

### From the Dean

We are delighted to announce that FSU Law has been named one of the nation's top seven law schools for human rights law by *preLaw* magazine! *preLaw*'s article about the ranking highlights our Collateral Consequences Project, which is a project within Clinical Professor Carla Laroche's Gender and Family Justice Clinic focusing on issues that may hamper people's ability to reenter society because of their criminal histories. The project is one of our many clinical offerings for students interested in human rights law. Students can also participate in a variety of externships, our Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project, led by Public Interest Law Center Director Paolo Annino ('83), and our recently launched COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic or Immigration and Farmworker Project, both led by Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott ('07), to name a few. We also offer traditional classroom courses in human rights law, some of the newest being Human Rights & National Security, Special Topics in Human Rights: All Human Rights are Local, Regional Human Rights Systems, and Gender Justice. In the spring, we will offer a new civil rights course and a new course taught by nationally prominent alumni attorneys that will cover social and legal movements on social justice. We are proud of our offerings in this area and the efforts of our faculty, and that the efforts of our faculty are being recognized at the national level!



-Dean Erin O'Connor

### First DCA Judges Participate in Special Q&A with FSU Law Students



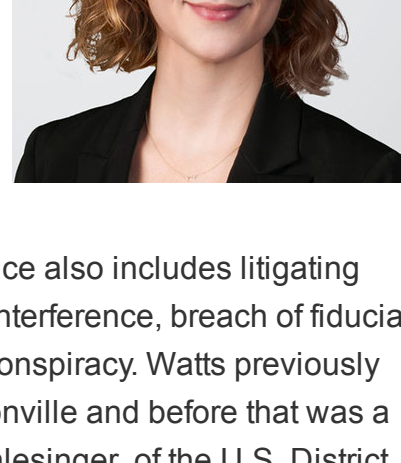
Judge Joseph Lewis, Jr. ('77) during Thursday's virtual Q&A

In celebration of U.S. Constitution Day on Thursday, September 17, the FSU Law Office of Student Advancement hosted a special remote Q&A session with a three-judge panel from the First District Court of Appeal. Judges Joseph Lewis, Jr. ('77), Rachel Nordby ('08) and Robert Long, Jr. answered students' questions via Zoom. The panel was moderated by Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Advancement Nancy Benavides.

Earlier in the day, students had the opportunity to observe the court's oral arguments in three cases that were conducted remotely. Some of the attorneys who presented oral arguments also attended the Q&A session. The cases were *Michael Hamblen, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Samantha Hamblen v. Pilot Travel Centers; R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company v. Margaret Harris, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard Harris; and Sunseeker Investments, Inc. v. Enterprise Maintenance and Contracting, Inc., d/b/a Leonard's Painting & Maintenance and Timothy A. Tadlock, an individual*. While the judges were not permitted to answer questions regarding the merits of the cases, they answered student questions about presenting oral arguments, pathways to becoming a judge and what the judges look for in their hiring processes.

### Alum Profile: Jacquelyn Thomas Watts ('14)

[Jacquelyn Thomas Watts](#) is an associate at Holland & Knight LLP in Atlanta. She is a member of the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group and focuses on complex commercial litigation matters, representing corporations, limited liability companies, public utilities and individuals. Watts' practice includes litigating claims of breach of contract and breach of representations and warranties, as well as Uniform Commercial Code matters. Her experience also includes litigating business torts involving claims of fraud, tortious interference, breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets and civil conspiracy. Watts previously practiced business litigation at Gunster in Jacksonville and before that was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Harvey E. Schlesinger, of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Watts is a member of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division and the Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section. She remains engaged with FSU Law and serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. During law school, Watts served as editor-in-chief of the *Florida State University Law Review* and as 1L rep and secretary of the Student Bar Association.



*"I had a fantastic experience at FSU Law, between the intelligent and friendly faculty and peers and the diverse extracurricular and career opportunities. I thought my career would begin and end in Florida, but life had other plans. Now I proudly represent FSU Law in Atlanta, where our alumni network is small but growing. I love living and practicing in Atlanta and am always available to talk to students or recent grads who are interested in making this vibrant city their home."*

### Student Profile: 3L Jessica Andrews

**Desired Practice Location:** Primarily interested in the Southeast region, particularly Atlanta, Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, Florida Panhandle, Birmingham, Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston, and Nashville; would also consider Washington, D.C.  
**Expected Graduation:** May 2021  
**Field of Law Sought:** Goal is to practice health law and/or pharmaceutical law; has particular interest in risk management as well as compliance



Jessica Andrews is originally from Darlington, Florida, a small town in Walton County. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, graduated *summa cum laude* and had minors in substance abuse, child welfare, social welfare, education and exceptional student education from the University of West Florida. She also holds a master's degree in psychology, with a focus on applied behavior analysis of Florida and a master's degree in public health practice from the University of South Florida. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. Andrews came to law school as a non-traditional student, having worked as a behavior analyst for 10 years. As a behavior analyst, she worked with people with disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and mental health issues. Andrews sat on local review committees for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities within the Tampa Bay area and had the responsibility of analyzing the plans and compliance with ethical rules as well as state regulations. She also interned and volunteered with Eastern Virginia Medical School's community health programs related to vaping, car seat and pedestrian safety, and breastfeeding acceptance. Additionally, Andrews is certified in public health through the National Board of Public Health Examiners. Currently, Andrews is an intern with the General Counsel's Office at Moffitt Cancer Treatment and Research Center, where she has conducted research, created memos, and modified policies and documents related to trade secrets, employment, HIPAA/HITECH, and illegal search and seizure. During the summer after her 1L year, Andrews externed at the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), and she continued to volunteer with them until May 2020. Andrews was supervised by Judge Elizabeth McArthur ('82), the senior judge for the Middle District of Florida. While at DOAH, Andrews observed hearings related to physician and healthcare provider licensing, as well as other types of cases. She researched topics related to the cases, reviewed evidence, practiced determining credibility, practiced drafting recommended orders and reviewed party proposed recommended orders.

Andrews is an executive editor for volume 48 of the *Florida State University Law Review* and was a staff editor for volume 47. Andrews is also the managing editor for the *Florida State University Business Review*, volume 20. She was previously a notes and articles editor for volume 19, and staff editor for volume 18. Andrews was selected for the inaugural 2020-21 National Space Society's Legal Fellows Program. At FSU Law, she is a member of the Business Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, Health Law Society, Aviation & Space Law Society, Lawyers Interested to Communicate Knowledge and Women's Law Symposium. If you are interested in connecting with Andrews or hiring her after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*"Because of the opportunities I've had at law school and my previous career, I have a good deal of experience interacting with state agencies and complying with their laws and regulations, interacting with federal insurance payors (Tricare) and applying federal laws/regulations (HIPAA), as well as experience engaging with state government and private insurance payors. I also have a history interacting with public school systems and participating in Individual Education Plans as a result of my work with children and adolescents with autism spectrum diagnoses."*

**100%**

*We need your support for student scholarships!*

Visit [law.fsu.edu/pavetheway](http://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.

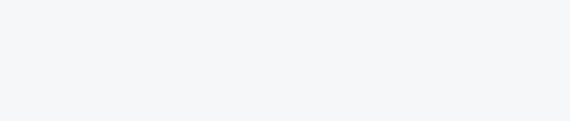
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SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

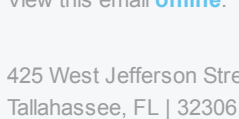
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