

From the Dean

I am honored to report that FSU President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus and Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, who passed away in May 2019, will be posthumously awarded Florida State University’s highest distinction, the James D. Westcott Distinguished Service Medal, later this month. The honor recognizes a “person whose distinguished service merits exceptional recognition and whose life and work exemplifies the Vires, Artes and Mores, which the university seeks to nurture in its students.” It has been 11 years since FSU last bestowed the award.



Sandy will be awarded the medal posthumously in a private ceremony September 22. Sandy’s service to Florida State and the law school was extraordinary. He served as president of the university from 1994–2003, overseeing a period of remarkable growth and revitalization, which included helping to establish the College of Medicine, undertaking a major campus beautification project and creating the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Sandy served as dean of FSU Law from 1984–1989, raising the profile of the law school and transforming our programs and physical facilities, including the Rotunda building now named in his honor. His contributions to our school and the university at large still benefit students across campus today and will continue to do so for many years to come.

-Dean Erin O’Connor

Dean O’Connor Named Registrant Advocate for Florida Bar Examinees

Last week, the Florida Supreme Court named FSU Law Dean Erin O’Connor as the Registrant Advocate to work with Florida Bar examinees unable to take the 2020 summer bar exam due to pandemic test failures. The new Registrant Advocate position was created after the regular July 2020 Bar Exam was canceled due to health and safety concerns in the coronavirus pandemic. A rescheduled August exam was later canceled because of failures in an online testing system. The exam is currently scheduled for October 13. Examinees can use an [online form](#) to contact both the Registrant Advocate and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners about issues such as software or testing accommodations. Or, they may contact the Registrant Advocate anonymously by email at RegistrantAdvocate@flcourts.org.



Dean O’Connor is also pledging to match donations up to \$1,000 for a new fund the FSU College of Law created to help the graduates experiencing job losses and other hardships associated with the delayed exam. Gifts in any amount can be made online at <https://fla.st/3hVwyrH>, designating gifts to the Student Emergency Fund. Under the “In Memory/In Honor” section of the form, note “Bar exam grads” in the Name field to ensure gifts get to the alumni who need support.

“Our recent graduates are in a tough spot, so I am devoting my time and income to assisting them,” said Dean O’Connor. “I invite our alumni, as members of our FSU Law family, to do the same.”

Alum Profile: Maikel N. Eskander (’11)

Maikel N. Eskander recently launched [Capital Partners Law](#), a full-service business and real estate law firm with offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton. The firm handles a wide variety of commercial, real estate and business litigation matters, including representation of small and mid-sized businesses, investors, developers and owners.

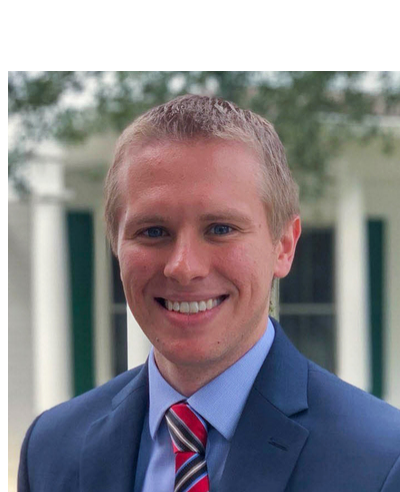


As the firm’s principal and founding member, Eskander was recently recognized as an AV Preeminent Rated business attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. He also recently received the Elite Lawyer Award for Business Law and was recognized by *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch* for Commercial Litigation in 2021. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the firm, including representation of numerous Fortune 500 companies and a track record of having never lost an appeal. Eskander has also received the coveted Gold Client Champion Award, based upon overwhelmingly positive client reviews, and continues to be a leader in the South Florida business community. Prior to opening Capital Law Partners, Eskander was one of two founding partners at Eskander Loshak LLP.

“When a business or individual seeks to hire an attorney, it’s often their last resort and a decision that did not come lightly. For me, it’s about recognizing those fears and anxieties and helping to ease the burden. Litigation is the last resort. I view myself as a peacemaker and I think it’s important for the entire legal community to remember—if we seek what’s best for our clients wholeheartedly AND honorably discharge our duties as officers of the court, there can be no defeat; for justice must eventually be rendered.”

Student Profile: 3L Joseph Sobecki

Desired Practice Location: Washington, D.C. area
Expected Graduation: May 2021
Field of Law Sought: Interested in government contracts and litigation



Joseph Sobecki is originally from Toledo, Ohio. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Northwestern University and will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. This summer, Sobecki was a fellow with the National Defense Industrial Association in Arlington, Virginia. He concentrated on policy work related to the defense industrial base and worked with legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act. During his 1L summer, Sobecki clerked for the Illinois Attorney General’s Office—Workers’ Compensation Bureau in Chicago, where he worked with assistant state attorneys general in responding to workers’ compensation claims on behalf of the State of Illinois.

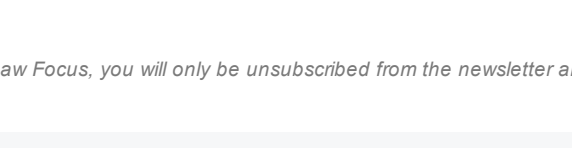
Sobecki is passionate about working with military veterans and has volunteered with the FSU Veterans Legal Clinic throughout law school. After graduation, he plans to join the Air Force JAG Reserves, while seeking employment related to government contracts and litigation. While Sobecki says he would have much preferred in-person classes this semester, he is making the most out of the online classroom environment by continuing his work in the Washington, D.C. area during the fall semester. Sobecki enjoys connecting with other lawyers and military personnel. If you are interested in connecting with Sobecki or hiring him after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

“Directed study classes at FSU have given me the opportunity to explore many areas of interest with unparalleled support from world-class professors.”

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 August 28, 2020, we have raised \$1,908,995.89 toward our \$2 million campaign goal.

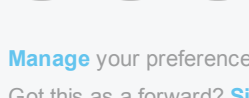
- GET INVOLVED
- SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE
- SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT
- MAKE A GIFT

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