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From the Dean



Supreme Court of Texas Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht

Last week, we had the pleasure of joining Supreme Court of Texas Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht as he spoke with FSU Law students over tea. After brief remarks, Justice Hecht invited students in attendance to ask questions. Among other topics, he addressed the differences between the Texas and Florida supreme courts, adjustments the Supreme Court of Texas made during the pandemic, judicial elections in Texas—including those for his court, his experiences in legal practice—including in the U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps, and paths students can take if they want to enter public service. Justice Hecht was in Tallahassee to provide the keynote address at the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society's event, "A Supreme Evening 2022." We are very grateful he was able to visit with our students while he was here!

Justice Hecht is the 27th chief justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He has been elected to the court seven times, first in 1988 as a justice, and as chief justice in 2014 and 2020. He is the longest-serving member of the court in Texas history and the longest-tenured Texas judge in active service. Justice Hecht has overseen revisions to the rules of administration, practice, and procedure in Texas courts, and is active in efforts to assure that Texans living below the poverty level, as well as others with limited means, have access to basic civil legal services.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

NBA President Carlos Moore Visits FSU Law



Carlos Moore

On March 31, National Bar Association President and FSU Law alumnus Carlos Moore ('02) visited the law school to meet with students. Among other topics, Moore spoke about his advocacy for additional Black lawyers in the profession, his career path, and current events. He discussed some of the unique things he has been able to do in his role as National Bar Association (NBA) president, including being involved in vetting Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson before she was nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court, and visiting migrants at the southern U.S. border. He also reflected on being the first NBA president to visit former slave dungeons in West Africa. Moore gave advice to students, including those who will graduate in May, and discussed how he balances being a lawyer, judge, and National Bar leader while raising children. In addition to being the third FSU Law graduate to serve as president of the NBA, Moore is managing partner of The Cochran Firm – Mississippi Delta and serves as the first Black municipal judge pro tem in both Grenada and Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Alum Profile: Christina Diaz Gonzalez ('94)

Christina Diaz Gonzalez is an award-winning children's book author. Her books include "The Red Umbrella," "A Thunderous Whisper," "Moving Target," and "Concealed," which was recently honored with a 2021 Florida Book Award Gold Medal. Gonzalez will publish two more books later this year: "Invisible" in August and "The Bluest Sky" in September. Her books have received numerous honors including additional Florida Book Awards, the Nebraska Book Award, and the International Latino Book Award, and recently Gonzalez was nominated for the Edgar Award. Her work has also been designated as an American Library



Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults selection, a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, a Junior Library Guild Gold Selection, and an International Reading Association's Teachers' Choice book. Before publishing her first book more than a decade ago, Gonzalez practiced law at Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quesada, Lage, Gomez, & Machado, LLP in Miami.

"Law school and my legal career certainly helped to further develop my writing skills and created a solid foundation that grants my imagination free reign to craft stories. I'm proud of my time at FSU Law and believe that I wouldn't be the writer I am today were it not for the training (writing and public speaking) that I received during my years in Tallahassee."

Student Profile: 3L Morgan Robinson

Desired Practice Location: Tampa, Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Field of Law Sought: Transactional or in-house practice; coursework and extracurriculars have focused on tax and estate planning

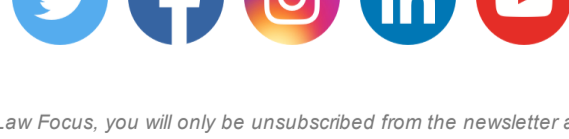


Morgan Robinson is originally from Tampa, Florida, and she attended the University of Florida as an undergraduate, earning a bachelor's degree in international studies with minors in mathematics and Spanish. During the summer before her 3L year, Robinson worked as a summer associate at RezLegal, LLC, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where she briefed business and healthcare clients on Florida statutory conversion, F reorganization, taxation of disregarded entities, SPAC lock-up, the Florida Patient Self-Referral Act, classes of corporate stock, noncompete clauses, employment contracts, and the state of common law trademarks in the digital age. Robinson also drafted documents for entities in Florida, Georgia, and Delaware, including articles of organization, bylaws, cease and desist letters, clean-up consents, notices of rescission, and public access to records policies. Additionally, she tracked pending Florida healthcare legislation and its potential effects on clients' practices. During the fall of her 2L year, Robinson was a land use extern with the Tallahassee City Attorney's Office, where she provided research and analysis to Senior Assistant City Attorney Lou Norvell on matters of planning and zoning, revisions to the city's comprehensive plan, building permitting, site plan approval, variances, local environmental permitting, storm water regulation, code enforcement, and community redevelopment. During the summer after her 1L year, Robinson was a summer research associate at Anchor Trust Management in Tampa. There, she supported attorney Drew Daddono ('14) with research, drafting, and analysis regarding trust administrations within the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Also during the summer after her 1L year, Robinson was a legal intern with David Grimes ('11) at the Florida House Minority Office, where she contributed to in-house publications analyzing pending legislation that were used by state representatives.

At FSU Law, Robinson has served as a teaching assistant for the FSU Law Juris Master Program's Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering and Legislation and Regulation courses. She is an article editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* and is a writing and research editor for the *Florida State University Business Review*. She is vice president of the Tax Law Society and 3L representative for the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Society, where she previously served as 1L representative and president. Robinson also served as secretary and was a founding member of the recently re-established Student Federal Bar Association, and she was the 2L representative and flag football team captain for the LitiGators student organization. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Robinson, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at morgan.robinson212@gmail.com.

"Tampa is my home, and I am eager to return to living in and contributing to the community that shaped who I am today. I am an avid reader and published writer with a firm grasp of the written word, and I am the person many of my classmates turn to for editing input on assignments for work and class. As a detail-oriented leader, I am drawn to the prospect of providing impactful support in a transactional role."

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