



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

July 28, 2017

From the Dean



Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of visiting our Summer Program in Law at Oxford, which is currently in its 45th year! It was a special opportunity to meet with the students and professors who are in England as part of this enriching six-week program – the oldest ongoing program in Oxford sponsored by a U.S. law school. In addition to attending classes taught by world-class Oxford and FSU professors, I taught a guest lecture on law markets in the Comparative

Law course, enjoyed a tour of the facilities where students live and study, accompanied students during sessions at the Royal Courts of Justice and the Central Criminal Court – commonly known as the Old Bailey – in London, and attended several gatherings with our students. I also joined students on a Harry Potter walking tour when classes weren't in session. Visiting with the Oxford faculty – Elizabeth Fisher and Jeffrey Hackney – was a highlight of my trip. We are so thankful to them for their longstanding commitment to our program and the education of our students. I have heard from many alumni that our Oxford program was a highlight of their legal education and, now that I have had an opportunity to visit the program, I can see why!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Students and Dean O'Connor enjoyed a Harry Potter-themed walking tour while in England for our Summer Program in Law at Oxford.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2006



In 2006, for the first time, the FSU Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was named the National BLSA Chapter of the Year at the organization's national convention in Washington, D.C. Our BLSA has won several national and regional chapter awards and advocacy competitions since that time. Also in 2006, FSU President Emeritus and former FSU Law Dean Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, was recognized with the International Bar Association's prestigious Rule of Law Award. The award honors people who have made a significant and lasting contribution to upholding the rule of law worldwide. In 1989, D'Alemberte worked with the American Bar Association to found the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, a volunteer program charged with assisting emerging democracies across the region as they worked to create legal frameworks that would guarantee the rights of individuals. In 2006, Professor Paolo Annino was honored for his efforts, particularly on behalf of

foster children, as the Guardian ad Litem Advocate of the Year by the statewide Guardian ad Litem Office and Governor Jeb Bush. A new, stronger program in Law, Business and Economics was announced in fall 2006. Dean Donald Weidner said the mission of this initiative was to give our students the sophistication necessary to pursue careers in the business world at the highest possible level. Also, The Florida Bar honored Clinical Professor Larry Krieger with the 2006 Faculty Professionalism Award. Clinical Professor Ruth Stone won the award in 2004.

Pictured above: The 2006 BLSA chapter's many activities included a Hurricane Katrina relief drive, volunteer work at the Ronald McDonald House and the establishment of a mentoring program for pre-law students at Florida A&M University.

Alum Profile: The Honorable Kim C. Hammond ('72)



The Honorable Kim C. Hammond passed away in July, after battling longstanding illness. He had served as a circuit judge in Flagler County for more than 30 years, retiring in 2011. Appointed to the bench in 1979 by Governor Bob Graham, Hammond was the only circuit judge for Flagler County during his time on the bench. His enormous workload led to a second seat being secured for the county in 2011. Hammond was credited with getting a new courthouse in Flagler County and, in 2007, the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center in Bunnell was named in his honor. He also had served as a chief judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit and held leadership positions with the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges. Hammond was active in his community, serving the United Way, Boy Scouts, the Daytona Beach Community College Foundation, Florida Special Olympics and First Presbyterian Church of Daytona Beach. He practiced law in Daytona Beach before his appointment to the bench. Before attending law school, Hammond was a star quarterback for the Florida State University football team and briefly played professional football for the Miami Dolphins and Boston Patriots.

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Christopher O'Brien

Originally from Naples, Christopher R. O'Brien earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from FSU. He graduated from FSU Law in May 2017 and also earned the Environmental and Land Use Law Certificate. O'Brien hopes to practice environmental, land use, real estate or administrative law and prefers to stay in Tallahassee or move closer to his retired parents in Naples. During law school, O'Brien was a member of the Environmental Law Society, the Student Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi. He also served as an FSU Law student ambassador and as a research assistant for Shi-Ling Hsu, D'Alemberte Professor and Associate Dean for



Environmental Programs, where he researched coastal and ocean law in preparation for the drafting and publication of a legal textbook. O'Brien's other law school experience includes clerking for the Florida Office of the Attorney General – State Programs Bureau. In this role, he assisted in defending state agencies and departments against civil litigation. The summer after his 2L year, he interned at the Florida Office of Public Counsel, where he researched and drafted pleadings related to Florida utility ratemaking cases. During his 3L year, O'Brien was an environmental and land development law clerk for Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson. He assisted the firm's attorneys and professionals in matters related to environmental and land use permitting and litigation, comprehensive planning, zoning, local governments and real estate development. If you are interested in hiring O'Brien, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

“Florida State University College of Law has prepared me to succeed as a young attorney. I am confident I will be able to utilize my knowledge and experience to benefit clients’ legal needs.”

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