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### From the Dean



Tom Spulak



Salesia Smith-Gordon



Seth Miller



Nat Stern



Susan Maher

All alumni and friends are invited to join us on Monday, September 12, for a Zoom event to celebrate the law school's **2022 Alumni Awards recipients**. The virtual event will take place from 6-7 p.m. and will include the presentation of awards and remarks by the award recipients and other guests. We will be honoring Tom Spulak ('82) with the Distinguished Alum Award, Salesia Smith-Gordon ('92) with the Alumni Association Service Award, Seth Miller ('04) with the Everyday Hero Award, Professor Nat Stern with the Class of '66 Award, and Susan Maher ('84) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award. Each of these individuals has contributed in many important ways to the law school and the legal community. Please [register online](#) to attend the event and receive Zoom information. I hope you will join us as we celebrate our outstanding award recipients!



Dean Erin O'Connor

### Justice Grosshans Meets with FSU Law Students



Justice Grosshans speaks with FSU Law students

On Monday, August 29, Florida Supreme Court Justice Jamie Grosshans spoke with FSU Law students on campus. Justice Grosshans discussed the new Florida Supreme Court Fellows Program and clerking with the court. She also answered a wide variety of student questions about the program and encouraged students to apply. Justice Alan Lawson ('87), who was the visionary for the fellowship program, also attended the event. Because of the Florida Supreme Court's proximity to FSU Law, justices often visit the law school to interact with students. Florida Supreme Court justices have a long history of teaching FSU Law classes, speaking about the legal profession and their careers during student events, judging Moot Court Final Four competitions, and networking with FSU Law community members during a wide variety of events. In addition, students have many opportunities to visit the court to witness oral arguments. Students also work part time at the court while taking classes.

### Alum Profile: Alex M. Sarsfield ('17)

**Alex M. Sarsfield** is an associate at Paskert Divers Thompson, PA, in Tampa, where he practices complex commercial litigation, with a concentration in construction and surety law. Prior to joining his firm in 2019, Sarsfield practiced employment litigation at a boutique Tampa firm. He is very engaged in local and professional activities. He is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2022, and an editor for the Hillsborough County Bar journal, *The Lawyer*. In January 2022, Sarsfield was appointed to the board of directors for Bay Area Legal Services, a non-profit law firm that provides pro bono legal services to individuals and families in need across five counties in the Tampa Bay Area. Sarsfield also volunteers as a pro bono attorney with Bay Area, and he was recognized for his service at the Florida Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Awards Ceremony in April 2022.



*“I always look back fondly on law school because of the esteemed professors, collegial student body, and never-ending support from the administration and alumni. In both my practice and pro bono service, I carry with me the ambition and camaraderie I learned at FSU Law. Lawyers are uniquely positioned to advance public good, and I encourage all students and alumni to utilize their skills to help their communities. Whether you prefer pro bono legal service, becoming a Big Brother/Big Sister, or volunteering at a local food bank, pay it forward and help those in need.”*

### Student Profile: 3L Jasmine Adams

**Desired Practice Location:** Tallahassee or other cities in Florida

**Expected graduation:** May 2023

**Field of Law Sought:** Criminal law or civil rights

Jasmine Adams is from Tallahassee, Florida, and she attended Florida A&M University for her undergraduate studies, where she earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in political science. Since April of her 2L year, Adams has served as a research assistant to Director of Bar Success Tia Gibbs, performing research and collecting data pertaining to the bar exam in different states to help students prepare for bar exams. During the summer before her 3L year, Adams worked as a certified legal intern with the State Attorney's Office, Second Judicial Circuit. She reviewed police reports, determined whether criminal charges ought to be brought against perpetrators, and argued criminal cases in court. During the spring of Adams' 2L year, she was a student advocate with FSU Law's Children's Advocacy Clinic, where she represented clients under a supervising professor; attended court hearings; researched and filed paperwork; and interviewed and maintained contact with clients and their families. From the summer after her 1L year through the spring of her 2L year, Adams was a student worker with FSU Law's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, where she contacted alumni to encourage donations to the law school and assisted with planning alumni and homecoming events. During the summer after her 1L year, Adams was a judicial extern for Judge Francis Allman ('87), of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. In this position, Adams observed hearings and trials, and completed various research and writing assignments.



At FSU Law, Adams is a student ambassador with the Office of Admissions. She also previously served as a member of the Student Advisory Board and as the social media chair for the Black Law Students Association. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Adams after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [jaa20cx@fsu.edu](mailto:jaa20cx@fsu.edu).

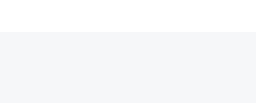
*“The past two years at FSU Law have provided a wonderful and invaluable experience, including direct client interaction and conducting a trial. This experience has fueled my passion for criminal law and trial advocacy. My goal is to make a difference in the criminal justice system by ensuring equality for everyone and advocating for the voiceless.”*

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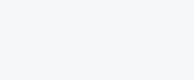
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