

From the Dean



(L-R) Denmark, Ruth, Ramirez, Campbell, Smith

Earlier this month, our Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Mock Trial Team won first place in the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition at the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association's regional convention! The meeting took place Jan. 30-Feb. 2 in Charleston, South Carolina. Florida State participated in five rounds and was undefeated throughout the competition. Some of the region's top law schools competed, including teams from University of Alabama, University of Florida and University of North Carolina. This victory continues an impressive record of success by FSU BLSA in regional and national competitions, and we are extremely proud of our talented student advocates and their dedicated coaches.

Congratulations to winning team members Destinee Campbell (1L), Christopher Ramirez (1L), Shaina Ruth (1L), Anthony Smith (2L) and alternate Zuriel Denmark (1L). They were coached by Florida State law alumni Louis Jean-Baptiste ('16), who practices at the Law Office of Stephen G. Webster, LLC in Tallahassee, and Matthew C. Williams ('13), who practices at Akbar Law Firm, P.A. in Tallahassee.

Florida State's BLSA will compete in the related national competition in March at the National Black Law Students Association Annual Convention in Cincinnati.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Trial Team Holds Training Session for Leon County Teen Court



FSU Law Trial Team members 2L Jordane Wong (left) and 3L Joshua Funderburke presenting at the Teen Court training session in January.

In early January, the FSU Law Trial Team held a Teen Court training session at the Leon County Courthouse. The event was organized by December 2019 FSU Law graduate Dayna Maeder, and Trial Team members presented topics and performed sample statements and examinations. Approximately 20 teens from around the county participated in the training and the Honorable Nina Ashanafi-Richardson ('91) stopped by to offer words of encouragement to the teens about the importance of their volunteer work with the Teen Court program.

Teen Court is a diversion program that strives to help juvenile offenders take responsibility for their actions, increase awareness of the law and promote community involvement by providing volunteer opportunities to both youth and adults. Leon County's first Teen Court hearing was held in 1993.

"As a member of the FSU Law Trial Team, I have learned invaluable courtroom lessons and have been coached by some of the best legal minds in Tallahassee," said Maeder. "The ability to pass along that knowledge to teenagers in our community who are passionate about learning the law is a privilege." Maeder said she created the workshop to help students elevate the skills needed to effectively advocate for their client and that watching them learn and grow was inspiring.

Maeder also credited the Trial Team members who volunteered their time and talents working throughout winter break to help prepare a meaningful and impactful workshop for the students. Volunteers for the Teen Court training session included Trial Team members 2L Sidney Carter, 3L Joshua Funderburke, 3L Zack Nations, 3L Bailey Rider, 3L Luke Waldron and 2L Jordane Wong.

Alum Profile: John A. Boudet ('85)

John A. Boudet is a shareholder and chair of the Complex Litigation Group at GrayRobinson in Orlando. His national practice is focused on complex litigation, including class actions, product liability, business torts, construction defects, commercial litigation and other high-stakes litigation. Boudet has a national reputation in the presentation of complex technical, scientific and economic evidence. His clients include businesses of all types and prominent individuals, including professional athletes, entertainers and Fortune 500 executives. He has served as trial counsel for plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of cases, including business torts, products liability, construction, intellectual property, civil RICO claims, securities fraud, probate litigation and personal injury cases. Boudet has earned numerous honors for his work, including *Orlando Magazine's* 2019 Lawyer of the Year Award in the area of Product Liability Litigation-Defendants.



"As the legal profession moves toward ever-greater specialization, I'm fortunate that I'm able to work on cases involving many different areas of the law. I've gotten to handle cases about everything from growing orchids in Hawaii, to construction of a power plant in Guatemala, to the development of luxury condominiums in Las Vegas. A couple of years ago, I had to learn all about how various carotenoids penetrate the blood-retinal barrier in rats. It keeps things interesting."

Student Profile: 3L Nicole Molner

Desired Practice Location: New York or New Jersey, but open to other opportunities

Expected Graduation: May 2020

Field of Law Sought: Bankruptcy law



Nicole Molner is originally from Port St. Lucie, Florida. She holds a bachelor's degree in African American studies, political science and geography with a certificate in geospatial analysis from the University of Florida. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2020. Last summer, Molner was a judicial intern at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York with Chief Judge Cecelia G. Morris. She conducted legal research, wrote bench memoranda, and drafted decisions on issues involving equitable recoupment, relief from the automatic stay and motions to reconsider, among many other issues. She also worked on the continuing adversary proceedings in the Johns-Manville bankruptcy and experienced corporate chapter 11 proceedings. During the spring semester of her 2L year, Molner participated as a certified legal intern in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Gender and Family Justice Clinic. Molner represented formerly incarcerated, indigent clients in cases on paternity, child support and child custody. With a small team, she also developed and conducted family law workshops for currently incarcerated women in the Gadsden Correctional Facility and Leon County Detention Center. During her 1L summer, Molner was a judicial extern at the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Felony Division with Judge Gary L. Sweet, where she conducted legal research, wrote memoranda, and drafted legal orders on evidentiary issues, motions to enter diversion programs and Miller resentencing of juveniles sentenced to life without parole. Molner is also a teaching assistant for a Juris Master Online Program course, Consumer Compliance: Deposits, New Products and Operations.

Molner is the editor-in-chief of the *Florida State University Law Review* and an articles and notes editor for the *Florida State University Business Review*. She is also a member of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. Molner is passionate about consumer bankruptcy, corporate restructuring and general commercial litigation. If you are interested in hiring Molner after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

"I am particularly interested in business restructuring and reorganization, and consumer bankruptcy. I have focused on becoming a bankruptcy attorney through my professional experience with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and my academic experience with bankruptcy law classes and skills-training courses at FSU Law."



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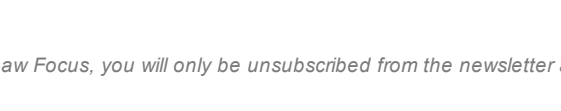
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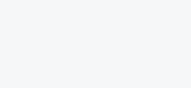


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