

From the Dean



Justice Alan Lawson ('87) was one of four justices who engaged with students during November's "Candid Conversation with the Florida Supreme Court."

On Thursday, November 19, our student group Lawyers Uniting to Communicate Knowledge (LUCK) hosted a special event with justices from the Florida Supreme Court. The second annual "Candid Conversation with the Florida Supreme Court" featured Chief Justice Charles Canady, Justice Alan Lawson ('87), Justice Carlos G. Muñoz and Justice John D. Couriel. Justices answered student questions on topics including their judicial philosophy, hiring clerks, cases that have influenced them and the impact of COVID-19 on the court. The virtual event was moderated by Mary Ziegler, FSU Law's Stearns Weaver Miller Professor. After the moderated Q&A portion of the event, students joined breakout groups where they were able to ask questions of the justices in smaller settings. It was a treat to have the justices engage with our students once again! Many thanks to LUCK for hosting this event and special thanks to LUCK President Walker Smith, IV for organizing the event.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Ranked Nation's Eighth Best Value Law School

For the second year in a row, *preLaw* magazine has ranked Florida State University College of Law the eighth best value law school in the nation. The ranking, which is published in *preLaw*'s fall 2020 issue, weighs important student outcomes—bar passage and employment rates—against tuition, cost of living and indebtedness. According to *preLaw*, the rankings are "designed to recognize schools whose graduates have excellent chances of passing the bar and getting a legal job without taking on a ton of debt."

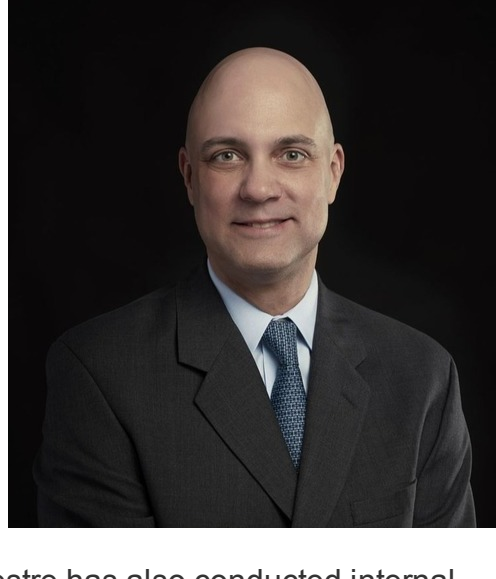


The national ranking reflects the law school's strong employment and bar passage results. According to American Bar Association data, Florida State is the nation's 18th best law school in terms of 2019 graduates who passed a bar examination in the primary jurisdiction on their first attempt.

"We are thrilled to again be ranked among the nation's top 10 best value law schools, especially because employment rate is the highest weighted factor in calculating the ranking," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "Providing each student with an excellent legal education that will help them launch a successful career is extremely important to everyone at FSU Law. We are particularly appreciative of our scholarships campaign supporters because keeping law school affordable is critically important to the best value metric."

Alum Profile: Jorge A. Mestre ('96)

[Jorge A. Mestre](#) is a partner at Rivero Mestre LLP in Miami. He practices exclusively in the area of commercial litigation and is Florida Bar board certified in international litigation and arbitration. He has litigated domestic and international arbitration matters in English and Spanish. Mestre's high-profile cases include successfully representing a Chevron attorney in a case that was part of the \$100 billion, 18-year litigation over Chevron's alleged environmental damage in the Amazon. Mestre has also conducted internal investigations in the United States and in foreign countries, involving varied allegations of wrongdoing from securities fraud to accounting malpractice. Chambers USA has called Mestre "a brilliant litigator with the creative edge." His firm recently was honored by Chambers and Partners as the winner of its 2020 Diversity & Inclusion Award for Outstanding Firm for Furthering Diversity and Inclusion in the USA Private Practice Firm category. In addition to a J.D. from Florida State, Mestre earned an LL.M. in Securities and Financial Regulation from Georgetown University Law Center.



"We are honored and could not be prouder of our team. From our beginnings, we have always been clear that we wanted to build a diverse team on principle and also for the very practical reason that diversity makes us better able to win for our clients. We are humbled by this prestigious award for this important work."

Student Profile: 3L Salim Douaihy

Desired Practice Location: Open to all areas of Florida, but specifically interested in opportunities in Tampa, Orlando or Miami

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Field of Law Sought: Commercial or civil litigation



Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Salim Douaihy earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Florida. He will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. Douaihy was recently selected as a 2021 legislative intern for the Florida House of Representatives.

Last summer, he clerked with de Beaubien, Simmons, Knight, Mantzaris & Neal, where he aided in trial preparation for insurance defense cases. Douaihy also prepared discovery requests, conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on discovery and evidentiary related issues. During the spring semester of his 2L year, Douaihy clerked for Chief Judge Stephanie Ray ('95), of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. He analyzed appellate briefs, drafted bench memoranda and assisted in drafting opinions. During the fall of his 2L year, Douaihy clerked for the Division of Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes at the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation. There, he reviewed cases and drafted closing orders and administrative complaints. During his 1L summer, Douaihy was a JAG intern with the United States Air Force, where he aided wing-command by conducting research and drafting legal memoranda on a wide variety of legal matters ranging from political speech on base to possession of CBD products in the workplace. He also assisted in trial preparation for the prosecution of military crimes.

Douaihy is a staff editor for the *Florida State University Law Review*. He is a Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot member, a pupil of the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court and an FSU Law Admissions Office student ambassador. He has served as a teaching assistant for the FSU Juris Master Program's Legislation and Regulation (fall 2020) and Healthcare Privacy and Cybersecurity (summer 2020) courses. If you are interested in connecting with Douaihy or hiring him after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

We're almost there!

We are within \$50,000 of our Pave the Way campaign goal and need your support for student scholarships. Please visit law.fsu.edu/pavetheway to learn more and give online today.



We need your support for student scholarships!

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