

From the Dean

I write today to seek your assistance in supporting our graduates who registered to take the July bar exam here in Florida. If you have not already heard, the Florida Bar Exam, originally scheduled for July and recently rescheduled to August 19, has been delayed yet again, this time to a date yet to be determined in October. This is devastating news for our graduates, who were already dealing with a longer-than-normal bar exam period due to the first delay. Our recent graduates have endured a summer of much uncertainty with changing exam plans and very little clear information from the Florida Board of Bar



Examiners. A temporary supervised practice right will be put in place, but it will not be effective until sometime in September, about the time the graduates need to return to study. As a result, many of our graduates are feeling frustrated, defeated, burned out, and anxious for what the future holds for them.

I have several pleas for you. If you have already hired one of our recent graduates, please do not delay their start date due to the bar exam being postponed yet again. Our talented and motivated graduates need to get to work as many of them are facing unexpected financial and family hardships due to the issues with the bar exam. Please also allow them time off to study again for the exam. Additionally, if you have job opportunities for recent graduates, please email me at lawdean@law.fsu.edu or our Career Services Office at careerservices@law.fsu.edu. Some of our excellent graduates are still seeking employment or seeking employment anew as the global pandemic has forced some firms to rescind offers or severely delay start dates. Even if you aren't sure that you can commit to employment beyond one year, that year can give a graduate a place to start and a reference for permanent employment down the road. If you know a graduate who has been preparing for the bar exam, please reach out to offer words of support or comfort. They will get past the exam eventually and be stronger for it, but their frustrations and anxieties are justified, and they need our support.

One of the best things about our FSU Law family is how alumni support and assist our students. This is a special quality that was obvious to me from my very first days as dean—from mentoring to providing scholarships and hiring students, alumni are always willing to assist the next generation of FSU Law graduates. Thank you for all you do for the law school! The graduates and everyone here will appreciate any assistance you can provide.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU SBA is Nation's Best

For the fourth consecutive year, our Student Bar Association (SBA) has won the American Bar Association Law Student Division's Student Bar Association Award, which honors the best SBA in the nation! The honor is also known as the SBA of the Year Award and recognizes the efforts of an SBA to create a better environment for law students and positive image of the legal profession. Top law schools from around the nation competed for the award, which was announced virtually Friday, July 31, during the American Bar Association Annual Meeting. This was the ninth time since 2008 that Florida State's SBA was selected as the best SBA in the nation.



SBA Immediate-Past President Breanna Raspopovich with the 2019 Student Bar Association Award

Our SBA was honored following a year of many accomplishments. During the 2019-2020 academic year, SBA held 66 in-person events and four virtual events after gatherings were restricted due to COVID-19. SBA's robust programming included a Diversity Week and many volunteer opportunities and fundraisers, including a Carnival for a Cure to benefit the American Cancer Society of Leon County. In addition, SBA held its inaugural Journey to Justice 5K, raising more than \$1,200 to benefit the Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee. SBA also engaged regularly with the profession through numerous educational events with attorneys and judges. Congratulations and thanks go to the entire SBA board, especially Immediate-Past President Breanna Raspopovich ('20). Their hard work and leadership has enriched the law school and strengthened our community!

Alum Profile: Josiah D. Graham ('14)

[Josiah D. Graham](#) practices at Kelley | Uustal in Fort Lauderdale, where he focuses on personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Graham has extensive experience in cases involving catastrophic injuries and has secured numerous multi-million dollar recoveries for his clients. He has recently been in the media after securing a \$1 million policy limit settlement in June in a case involving a childhood friend, who was murdered outside his Lauderhill apartment complex on Father's Day 2019. In 2017, Graham was co-counsel in two trials against the world's largest tobacco companies and assisted in securing verdicts totaling more than \$7 million. Prior to joining Kelley | Uustal, Graham was a prosecutor at the Broward County State Attorney's Office. Graham also serves as a guardian ad litem and is engaged in the legal profession. He was a fellow of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy, Class IV, served as secretary of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association and sat on the board of the Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.



"My plan was to make the defendants understand that my friend's life mattered. No one deserves to live in a crime infested apartment and be in constant fear. After months of contentious litigation, the defendants were forced to realize this basic fact and paid their \$1,000,000 insurance policy limits."

Student Profile: 3L Julianna Favale

Desired Practice Location: Jacksonville
Expected Graduation: May 2021
Field of Law Sought: Commercial litigation, governmental entity work and transactional work; also interested in estate planning



Julianna Favale is originally from Old Bridge, New Jersey, but she has lived in Jacksonville, Florida, for several years. Favale attended the University of Florida and received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialization in law studies. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. This summer, Favale worked as a summer associate at Marks Gray in Jacksonville. She conducted legal research on a variety of land use, governmental entity and insurance law issues. Favale also prepared legal memoranda and helped draft motions and deposition/unsworn statement summaries, and attended mediations, depositions and client interviews. She made a presentation on "Social Media Discovery in Florida" at an attorney luncheon. During the spring semester of her 2L year, Favale clerked for the Executive Office of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, where she wrote briefs, helped draft motions, conducted pre-trial research, and worked closely with the Cabinet Clemency Board and Judicial Appointments Committee for Florida courts.

As a third-year law student this fall, Favale is the treasurer for the Student Bar Association, a member of the FSU Law Trial Team and a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office. She served as president of the FSU chapter of the Women's Law Symposium, as well as first-year representative. During her time as president, Favale also served as a Florida Association of Women Lawyers chapter representative. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Favale, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



We need your support for student scholarships!

Visit law.fsu.edu/pavetheway to learn how you can change lives and pave the way for future FSU Law students while increasing the value of an FSU Law degree. As of July 31, 2020, we have raised \$1,854,012.65 toward our \$2 million campaign goal.

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