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From the Dean

This semester, our Public Interest Law Center launched an International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic. Directed by Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott (pictured), the new clinic offers students hands-on experience representing individual human rights survivors and partnering with international non-governmental organizations on human rights advocacy. Participating students are gaining experience in areas including fact-finding, evidence collection, research, reports, advisory memoranda, viability assessments, litigation, amicus briefs, UN standard setting, and norm development. Students enrolled in the clinic are also developing important skills in interviewing, persuasive writing, collaboration, leadership, professional identity, and trauma-informed lawyering. In addition, students are discussing current events in human rights and the role lawyers play in the human rights movement.



According to Darby, “In this new clinic, students engage in international human rights advocacy that involves a variety of methods, regions, and issues. This is a fascinating area of law that affords students the opportunity to hone important lawyering skills while contemplating the most critical—and complex—issues of our time.”

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Students Serving as Legislative Fellows



2021-2022 legislative fellows with House Speaker Chris Sprowls (fifth from left).

Seven outstanding FSU Law students are part of the nine-member 2021-2022 Legislative Fellows class. These students are immersed in the legislative process through their work assignments with different Florida House committees and offices. FSU Law is very proud of the following FSU Law students (pictured above) who are gaining valuable experience at the Florida Capitol as follows: 2L Fatou Calixte (second from right), working with the Health & Human Services Committee; 2L Davis Johnson (fourth from left), serving in the Rules Committee; 3L Margaret “Maggie” McCormick (fourth from right), working with the Majority Office; 3L David Melito (fifth from right), placed with the Minority Office; 2L Rebecca Neuffer (far right), working with the Commerce Committee; 3L Christen “Christie” Petruzzelli (far left), placed with the Judiciary Committee; and 2L Keeley Smith (third from left), working with the State Affairs Committee.

Alum Profile: Theodore L. “Ted” Tripp, Jr. ('76)

Theodore L. “Ted” Tripp, Jr. is a partner at Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP in Fort Myers. His practice focuses on complex civil litigation. He has been Florida Bar board certified in civil trial law for over 35 years, and board certified in business litigation since 1986. Tripp has been certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a civil trial advocate since 1986.



Tripp has served as lead trial counsel in multi-million dollar business, probate, trust, and other litigation matters. His clients have included businesses, developers, estates, trusts, and municipal and county governments, at both the trial and appellate levels. He has briefed and argued appeals before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the Florida Supreme Court, and all Florida district courts of appeal.

Tripp has earned numerous honors for his work, including being named in Best Lawyers of America in the category of “Bet the Company Litigation.” Tripp serves as the chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, and is a master emeritus founding member of the Calusa Inn of Court. Tripp previously served as president of the Lee County Legal Aid Society, The Florida Bar Grievance Committee for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, and the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee. He currently is a volunteer with Lawyers Advising Lawyers, a mentoring program sponsored by The Florida Bar.

“Society improves when old people plant trees whose shade they will never enjoy.’ The College of Law equipped us to make peoples’ lives better. It is important to equip the next generation of lawyers to pursue that goal.”

Student Profile: 3L Rylie Slaybaugh

Desired Practice Location: Denver, Colorado, or surrounding areas

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Field of Law Sought: Environmental and land use law

Rylie Slaybaugh is from Navarre, Florida, and attended Florida State University for undergrad, graduating *cum laude* with bachelor’s degrees in political science and interdisciplinary social sciences. She will graduate from FSU Law in May with a Certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law. Slaybaugh currently works as a law clerk with the U.S. Department of Justice – Environment and Natural Resource Division, where her responsibilities include conducting legal research and case analyses; drafting pleadings, discovery documents, and legal memoranda; and working with a variety of federal environmental and natural resource issues. In the fall of 2021, Slaybaugh was a land use extern at the City Attorney’s Office in Tallahassee. In this role, she performed research and analysis, and provided opinions concerning city ordinances, state statutes, and governing law. She also worked on planning and zoning, revisions to comprehensive plans, building permitting, site plan approval, variances, local environmental permitting, stormwater regulation, code enforcement, and community redevelopment. During the summer of 2021, Slaybaugh was a certified legal intern with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where she drafted motions, conducted legal research, and assisted in filling out waivers of marketable title. She also attended depositions, interoffice meetings for hearing preparation, and teleconferences with administrative law judges. In addition, Slaybaugh was named a qualified representative and appeared at a Division of Administrative Hearings proceeding, during which she cross examined the petitioner. During the fall and spring of her 2L year, Slaybaugh worked as a law clerk at McConaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern, P.A. There, she compiled summaries of depositions and medical records for attorneys various legal issues for an attorney specializing in labor and employment law and workers’ compensation law.



At FSU Law, Slaybaugh is a staff member and was previously an article and notes editor for the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. In addition, she was awarded a scholarship by the National Parks Conservation Association to attend the 37th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference earlier this year. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Slaybaugh after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at rls15c@my.fsu.edu.

“I found my passion for environmental and land use law at FSU Law. My diverse work experience has allowed me to work alongside many talented attorneys and with legal issues in the private sector as well as every level of government. I am excited to take the skills I have learned into my practice and build on them throughout my career.”

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