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From the Dean

We are delighted to report that the Public Interest Law Center International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic's work was recently cited in a United Nations report! In partnership with the Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc., the clinic submitted information for the U.N.'s [2022 Report on Climate and Racial Justice to the General Assembly](#). The submission focused on the historical and modern-day implications of racism in the U.S. agricultural sector, including agricultural exceptionalism (systematic exclusion of farmworkers from federal labor protections) and the impacts of climate change on migration and the labor force. The clinic's submission is cited in paragraph 38, footnote 78 of the report. Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott and several students worked on the submission, including student Sophia Muina (pictured), who contributed significantly as the principal researcher and author of the submission.



Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law SALDF Named Chapter of the Year



(L-R) SALDF students Angelique Howard (3L), Catherine Awasthi (3L), Savannah Sherman (2L), Shawn Soscia (1L), and Caroline Massias (2L)

FSU Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) has been selected as a national Chapter of the Year for a second consecutive year. FSU Law's SALDF was recognized with the award by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a national organization dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. This is the fourth time FSU's SALDF chapter has been recognized with the prestigious honor. SALDF was selected for the award after a year of hosting many enriching events. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the chapter protested alongside the Humane Society at the Florida Capitol to protect dogs from abuse in puppy mills, partnered with FSU Law's Environmental Law Society to raise awareness of the harmful impacts of animal agriculture, and held another successful animal law writing competition with Petriq and Litem, Inc. and The Florida Bar Animal Law Section. Congratulations to our SALDF students, especially the 2021-2022 board members, on this much-deserved national recognition!

Alum Profile: Philomène Verlaan (December '74)

Philomène Verlaan is an attorney and oceanographer, special advisor to the [Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea](#), and a visiting scientist at the University of Hawai'i's Department of Oceanography. Dr. Verlaan's scientific research addresses the formation, biogeochemistry, and related ecology of deep-sea ferro-manganese nodules and crusts. She has participated in (so far) 25 oceanographic research cruises and nine research submersible dives. A specialist in the law of the sea, she focuses on supporting environmentally and commercially responsible uses of marine resources under the auspices of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Dr. Verlaan's work has included assisting international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private companies, and individual governments in that context. She is the author of over 65 refereed legal and scientific international marine publications, has made over 60 invited presentations on marine legal and scientific topics, is a fellow and/or member of several international learned marine professional societies, has been a guest lecturer at the Rhodes Academy for Oceans Law and Policy, and serves as an editor of the journal *Marine Georesources and Geotechnology*. In addition to earning her J.D. from FSU Law, she earned a Ph.D. from the Imperial College London.



“Sound science and the rule of law are inextricably linked in designing effective methods for maintaining a livable planet. Continuous dialogue between scientists and lawyers is crucial to achieve this objective. However, even when communicating in a shared native tongue, professionally they think and speak in such different languages that interpretation is essential.

Serving my two esteemed communities in this capacity contributes a particularly fascinating dimension to my work on the law/science interface.”

Student Profile: 3L Chloe Schulte

Desired Practice Location: Tampa, Jacksonville, Orlando, or Chicago

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Appellate work, particularly criminal appellate practice or administrative appeals; also interested in public policy work

Chloe Schulte is from Orlando, Florida. She attended Florida State University for her undergraduate studies, where she majored in environment and society and minored in chemistry.

Schulte is currently an intern with the Office of the Federal Public Defender, Capital Habeas Unit, where she assists attorneys with seeking federal habeas relief for death-sentenced inmates in Florida. She conducts legal research and drafts legal memoranda, motions, appellate briefs, and petitions for writs of certiorari. During the summer before her 3L year, Schulte was a civil litigation extern with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Her work there included drafting motions, observing hearings and depositions, conducting legal research, writing memoranda on proprietary and regulatory functions, and researching implementation policies for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Also during the summer, Schulte worked as a law clerk at Coppins Monroe, P.A., where she drafted motions, pleadings, and memoranda on matters related to employment discrimination defense, personal injury, and labor union agreements. During the fall of her 2L year, Schulte was a judicial extern to the Honorable Rachel E. Nordby ('08), of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. She drafted judicial opinions, prepared case summaries, and recommended outcomes to Judge Nordby. She also conducted research on complex and novel legal issues presented before the court and observed oral arguments. During the summer before her 2L year, Schulte was a judicial extern to Senior Administrative Law Judge Bob S. Cohen ('82). In this role, she assisted administrative law judges with case research, memoranda, and hearings, analyzed legal matters as they pertained to administrative law tribunals, and drafted final and recommended orders. Prior to beginning law school, Schulte interned at the Obama Foundation in Chicago, working on the public engagement team. She interacted with the public and assisted in developing programming for the Obama Presidential Center. Following this, Schulte worked at the Office of the Attorney General in Tallahassee in the Antitrust Division before beginning her 1L year.



At FSU Law, Schulte is vice president of the Student Bar Association and has been a notes & comments editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* during her 2L and 3L years. As a 2L, she was president of the Women's Law Symposium and treasurer of the Nontraditional Students Association. Additionally, Schulte is a member of the First District Appellate Inn of Court. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Schulte after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at cschulte@fsu.edu.

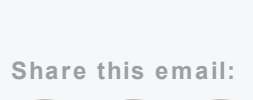
“FSU has given me a broad range of experiences and opportunities. As a young mother navigating the challenges of law school, I could not have asked for a better support system from my school. I have deeply enjoyed my time at the College of Law, and I look forward to bringing the skills I have gained into my career as a zealous and well-rounded advocate for those in need.”

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