



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

August 4, 2017

From the Dean

Final results are in for the 2016-17 annual fund and we're delighted to report that, for the fifth year in a row, more than 30% of alumni participated! We also finished the year with a record number of donors, 2,777, contributing a total of \$471,226 to the annual fund. All of us at the law school are grateful to each graduate who made a gift to the College of Law last fiscal year. Your generosity is already making an impact as our need for scholarship dollars is higher than ever. We are in the final weeks before our new 1L class arrives and scholarship offers are helping us recruit an extremely talented and diverse group! I also want to thank the 67 class agents who contacted their classmates to help us reach our 30.38% annual fund participation rate. This number keeps us within the nation's top 10 law schools in terms of alumni giving and among the top three public law schools. I am continuously amazed at how engaged our alumni are and how committed they are to helping FSU Law advance!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2007

In 2007, the Florida Legislature committed \$250,000 in planning money for FSU Law to expand into the courthouse being vacated by Florida's First District Court of Appeal. Today the building is known as the Advocacy Center and houses our Public Interest Law Center, five courtrooms, classrooms, conference rooms and more! After beloved Professor Steve Gey announced he had been diagnosed with ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) in December 2006, former and current students, colleagues and friends formed Team Gey and participated in a March 2007 triathlon at Maclay Gardens in Tallahassee. "Tri-for-Gey," as the event was



coined, raised more than \$37,000 for ALS research in Gey's name. Gey passed away in 2011. In April 2007, Fred Abbott, the Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, organized more than 30 of the world's most creative thinkers and leading experts on pharmaceuticals to discuss the future of global pharmaceutical regulation, ways to improve the system, research and development for new pharmaceuticals and assuring access to medicines. Experts in global pharmaceutical regulation have convened at FSU Law two times since the 2007 meeting. Also in 2007, longtime professors Charles "Chuck" Ehrhardt and John Yetter retired from full-time teaching after nearly 40 years at FSU. More than 400 people attended their retirement party to pay them tribute. "They set an early example for all of us at the law school," said then Dean Don Weidner in the spring 2007 issue of *FSU Law* magazine. "They have been a great example for the new faculty, proving the wisdom in remaining engaged in the legal community more broadly," he said. Both emeritus professors still continue to teach today, 10 years later.

Pictured above: FSU Law alum Laura Johnson ('05) and Steve Gey with the poster she made for the 2007 Tri-for-Gey.

Alum Profile: Aaron R. Gott ('13)

[Aaron R. Gott](#) is of counsel at Bona Law PC, a boutique antitrust firm in La Jolla, California. Gott focuses on antitrust and competition litigation, complex business litigation and challenges to government conduct. He has extensive experience in

litigating antitrust cases against governmental entities claiming to be immune from federal antitrust law under the state-action doctrine. Gott also defends clients in multi-district class action antitrust litigation, represents businesses as plaintiffs against competitors in non-class action antitrust litigation, and manages the day-to-day litigation, associate attorneys, and support staff at Bona Law. Gott is admitted to practice in California, Minnesota, and numerous U.S. district courts and courts of appeal, and his practice is nationwide. His most recent victory in a Florida federal court resulted in a notorious patent troll being ordered to pay attorneys' fees to Bona Law's client. Gott is also a combat veteran and served close to a decade in the U.S. Army.



“I’ve been extremely fortunate to take on responsibilities typically reserved for partners in big law, rather than someone who graduated from law school in 2013. I took a risk forgoing traditional big law employment and it really paid off. I wouldn’t be where I am without the outstanding faculty and student body at FSU College of Law.”

Student Profile: 2017 LL.M. in American Law Grads



The FSU College of Law’s LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers 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. This

May, five students completed the program. An additional five students are graduating this summer. The students all have interesting stories and most have years of experience practicing law in their home countries. Some students are currently job seeking, while others plan to transfer into the FSU Law J.D. program this fall. More information about their backgrounds, experience and career goals can be found [on our website](#).

Pictured above are (from left to right), [Eddy David](#) from Cuba, [Svitlana Astakhova](#) from Ukraine, [Sara Korkuc](#) from Peru, [Hector A. Benitez Cañas](#) from Venezuela, [Galyna Dyakiv](#) from Ukraine, [Bianca Báez Pearson](#) from the Dominican Republic, [Blanca Delgado Mertinez](#) from Colombia and [Eddy Laguerre](#) from Haiti. [Felipe Vieira Nogueira](#) from Brazil and [Khyrsi Prospero](#) from Venezuela are not pictured. Connect with our recent LL.M. graduates on LinkedIn by clicking their names above.

“FSU has opened its doors to me in the most welcoming way. I have met wonderful professors, made great friends and learned tremendously. Pursuing a second law degree and having two juris doctors from different legal systems never felt so right.”
– Bianca Báez Pearson, 2017 LL.M. graduate

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