

From the Dean



Pablo Quesada ('96) hosted our Technology and Privacy Law Virtual Alumni Reception on May 13

Last September, we began a new series of virtual practice area receptions for alumni. The receptions were hosted by graduates with expertise in the specific practice areas and were a way for alumni from all over the United States to connect and share ideas about current issues affecting their substantive areas of practice. Although the virtual meetings were a product of COVID and the need to engage digitally, they were so successful that we will likely host similar events for other practice areas in the future. Many thanks to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs for coordinating these innovative receptions and to the following alumni who served as hosts:

- Dena Sokolow ('94), Labor and Employment Law Reception, September 16
- Jason Burnett ('88), Bankruptcy Law Reception, October 21
- David Lindsey ('88), International Law Reception, November 4
- Tor Friedman ('05), Criminal Law Reception, January 28
- Richard Young ('84), Adam Duke ('08) and Jordan Thompson ('10), Insurance Defense Reception, March 11
- Pablo Quesada ('96), Technology and Privacy Law Reception, May 13

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Prof. Ryan Serving on Faculty Senate

In addition to her important work at the law school, Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs [Erin Ryan](#) also serves as vice chair of the Florida State University Faculty Senate and a member of the Senate's Steering Committee. Last month, she was re-elected to a second term in each office.



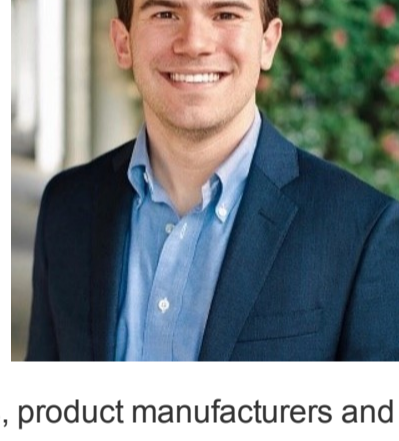
In these leadership roles, Ryan works closely with the Senate membership, the Senate president and university leaders. She reports to the FSU Board of Trustees on the work of the Faculty Senate and communicates with them about faculty concerns on matters of importance to the university. She also reports to the full Senate on the work of the Senate Steering Committee and often shares faculty perspectives on matters of public policy with the media. Ryan also serves on the State University System Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, which is comprised of the faculty leadership of all twelve universities in the State University System. The group advises the Florida Board of Governors and the Florida Legislature on matters of importance to faculty members.

"FSU leads the State University System and others nationwide as a model of shared governance, with a meaningful partnership among faculty, administrators and students in charting our way forward," said Ryan. "It's an honor to be able to represent faculty throughout the university in that process, and with fellow leaders on the SUS-Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, to represent faculty throughout the state."

The FSU Faculty Senate is the basic legislative body of the university. Its elected members formulate measures for the maintenance of a comprehensive educational policy and the maximum utilization of the intellectual resources of the university; determine and define university-wide policies on academic matters; and formulate opinions upon any subject of interest to the university and adopt resolutions thereon, among other responsibilities.

Alum Profile: Matthew A. Margolis ('17)

[Matthew Margolis](#) is an associate attorney at Shapiro Blasi Wasserman & Hermann, P.A and is located in Palm Beach County, Florida. His practice involves all aspects of state, federal and administrative litigation, with a focus on government law, commercial litigation and construction litigation. Margolis represents clients in a plethora of civil and commercial matters. He also has extensive experience relating to construction. Margolis regularly represents owners, developers, general contractors, design professionals, subcontractors, product manufacturers and other professionals involved in the purchasing or construction of real estate in a variety of contexts. These representations include construction and design defect disputes, construction delay claims, real estate development disputes and other construction-related matters. Prior to his current role, Margolis practiced at Lydecker Diaz and was an assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.



"My time at FSU College of Law instilled upon me a very important lesson: the practice of law is collaborative and collegial. I try to use this lesson whenever I can and am always happy to assist my fellow attorneys when they are knee-deep in a legal conundrum. Likewise, plenty of lawyers have offered me a helping hand when I just can't wrap my mind around an issue."

Student Profile: 2021 Grad Kamilla Yamatova

Desired Practice Location: Prefers Tampa, St. Petersburg, Orlando or South Florida, but would consider other areas in Florida

Specialization: Business law

Field of Law Sought: Energy and natural resources, land use development, regulation, litigation



Kamilla Yamatova is originally from Uzbekistan but considers Orlando, Florida home. Yamatova earned her bachelor's degree in legal studies in 2017 from the University of Central Florida. She graduated from FSU Law last month and earned the Business Law Certificate. During the spring 2021 semester, Yamatova worked as a legal intern with NextEra Energy/Florida Power & Light Company, where she researched and wrote memoranda to assist with representation in regulatory matters before the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Public Service Commission and other agencies. She also worked on power plant siting, pipeline siting, endangered species issues, water and air regulations, and other environmental legal issues. In the spring semester of her 2L year, Yamatova worked as a student advocate for the College of Law's Immigration and Farmworker Project. There, she prepared petitions, motions and other legal documents related to adjustments of status, T visas, asylum and refugee visas, U visas, the Violence Against Women Act and family petitions. She also prepared clinic intake forms, conducted client interviews, drafted affidavits, and researched statutes, executive orders and agency rules. In February of 2020, she, alongside her partner, presented a case in front of an immigration judge for a master calendar hearing in Orlando. The summer after her 1L year, Yamatova clerked in the Office of the General Counsel for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. In this role, she conducted legal research and case reviews and drafted memos, closing orders, final orders, administrative complaints, settlement agreements, petitions and other forms necessary for the regulation of unlicensed activity in Florida. She also worked on preparing cases that would be heard at the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings and presented cases at informal hearings.

During her time at FSU Law, Yamatova was a member of Phi Alpha Delta, the Tax Law Society, the Student Bar Association, the Entertainment and Sports Law Society and Trafficking in America Task Force. She is also fluent in Russian. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Yamatova, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#).

"My time at FSU Law has made me a more confident and capable individual. The years of practical work experience I had prior to law school have given me a strong background in various business industries. I believe that my prior work experience and the skills I acquired during my time at FSU Law will allow me to be a more effective, efficient and valuable addition to my future employer."

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