

From the Dean



On Monday, February 8, our students will begin calling FSU Law alumni who have not already given to this year's annual fund during the Spring 2021 Fundathon. Please answer the call if you are able. A gift in any amount makes an impact and you can designate gifts to a wide variety of causes, organizations and programs. Our Student Emergency Fund is a top priority this year as gifts to the fund will make a difference in the lives of current students who have been impacted financially by events such as COVID-19. Other specific needs include funds to support student scholarships, student organizations and co-curriculars. You can make a gift when our students call or you can [donate online now](#). If you have already given, thank you very much for your support!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU BLSA Wins Mock Trial Competition



(L-R): Akintonde, Seiglie, Thorpe, Calixte and Wilkerson

For the second year in a row, our Black Law Students Association (BLSA) has won first place in the regional Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition! The competition took place virtually January 29-30 as part of the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association's convention. Seven law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from Emory University and Wake Forest University. Winning team members were first-year students David Akintonde, Samantha Seiglie, Khamisi Thorpe, Keiana Wilkerson, and alternate Ndeye "Fatou" Calixte. They were coached by Florida State law alumnus Derrick McBurrows ('16), who practices at McBurrows Law in Tallahassee, and second-year law student Destinee Campbell, who was a member of the FSU BLSA team that won the competition in 2020.

"Congratulations to our talented student advocates on winning the regional Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition, which continues an excellent record of success by FSU BLSA in regional and national competitions," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "We are extremely proud of our students and their dedicated coaches."

Florida State's BLSA will compete in the related national competition in March.

Alum Profile: Steven M. Millsap ('98)

Steven M. Millsap is senior vice president, general counsel, secretary and chief compliance officer at Global Advanced Metals, an international business with operations located in Australia, the United States and Japan. Based in Boston, he is a member of the company's Executive Committee and responsible for its legal affairs, secretarial, compliance and risk management functions. Millsap has more than 22 years of diverse manufacturing and retail industry experience that has included advising c-suites and boards of public and private global companies regarding mergers and acquisitions, complex transactions, litigation, securities, finance, intellectual property, regulatory matters, corporate governance, compliance, risk management, sales and marketing, real estate, environmental issues, and labor and employment matters. He previously served as in-house counsel at Polymer Group, Continental Tire and CarMax, and began his career at two national law firms. In addition to his J.D. from FSU Law, he holds an LL.M. in intellectual property from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law. Millsap remains engaged with the law school and currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



"Simply stated, I would not be where I am without the privilege of having attended FSU Law. I remain grateful for that opportunity as well as to now serve on the Alumni Board."

Student Profile: 3L Madison Johnson

Desired Practice Location: Virtual position due to husband being re-stationed to a not-yet-known location

Expected Graduation: Spring 2021

Field of Law Sought: Criminal law; trusts and estates; wills and probate



Originally from Mount Dora, Florida, Madison Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in English and psychology, with honors from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Her undergraduate honors thesis was "When Worlds Collide: Feminism, Conservatism, and Twentieth-Century Authors." Johnson will graduate from FSU Law this spring. Currently, Johnson clerks at Legal Services of North Florida with their Disaster Response Team. She prepares comprehensive memos regarding landlord-tenant laws and probate laws. She also works within FEMA extended to assist those affected by Hurricane Michael. Last summer, Johnson externed at the Innocence Project of Florida, where she drafted legal memoranda and made recommendations regarding cases submitted to the Innocence Project for review. Additionally, she created detailed evidence lists, including chain of custody for each piece of relevant evidence in the case. During her 2L year, Johnson clerked at Lyons and Farrar, P.A. She conducted research in the areas of real estate law, probate law and personal injury law, and drafted memoranda and affidavits for named plaintiffs regarding employment law. The summer after her 1L year, Johnson clerked at the Office of the Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit. She researched, analyzed and drafted legal documents, including a motion to suppress a confession, a legal memorandum used in a trial and a motion to sever offenses.

Johnson is the chair of the Law School Council, president of the FSU Law Association for Criminal Justice, a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office and a student board member of the "Raising the Bar" professionalism committee. She is also a member of the Women's Law Symposium and the Student Bar Association. After her graduation, Johnson's husband, who is a logistics officer in the U.S. Air Force, will be re-stationed to a base not yet known. Johnson is planning to take the Florida Bar Exam and is looking for a remote position. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Johnson after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

"My daughter was born in the middle of the fall semester during my 2L year, but I will still graduate on time with the rest of my classmates. As a result of my time management skills and hard work, I was able to be a commuting law student with an infant and maintain my GPA. Having a child during law school was not a setback. It made me a better student, and I am now better equipped to enter the workforce because I know that no matter the circumstances, my persistence will see me through."

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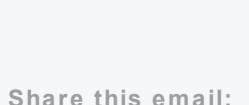
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