also in 2001, FSU Law alum Mel Martinez ('73) was selected as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President George W. Bush. Martinez became the first FSU Law grad to sit on the U.S. Cabinet and the first Cuban-American cabinet secretary. Another College of Law alum gave an anonymous donation to help establish the new Center for the Advancement of Human Rights across the street from the law school in 2001. The center remains a strong partner of the law school today. In addition, a new “listserv” was introduced for the 2000-2001 academic year, allowing FSU Law alumni to receive up-to-the-minute information about job opportunities directly via email. The listserv replaced the Alumni Job Notice Bulletin that was mailed to law alumni each month.

Pictured above: Students calling from the Damon House during the first Phonathon in 2001.

Alum Profile: Greg Black ('10)

Greg Black practices at Gunster in Tallahassee, where he specializes in government affairs law and lobbying. He has an extensive background advocating for a wide range of clients in the financial services, insurance, health care,

biomedical research, pharmaceutical and technology industries. Black also works with clients on procurement needs at the state and local levels. Black has remained engaged with the law school since graduating in 2010, often returning to campus to speak with law students and participants in our Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. He also serves on the College of Law's alumni board of directors and chairs the board's development committee. In addition, Black serves on the board for Take Stock In Children, Inc., a nonprofit providing opportunities for a post-secondary education to low-income students throughout all of Florida's 67 counties.



“The Florida State University College of Law was a great environment for me and is the place where I met many of my closest friends. The school was also perfectly situated in Florida’s capital city, which provided excellent work opportunities. I remain actively involved with the College of Law for two reasons: to be available as a resource to current and prospective students in hopes that they will have a similar experience and to encourage alumni to continue efforts which advance the College of Law . ”

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Molly West

Molly West graduated from FSU Law in May 2017. Originally from Orlando, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from FSU. During her law school career, West was a member of Phi Alpha Delta, the Association for Criminal Justice and the International Law Students Association. She was a teaching assistant for Legal Writing and Research during her 2L and 3L years and served as a Lexis Nexis student representative. Before starting law school, West worked for the Law Office of David R. Heil, PA, a personal injury law firm. The summer after her 1L year, she returned to the practice and was in charge of handling all discovery matters. Since her 2L year, West has worked remotely for VM Litigation Consulting, LLC, a jury consulting firm in Orlando. She provides trial consultants and attorneys with information about potential jurors. The summer after her 2L year, West interned with Harvey Moore & Associates, a trial support firm in Tampa. In this role, she conducted mock trials to test theories, witness testimony and counter arguments of a case by trying them in front of mock



jurors. During the spring of her 3L year, West completed an externship with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. During the externship, she oversaw approximately 15 cases and represented clients in disputes against landlords, housing authorities and the Social Security Administration. West is currently seeking employment in the Atlanta area. She would prefer to litigate, but has no preference regarding plaintiff or defense work. If you are interested in hiring West, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

“The education I received at FSU Law gave me the resources to be a great student and the tools to be a successful lawyer. I am ready to put them into action.”

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

[ABOUT US](#) | [ACADEMICS](#) | [ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID](#) | [OUR FACULTY](#) | [ALUMNI](#) | [CAREERS](#) | [STUDENTS](#)

