



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

November 9, 2017



### From the Dean

In advance of Veterans Day, thank you to all of our FSU Law community members who have served in the U.S. military forces for their service to our country! When the spring semester begins in January, we will be launching our new Veterans Legal Clinic, which will provide free legal services to veterans. Although the population served is veterans, the Public Interest Law Center clinic will handle cases of many types, not just veterans law. Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, law students enrolled in the clinic will work on cases such as driver's license reinstatements, family law cases, expunging criminal records, clemency applications and landlord/tenant cases. Students

will gain valuable legal experience and develop practical skills as they handle cases from start to finish, while making a real difference in the lives of veterans and their families. We would like to thank the Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative and its founder, attorney Dan Hendrickson, for conceiving of this clinic. Thank you also to Veterans Legal Clinic Director Jennifer LaVia, who is working tirelessly to launch the clinic this spring. We are thrilled that we will be able to provide much needed legal services to area residents who have served our country! If you or someone you know is interested in receiving assistance through the clinic, call 850.644.9928.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: In advance of launching the Veterans Legal Clinic, volunteer law students, Professor LaVia, and other volunteer lawyers have conducted weekly advice and referral sessions for veterans at the American Legion Post 13 in Tallahassee.*

## Moot Court Team Wins National Championship

This past weekend, the FSU College of Law Moot Court Team won first place in the 2017 Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition! Florida State also won the Best Brief Award at the competition, which was held November 3-4 in Chicago. Congratulations to winning team members (pictured left to right) 2L Keriann Smith, from Panama City, and 3L Catie Messinger, from Jacksonville. Congratulations also to FSU College of Law alumnus Joseph Gardner ('14), an associate at Henry Buchanan, P.A. in Tallahassee, who coached the team to victory. Nineteen law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from Georgetown University Law Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and University of Wisconsin Law School. Florida State beat Chicago-Kent College of Law in the final round of competition, which was held in the ceremonial courtroom of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. This victory is another example of the excellence, talent and commitment of Florida State law students!



## Alum Profile: Christopher Thielemann ( ' 02)

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Thielemann, Retired, is an assistant U.S. attorney in the Tallahassee criminal division at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida. Prior to joining the office in 2015, he served as a judge advocate and

commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 21 years before retiring. His last assignment in the military was as the chief prosecutor for the Western Region of the U.S. Marine Corps, a criminal court region that covers all cases west of the Mississippi. In that position, LtCol (Ret.) Thielemann prosecuted cases on behalf of the United States as well as supervised approximately 35 prosecutors and 20 paralegals and support staff. Prior to becoming the chief prosecutor, he served as a criminal court judge in the same region, presiding over 148 felony and misdemeanor jury and bench trials at Navy and Marine Corps installations throughout the western half of the United States, as well as a term of court in Afghanistan. LtCol (Ret.) Thielemann is a member of The Florida Bar Criminal Law and Trial Lawyers sections and remains engaged with the College of Law. He served as a moot court coach for teams competing in 2016 and 2017, and is currently working with another team that will compete this spring. Last fall, he returned to campus to serve on a panel, "Why Moot Court is Not Moot," where he discussed how moot court is applicable and beneficial to legal practice. He also participated in another law school panel, "Marijuana Legalization and the Presidential Election," where he talked about the impact of state legalization and federal prosecution.



*"I look fondly upon my time at FSU Law, especially the spectacular faculty who are too many to name, but I have a special place in my heart for Professor Steve Gey. FSU Law was a compelling reason for my return to Tallahassee."*

## **Student Profile: 3L Stuart Nincehelter**

**Desired Practice Location** : Florida, Washington, D.C. or another large metropolitan area

**Expected Graduation** : May 2018

**Specialization** : administrative law, statutory interpretation and compliance with state and federal law

**Field of Law Sought** : administrative law or government relations

This spring, when Stuart Nincehelter graduates from FSU Law, he will become a triple Nole. Raised in Tallahassee and Northern Michigan, Nincehelter earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a

master's degree in applied politics and policy from FSU. Ninceheler was an airborne infantryman in the U.S. Army for five years before coming to law school. He also worked for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as a DUI scientific subject matter expert. Ninceheler is a member of the Collegiate Veterans Association and is involved in the founding of the Student Veterans Law Symposium as their 3L representative. During his 2L year, Ninceheler was selected to work in the Rules and Policy Committee of the Florida House of Representatives as a legislative intern. While there he was responsible for bill analysis, bill drafting and tracking legislation as it moved through the legislative process. After his time in the House, Ninceheler began working as a law clerk with the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), where he analyzes proposals and draft amendments to the Florida Constitution. With the CRC, Ninceheler also assists commissioners with drafting formal proposals and provides legal advice and analysis on pending proposals. If you are interested in hiring Ninceheler after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#) .



*“I have been incredibly fortunate to take advantage of the many relationships FSU Law has built locally and around the world, from studying at Oxford, England, to working with the Florida House of Representatives Intern Program, to externing with the Constitution Revision Commission. I could not be more grateful to the faculty and staff of the College of Law for not only preparing me to practice law, but also to appreciate the gravity of this profession.”*

A dark maroon rectangular graphic. On the left side, there is a large, faint, circular outline of the Florida State University (FSU) logo, which depicts a classical building with columns. Overlaid on the right side of the graphic is white text. At the top, it says "Homecoming 2017" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, in a slightly smaller font, it says "November 17-18". At the bottom, it says "Register at law.fsu.edu/homecoming" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Homecoming 2017  
November 17-18  
Register at [law.fsu.edu/homecoming](http://law.fsu.edu/homecoming)

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