

From the Dean



We are delighted to report that six of the 13 members of the current Florida Gubernatorial Fellows class are students at FSU Law! Historically, our students have held substantially more fellowships than students from any other law school. This year, FSU Law students hold twice as many fellowships as students from all other law schools combined. The nine-month Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program immerses university students in key areas of state government. Fellows receive advanced on-the-job training and a glimpse into the inner workings of government, as they fulfill roles of critical responsibility, interact closely with the state's top leaders, and employ their skills and abilities in a rewarding environment. Congratulations to the following students who are making us proud through their service and accomplishments!

Third-year student Oluremi "Remi" Abiodun (middle row, second from L) is a joint J.D. and Master's of Social Work student working at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Second-year student M. Hannah Brewer (front row, second from L) is working at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Second-year student Abby Brinkman (front row, second from R) is working at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Third-year student R. McLane Edwards (back row, third from L) is working at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. First-year student Samantha Kunin (front row, far L) is working at the Florida Department of Health and second-year student Roberta Skinner (middle row, far L) is working at the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: The Honorable John Lazzara

The Honorable John Lazzara is an adjunct professor teaching Workers' Compensation Skills this fall.

Lazzara served as judge of compensation claims in Tampa and Tallahassee districts for more than 28 years, retiring in May 2018.

Lazzara now works as a certified workers' compensation mediator, consultant and speaker with extensive knowledge and experience in helping parties reach resolution of complex and challenging issues. He served as

president of the Florida Conference of Judges of Compensation Claims, chair of The Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Rules Committee and chair of the DOAH/OJCC Workers' Compensation Rules Revision Committee. Lazzara has also been a member of The Florida Bar Appellate Court Rules Committee, The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism and The Florida Bar Senior Lawyers Committee. In 2008, Lazzara was instrumental in the founding and was elected inaugural president of the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary and served on its board of directors until 2018. In 2009, he was inducted as a fellow of the American Bar Association-founded College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers and sat on its board of governors for five years. Lazzara is a charter member of the Florida Workers' Compensation Institute's Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 2012.

Lazzara earned both his bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from the University of Florida.



"For me, teaching the Workers' Compensation Skills class at FSU Law is about giving back and paying it forward. Having had the privilege of public service as an adjudicator, I've gained a modicum of knowledge and experience in this area of the law and am honored for the opportunity to impart some of what I've learned to future lawyers. Often viewed as the stepchild of the law school curriculum, FSU recognizes the significant impact of workers' compensation law on the lives of workers and the economics of industry, which often necessitates legal advice and guidance. Therefore, to prepare its students in acquiring the necessary skills to undertake necessary representation, the law school has made the course part of its curriculum."

Alum Profile: Andrew W. Smith ('12)

In February, Andrew W. Smith joined Goldman Sachs & Co. as vice president, where he serves as an advisor on investment and lending needs for global family offices, ultra-high net worth individuals, endowments and foundations. His previous experience includes serving as vice president at J.P. Morgan and as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch. In addition to being a CFA charterholder and certified financial planner, Smith is a member of The Florida Bar. In August, the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* announced its selection of Smith as a 40 Under 40 honoree for his business success, leadership abilities and dedication to the Tampa Bay community. Smith was selected for the honor from among more than 600 nominees. Smith remains engaged with the College of Law and gives back through his service on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, as a mentor through the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program and as a contributor and promotor for the Pave the Way Campaign.



"A Florida State College of Law education trains you to think critically and analytically, communicate complex material and to be persuasive—skills essential for success in the field of financial services. The experiences, education and connections made here have opened opportunities along every step of my career."

Student Profile: 3L Kathryn Mesa

Desired Practice Location: Washington, D.C., South Florida, Tampa or Tallahassee

Expected Graduation: May 2020

Specialization: International law

Field of Law Sought: International human rights law



Originally from Fort Lauderdale, Kathryn "Katie" Mesa earned a bachelor's degree in art history with double minors in French & Francophone studies and classical studies from the University of Florida. When she graduates from FSU Law in May 2020, she will also earn the International Law Certificate. This summer, Mesa interned with the American Civil Liberties Union of

Florida in Miami, where she researched, composed memoranda on issues pertaining to active litigation and policy objectives, assisted with client intake and preparation for litigation, and actively participated in statewide meetings to plan and develop specific campaigns. During the fall of her 2L year, Mesa participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Immigration and Farmworker Project. She prepared petitions, motions and other legal documents relating to adjustments of status, T visas, asylum and refugee visas, U visas, Violence Against Women Act and family petitions. Mesa also prepared clinic intake forms, conducted client interviews, and researched statutes, executive orders, agency rules and general trends and changes in immigration policy. During the summer after her 1L year, Mesa interned for the Honorable Stephen Everett of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. Mesa composed memoranda and assisted with the preparation of orders for criminal and civil cases, and conducted legal research for motion hearings and trials. Mesa is a member of the Women's Law Symposium (WLS), where she served as president last year. As WLS president, Mesa was a chapter representative to the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, cultivating relations with Tallahassee Women Lawyers and raising awareness and funds for the *Florida State University Law Review* and managing editor for the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. She is a member of the Student Bar Association, the International Law Students Association and the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot Team. She is also a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office. Mesa is the recipient of the 2019 Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Scholarship, a Preeminent Scholarship and the 2019 Mores Student Leadership Award. Mesa has studied in Florence and Oxford and speaks intermediate Spanish and French, with aspirations to achieve fluency in both. If you are interested in hiring Mesa after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#). Mesa will be in Washington, D.C. in October for the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair and would welcome any opportunity to connect.

"My ultimate goal is to work for the United Nations or another international non-profit or non-governmental organization focused on human rights. As a former mentee of the late Sandy D'Alemberte, I feel fortunate to have experienced his tutelage and I hope to continue his legacy in this field. I know there are many ways to get there and I am open to any opportunities to pursue my passions in human rights, civil rights, women's rights and social justice in general."



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