



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

November 3, 2017



From the Dean

Last week, we were delighted to host the Honorable Charles R. Wilson, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, as part of our Jurist in Residence Program that brings federal judges to campus. While here, Judge Wilson had breakfast with students, answered questions in Professor David E. Landau's Civil Procedure class, toured the law school, visited the Moot Court Final Four Showcase and met with faculty members. Judge Wilson was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the United States Court of Appeals for

the Eleventh Circuit in 1999. He also previously served as a county judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County Court, as a United States magistrate judge for the Middle District of Florida, and as U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Florida. Thank you to alumnus Kenneth Lawson ('91) for connecting us with Judge Wilson and helping us welcome him to FSU Law!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Judge Wilson talks to students during breakfast.

Faculty Profile: Manuel A. Utset, Jr.

Manuel Utset, the William & Catherine VanDercreek Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, is a leading scholar on applying behavioral law and economics to issues in corporate law, securities regulation, financial regulation and contract law. He teaches a wide variety of courses at the law school, including Corporations, The Dodd-Frank Act, Game Theory for Business Lawyers, Securities Regulation, and



Introduction to Business, Finance and Commercial Transactions. As associate dean for academic affairs since 2014, Utset has been integral in developing our Juris Master programs. He meets regularly with J.D., J.M. and LL.M. students and is involved in all student-related academic issues. He also works very closely with faculty members and our registrar on course development and scheduling. Utset has been instrumental in developing our thriving business law program, the Business Law Certificate and joint-degree programs with various units on campus. Utset is a graduate of the University of Michigan College of Law and has been a member of the FSU Law faculty since 2007.

“My approach to teaching business law is simple: teach the law; teach the business. To drive matters home, I tell my students about a conversation, a week or so into my practice career, when a partner informed me, in a nicely pointed way, that I had a month to learn all those things I should have learned in law school—how to read financial statements; how to speak ‘business’ and ‘finance’ and ‘economics’; and how to put transactions in their proper business context.”

Alum Profile: Isaac C. Spragg ('00)

After retiring from the U.S. military on November 1, [Lieutenant Colonel Isaac C. Spragg](#) opened Spragg Law Firm in Miami, which is dedicated to preserving and protecting the rights of consumers. In addition to consumer law, the firm represents those injured by other individuals or businesses. Lt. Col. Spragg's 32 years of military service began following high school when he joined the Air Force. After graduating from law school, Lt. Col. Spragg was commissioned in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, where he held many prestigious positions, including prosecutor for military commissions, senior defense counsel and chief of administrative law at U.S. Southern Command in Doral, Florida. During his military career, Lt. Col. Spragg completed five combat deployments, two of them while in the JAG Corps.



“Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage and Selfless Service are some of the U.S. Military's Core Values - these instilled values will serve my clients well in my post-military legal practice.”

Student Profile: 3L Dominique Mortimer

Desired Practice Location : Central Florida, Tampa or Washington, D.C.
Expected Graduation : May 2018
Specialization : appellate advocacy
Field of Law Sought : litigation; labor and employment, commercial litigation, and appellate advocacy

Originally from Miami, Dominique Mortimer earned her bachelor's degree in politics and sociology from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She will earn her J.D. in May 2018. Mortimer has been a member and secretary of the Law School Council since her 1L year. The council allocates more than \$50,000 for events hosted by the registered student organizations on campus. Mortimer is also a member of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and was a team captain for the BLSA Mock Trial Team in 2016. Her team earned a first place victory at the regional level and a fourth place finish at the national level in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Since then, she has been a member of the Moot Court Team and currently serves as vice president. Mortimer was selected for the Final Four Competition at the Florida Supreme Court in 2016 and competed in the National Bryant-Moore



Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C., where her team earned a national championship. Mortimer's experience includes the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, where she worked the summer after her 1L year and gained insight into trial preparation. As a 2L, Mortimer clerked with the Tallahassee City Attorney's Office, where she wrote extensively on employment discrimination and workers' rights. Last summer, she clerked for Sniffen & Spellman, P.A., where she gained a deep understanding of employment law issues from the perspectives of public and private employers. Mortimer's current externship with the Capital Habeas Unit of the Office of the Federal Public Defender, Northern District of Florida, is providing her with the opportunity to hone her research and brief writing skills . If you are interested in hiring Mortimer after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#) .

“ I am grateful for my FSU Law experience. There is a great need for advocates that can understand various perspectives and complex issues. My academic and co-curricular activities have prepared me to be a successful advocate who will make valuable contributions to the legal profession. ”



GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE YOUR TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

