



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

July 7, 2017

From the Dean

Beginning this fall, a significant number of applicants will be selected to interview with an alumnus through our new Optional Interview Program. Alumni will meet in their cities or via Skype with applicants to collect information that will be beneficial to the admissions committee and also to convey the benefits of attending law school at FSU. In addition to the interviews being a helpful recruiting tool, they will provide students with valuable interview experience as they prepare for future job searches. Alumni can commit to as few as three half-hour interviews per year and relevant materials will be provided by the law school. If you would like to volunteer to interview applicants, please fill out our [online form](#). Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered for this important, new component of our application process!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2003



In 2003, FSU Law launched the LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers degree program. This program gives students with a law degree from other nations an understanding of the American legal system and the role of law in the United States. Students can create their own plan of study and design a curriculum to gain in-depth knowledge of U.S. law in specialized fields such as commercial/business law, international law, intellectual property law and criminal law. Also in 2003, the Honorable Kenneth B. Bell ('82) became the first College of Law graduate appointed to the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Bell served until 2008 and is now a shareholder of Gunster in Tallahassee. A grant from the Law School Admission Council enabled the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program the ability to expand from 30 to 60 students. In the same year, an additional \$1 million gift from the Wayne and Pat Hogan Family Foundation enabled the program to remain at its expanded size on a permanent basis. Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte stepped down as President of FSU in 2003, after serving in the role since 1994, and returned to the law school. Immediately he immersed himself in the Online Legal Studies Project, a three-year project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development to help educate lawyers and law students in Central and Eastern Europe.

Pictured above: LL.M. in American Law graduates at the 2017 commencement, (left to right) Eddy Laguerre from Haiti, Sara Korkuc from Peru, Eddy David from Cuba, Blanca Delgado Martinez from Colombia, Bianca Báez Pearson from the Dominican Republic, Khyrsi Prosperi from Venezuela, Hector A. Benitez Canas from Venezuela and Felipe Vieira Nogueira from Brazil.

Alum Profile: Tshneka Tate ('98)

Tshneka Tate is vice president and senior assistant general counsel for NASCAR's media, production, digital and entertainment affiliates. At NASCAR, Tate oversees all day-to-day operations of the media-related legal issues for

NASCAR Media Ventures, NASCAR Productions and NASCAR Digital Media. She has been a member of NASCAR's legal team since 2000 and has played a key role in the media rights agreements with FOX, NBC and IMG. Tate was honored in 2013 as a finalist for the *Charlotte Business Journal's* Corporate Counsel Award for Outstanding Corporate Counsel and Outstanding IP Lawyer. Tate was one of two alums from Charlotte who spoke with FSU law students during a networking nosh in October 2016, where she talked about her career path and advised students on how to go in-house and navigate the legal job market in North Carolina.



“I like to connect with law students and college students interested in law school to share my path into this career that I enjoy. When I was a rising law student, I found that talking to attorneys who were willing to share advice and their backgrounds was extremely helpful in my determining a career path into sports. So I just hope that sharing my journey will help inspire those students to explore their own paths . ”

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Tim Asta

Tim Asta is from Fairfax Station, Virginia and earned a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Virginia. In May of 2017, he graduated cum laude from FSU Law. During his law school career, Asta was a member of the *FSU Law Review*, where he served on the Online Publication Committee and earned an Outstanding Subciter Award. He was also a member of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law* and the *FSU Business Review*. Additionally, he earned three book awards during law school. Asta's legal experience includes externing at the Florida Office of the Attorney General the summer before his 3L year. In this position, he prepared for and conducted pre-trial motions, depositions, discovery and representation in court. Asta also completed pro bono hours for the Florida Justice Technology Center, where he translated complex legal concepts, legalese, rules and practices into easily plain language. Asta is intent on working in Northern California, in the San Francisco Bay or Sacramento areas. He would like to practice civil litigation; science, technology and intellectual property law; or business and taxation law. Prior to attending law school, Asta worked for nearly a decade in IT and graphic design,



including for the Florida Department of Revenue and the FSU MagLab, and running his own business, Tim Asta Designs. To see more information about Asta and his qualifications, visit timasta.com or [connect with him on LinkedIn](#).

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