



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

July 21, 2017

From the Dean



Next week, recent law school grads will be taking bar exams around the nation. From everyone here at FSU Law, best wishes to all of our alumni who will be taking an exam! During the last several weeks, we've hosted numerous study breaks for grads, including yoga classes, chair massage sessions, coffee gatherings and "popcorn and coloring" breaks. They culminated this Wednesday with a "Spear the Bar" cookout featuring lunch and games on the

James Harold Thompson Green to get everyone together one last time before the bar exam. We've also been sharing bar exam study tips through a #SpearTheBar social media campaign – thank you to the many alumni who have shared their wisdom! For our graduates taking the Florida Bar Examination, we invite you to join us for lunch both days at the Tampa Convention Center. The law school's Dean Nancy Benavides, Becky Shepherd and Morgan Applegate are looking forward to seeing you there! Good luck to everyone!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: On Wednesday, July 19, recent graduates enjoyed a study break at our #SpearTheBar cookout.



50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2005

As we were climbing the ladder into the nation's top law schools as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2005 was a big year. FSU College of Law jumped 11 slots—to #56 from #67. In April 2005, FSU Law Professor Lois Shepherd was a guest on National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation-Science Friday* for insight into end-of-life issues stemming from the high-profile Terri Schiavo case. In May 2005, the College of Law's Children's Advocacy Center received one of the most prestigious awards in clinical education for its Children in Prison Project. The Clinical Legal Education Association awarded FSU with the Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Project, an award that



recognizes projects that reflect “creative and high-quality solutions to novel problems.” During the fall 2005 semester, FSU waived out-of-state tuition for students evacuated from states devastated by Hurricane Katrina. FSU Law rallied to support displaced law students from Tulane University Law School and Loyola University School of Law who accepted our offer for visiting student status. Students, faculty and alumni pulled together food, linens, money, school supplies, books and temporary housing for the visiting students. In December 2005, FSU Law graduated its first LL.M. in American Law student,

Sovanna K. “Chhem” Sip from Cambodia. To date, 66 students have graduated from this program.

Pictured above: FSU Law's first LL.M. in American Law graduate, Chhem Sip, and his family.

Alum Profile: The Honorable Claudia R. Isom ('75)



The Honorable Claudia Isom was first elected to the bench for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court in 1990. She currently presides over cases in the Circuit Civil Division and previously was assigned to the following court divisions: Family Law, Felony, Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Delinquency, Civil Trial, East Division (Plant City), and Probate, Guardianship & Trust. Judge Isom has won numerous awards, including The Florida Bar Hoeveler Judicial Professionalism Award in 2014 and the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice’s Distinguished Judicial Service Award in 2013. In June, she was presented with the Outstanding Jurist Award by The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD). The award honors a judge who has an excellent reputation for sound judicial decisions and an unblemished record of integrity as a lawyer and judge; is generally recognized by bar members as highly qualified; is active in bar-related activities open to the judiciary; and demonstrates concern for and willingness to assist young lawyers and respects their abilities. Prior to joining the judiciary, Judge Isom was a shareholder at Isom, Pingel and Isom-Rickert, P.A., served as legal counsel for District VI of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and was an assistant state attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

“I will be forever grateful to the FSU College of Law for the opportunity to attend law school at a time when many law schools set limits on the number of women they admitted. Thanks to FSU, I met my husband, started our family with a daughter born in our third year and received the law degree that was the gateway to a rewarding career . ”

Pictured above (L-R): Judge Isom with Dean O'Connor after the YLD Outstanding Jurist Award presentation ceremony; Judge Isom with special cookies she received with her award from the YLD in June; Judge Isom with fellow FSU Law graduate Melanie S. Griffin ('06), who chaired The Florida Bar Convention where the YLD award was presented.

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Tiffany Basdeosingh

Tiffany Basdeosingh graduated from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in legal studies and a minor in sociology. Originally from Palm Beach, she graduated from FSU Law in May 2017. During law school, Basdeosingh was a member of the Cuban American Bar Association and the Women's Law Symposium. Her clinical experience includes working on dissolution of marriage and time-share/custody cases through the Family Law Clinic and working on immigration, foster care and human trafficking cases through the Children's Advocacy Clinic. The summer after her 1L



year, Basdeosingh was a surrogacy and adoption law clerk analyzing contracts for the Law Offices of Charlotte H. Danciu, P.A. in Delray Beach. During the summer after her 2L year, Basdeosingh clerked in Fort Lauderdale for Lowry at Law, P.A., where she worked on family and criminal cases, including a murder appeal. She also worked on a congressional campaign preparing complaints and responses filed with the Federal Election Commission and Congress. Last spring, Basdeosingh worked at the Florida Sheriff's Association, researching legislation. She would like to practice family law, but is open to learning and adapting in other areas. Basdeosingh is interested in working in South Florida, anywhere in Miami, Broward or Palm Beach, but is also open to Central Florida cities such as Tampa or Orlando. If you are interested in hiring Basdeosingh, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

“FSU College of Law prepared me with an exceptional education in legal knowledge, skills and professionalism that taught me how to think on my feet and adapt to challenging tasks ahead.”

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

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

