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### From the Dean



*Alumnus Justice Alan Lawson welcomed new students to the profession during orientation.*

During the past two weeks, we welcomed new students for orientations in preparation for the new academic year, which begins next week. On August 11, we welcomed 17 new LL.M. students to campus for a special LL.M. orientation. This impressive group includes foreign-trained attorneys and J.D. holders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey, the United States, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela. On Monday, we began our one-week orientation with the incoming 1L class. The schedule included a welcome session with Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson ('87); a Contracts mini-course taught by six faculty members; sessions with legal writing professors, 1L professors, the Research Center, and the Academic Programs Office; a panel featuring current law students; sessions covering diversity, ethics, and civility; and tours of the law school. Today and tomorrow, students are participating in community service projects around Tallahassee as part of the orientation schedule. Today, we are also hosting special orientation programming for transfer students. We are excited to watch our new students flourish during their time at FSU Law!

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

### Staff Profile: Nicola Perry

Nicola Perry joined FSU Law in August as chief of staff. In this new position, Perry supervises human resources and event functions at the law school, and she helps coordinate the faculty support, technology, and facilities teams. Perry previously served as human resource manager at FSU's University Health Services. She holds two bachelor's degrees from Florida State University, one in finance and real estate and the other in human resource management. Perry is currently working on a juris master's degree in legal risk management at FSU Law. Prior to her work with Florida State University, Perry was assistant director for human resources at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, where she was responsible for employee relations, and served as human resource generalist at First Commerce Credit Union.



***"I'm delighted to be a part of the College of Law and serve as the chief of staff. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and using my experiences to build upon the foundation laid before me."***

### Alum Profile: Ginger Bowden Madden ('94)

Ginger Bowden Madden was elected state attorney for the First Judicial Circuit in November 2020. As the circuit's chief prosecutor, Madden leads a team of 230 lawyers, investigators, and support staff operating across Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. Prior to taking office, Madden was an assistant state attorney for over 25 years prosecuting cases in every division of criminal court. She is the first woman to serve in this position. Madden is very involved in the legal communities of the First Circuit and is a former president of the Okaloosa-Walton Bar Association, member of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, and member of the Federalist Society.



***"I will work with law enforcement to forcefully deal with the kind of criminal behavior that threatens the safety and well-being of our communities, especially the safety and well-being of our children and most vulnerable."***

### Student Profile: 3L Catherine Awasthi

**Desired Practice Location:** Tallahassee, Tampa, or West Palm Beach

**Expected graduation:** December 2022

**Field of Law Sought:** Public interest law; environmental and water law; nonprofit; federal or state agency

Catherine Awasthi is originally from Jupiter, Florida, and she attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate studies, where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in telecommunications and a certificate in public administration. When Awasthi graduates from FSU Law in December, she will also earn a master's degree in aquatic environmental science. This fall, Awasthi will be working at the Florida First District Court of Appeal as a judicial extern to Judge Scott Makar. She will be drafting case summaries to synthesize issues on appeal, the parties' legal arguments, the relevant facts, the state of the law, and the appropriate standard of review for Judge Makar's use. Since the summer of 2022, Awasthi has served as a research assistant to Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs Erin Ryan. She assists Professor Ryan with researching, writing, and editing in-depth and analytical content pertaining to the Public Trust Doctrine, property law, and water law. Since July of 2020, Awasthi has worked as a legal intern with Pets Ad Litem, where she works pro bono to assist with prosecution related to civil actions, conducts client statement interviews, drafts affidavits and complaints, and previously presented her coral reef legal landscape research as a part of a CLE course for The Florida Bar. During the fall of 2021, Awasthi served as a legal intern at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Office of the General Counsel, Ocean & Coasts Section. There, she performed in-depth analyses of federal statutes and regulations regarding coastal issues and drafted correspondence for rulemakings involving reauthorization of environmental statutes. During the summer of 2020 and again this past summer, Awasthi was a legal intern at the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, where she researched water quality statutes, case law, and administrative code rules on agricultural fertilizer and nutrient pollutants in protected areas. She also drafted memoranda offering practical recommendations to state agencies. During the fall of 2021, Awasthi was a law clerk for the Animal Legal Defense Fund's litigation program, where she reviewed discovery documents and assisted in preparing affidavits and motions for litigation.



At FSU Law, Awasthi previously was a member and vice president of the Moot Court Team. She is the author of the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy* and the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*, and she has authored four published or forthcoming scholarly articles. Awasthi earned book awards in her Natural Resource Law and Animal Law Litigation, Legislation, and Policy classes. Additionally, she was awarded a Law Student Achievement Award from the Animal Law Section of The Florida Bar. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Awasthi after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [csa19a@fsu.edu](mailto:csa19a@fsu.edu).

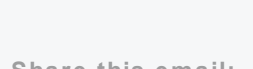
***"FSU Law helped me develop my true passion—a passion for serving the public interest. FSU Law's unique joint pathway program allowed me to further my skillset in environmental advocacy, while my time serving as president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund opened up incredible opportunities to work with compassionate students and alumni on fulfilling projects. I now have a strong network of alumni and peers as life-long mentors."***

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