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From the Dean



Please join me in congratulating FSU Law's Gary & Sallyn Pajcic Professor Avlana K. Eisenberg, who has been selected for membership in the American Law Institute (ALI)! Election into ALI is an extremely prestigious honor, and Avlana is the second professor to be elected to ALI this academic year, resulting in six members of our faculty serving as ALI members. The institute is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law. FSU Law's other members include Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Shawn Bayern, Steven M. Goldstein Professor Wayne Logan, Sheila M. McDewitt Professor Michael Morley, Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Don Weidner, and me.

Additionally, please join me in congratulating Shawn Bayern on his selection for membership in the European Law Institute (ELI)! Like ALI, ELI is a highly selective law-reform group. It aims to initiate, conduct and facilitate research, to make recommendations, and to provide practical guidance in the field of European legal development.

Avlana and Shawn's selection for ALI and ELI membership is a result of their important contributions to the legal profession and legal scholarship.

Avlana's research focuses on the law and practice of criminal punishment, and her work has appeared in top legal journals including the *UCLA Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, the *Southern California Law Review*, and the *NYU Law Review*. Shawn's research focuses on common-law issues, primarily in contracts, torts, and organizational law. He has recently written articles criticizing formalism and economic simplifications of the law, and at the end of last year he published a new book, *Autonomous Organizations* (Cambridge University Press 2021).

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Among Nation's Best for Quality of Life and Professors



Princeton Review recently released its 2022 law school rankings, and FSU Law is once again ranked the nation's third best law school for student quality of life. In addition, FSU Law is ranked #10 on the best professors list. Both rankings are based on student ratings. The quality-of-life ranking is based on ratings of the beauty, safety, and friendliness on campus, among other things. The best professors list is based on student ratings of professors' teaching abilities and accessibility outside the classroom. Florida State is the only Florida law school ranked in both categories.

"We are delighted to be included on Princeton Review's rankings lists for best quality of life and best professors," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "We regularly tell prospective students that two of our greatest strengths—and two of the primary reasons to select FSU for law school—are our world-class faculty and our collegial atmosphere, so it is gratifying to see that a publication devoted to helping students evaluate and select schools recognizes we are extremely strong in these areas when compared to other schools nationally."

Alum Profile: Melanie Griffin ('06)

Melanie Griffin began serving as secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation on January 1, after being appointed to the position by Governor Ron DeSantis in late December. As secretary, Griffin leads Florida's regulation of more than 1.4 million licensees across more than 30 fields of industry. Griffin has served of counsel at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, and as a senior advisor for business-to-business relationships for Shumaker Advisors Florida. Her law practice has included representing businesses of all sizes and types in commercial disputes and litigation. Griffin also founded Spread Your Sunshine in 2017 and has served as a sought-after keynote speaker. She has been extremely active in the professional legal community, currently serving as president of the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers and previously serving as president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division in 2013-14 and the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers in 2011-12. Griffin also serves on the law school's Board of Visitors and has mentored many FSU Law alumni and students during her career, including through the law school's J.D. Advisors program. In 2020, she received the school's Alumni Association Service Award.



"I am excited to get to work advancing Gov. DeSantis' pro-business agenda," Griffin said in a statement. "Florida is the best in the nation for business owners, and I'm elated for the opportunity to further advocate on behalf of the business community."

Student Profile: 3L Elias Jreij

Desired Practice Location: Jacksonville, Tampa, or St. Petersburg areas, but open to other locations in Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Field of Law Sought: Patent prosecution, intellectual property law, or cybersecurity compliance



Elias Jreij grew up in Orlando, Florida, and now considers Jacksonville Beach his home. Jreij earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Florida and will graduate from FSU Law in the spring with a Business Law Certificate. Jreij served as a teaching assistant for the FSU Law Juris Master Program's Healthcare Privacy and Cybersecurity course in the summer of 2021 and in the Data Analytics: Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management course in the fall of 2021. As a teaching assistant, he maintained course outlines and a comprehensive knowledge of the courses to assist students with questions and provide instructional feedback. He also assisted with first-round grading of assignments and submitted comments and feedback to the supervising professor, and held office hours and supplemental learning sessions for students. Also since May, Jreij has worked as a data specialist with Health Designs, an industry-leading employer wellness solutions company, in their Corporate Wellness Department, where he manages the Microsoft SQL Server relational database and maintains a cohesive operational data pipeline. He also captures individual biometric data using optical character recognition software, and he previously assisted in integrating a paperless data capture system, providing input on the design and execution of a traveling tablet system. In addition, he has worked with clients by giving technical presentations in pitch meetings, developing a tutorial of all Health Designs services and capabilities, and he has developed client-specific, custom reporting packages. Jreij worked with Health Designs as a junior data analyst the year before beginning law school. During the summer before his 2L year, Jreij was a legal intern with the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners. There, he researched and prepared office memoranda regarding topics including purchasing contracts, property disputes, eminent domain, and local government policy. He also drafted local county executive orders regarding COVID-19, provided summary memoranda for newly proposed bills, and attended local government meetings to provide summary memoranda on the discussions.

At FSU Law, Jreij is involved with the Intellectual Property Law Society and the Student Bar Association. He took the patent bar during winter break.

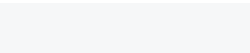
"Coming from a scientific and technological background, I have always enjoyed the mathematical and structural aspects of law. My unique educational and professional experience has prepared me for more technical areas of law such as patent prosecution, intellectual property, business, and healthcare law. A visiting lecturer in an undergraduate biology class piqued my interest in patent law, and I have come to appreciate the many benefits of applying the foundations of science to the practice of law."

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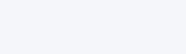
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