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From the Dean



FSU Law graduates at the Palm Beach Alumni Reception in November 2022

The spring 2023 semester began on Monday, and we are delighted to have students back in our hallways, classrooms, and study spaces! We are looking forward to many on-campus events that are scheduled for this semester and to opportunities to connect with alumni during the next several months. Alumni, please save the dates for the following events:

- Orlando Alumni Reception: Wednesday, March 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Holland & Knight in Orlando
- Atlanta Alumni Reception: Wednesday, April 26, 6-7:30 p.m., Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta
- South Florida Regional Alumni Reception: Wednesday, May 17, 6-7:30 p.m., home of Fred and Autumn Karlinsky in Weston
- Florida Bar Alumni Reception: Thursday, June 22, 6-7:30 p.m., Annual Florida Bar Convention at The Boca in Boca Raton

We will provide more information about the receptions closer to each event, and we hope you will be able to join us!

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Car Races at New Smyrna Speedway



On Saturday, January 7, professional stock car driver Logan Misuraca drove an FSU Law car in the Red Eye 50/50 race. The car was the product of a collaboration between FSU Law's Stoops Colab, Ben Kennedy Racing, and the New Smyrna Speedway. The car was featured in the race to celebrate the January 2023 launch of the Stoops Colab's executive education courses, which offer online learners the opportunity to acquire knowledge about legal compliance directly from practicing lawyers who are experts in their fields. The unique course offerings are components of certifications available in Employment & Human Resources Law and Privacy Law & Policy. The Colab will also launch certifications in Private Markets Products, Sports & Entertainment Law, and Health Care Law in the near future. More information about courses and the center is available at StoopsColab.com.

Alum Profile: Katherine E. Giddings ('92)

Katherine E. Giddings retired from Akerman LLP at the end of December 2022. Giddings graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in criminology and received her J.D. from FSU's law school, graduating fifth in her class. She subsequently served as a law clerk and then senior staff attorney for Florida Supreme Court Justice Ben F. Overton for seven years. After leaving the court, Giddings practiced in Akerman's Tallahassee office for almost two decades. At the time of her retirement, Giddings served as deputy chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group. Her practice was focused on appellate litigation and professional responsibility, and she represented clients in civil and administrative appeals and bar ethics, and professional liability cases in state and federal courts nationwide. Highlights of her appellate work included a sanctions appeal arising out of an oil and gas venture, in which claimed damages were \$1.15 billion, and successfully disputing the legality of the Florida Department of Revenue's statewide tax on commercial leasehold improvements. In addition to her appellate practice, Giddings monitored in-house counsel and related litigation management issues nationally, including issues governing the tripartite relationship between insurers, insureds, and defense counsel; bad faith; and the unauthorized practice of law. She also served as national ethics counsel for a number of major insurance companies' in-house counsel operations. During her career, Giddings chaired the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Committee and the Appellate Court Rules Committee, served on the First District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission, and was a member of the steering committee for several editions of The Florida Bar's Appellate Practice CLE Manual.



“As a returning student looking to start a second career, Florida State University’s law school gave me the background and tools needed to become a leading partner at Akerman, where I had the honor of serving on the firm’s board of directors for nine years. Akerman was a fantastic workplace, and I will miss my colleagues greatly. But I’m looking forward to my new retirement adventures, including lots of travel, music, gardening, and writing!”

Student Profile: 3L Gavin Sitkoff-Vuong

Desired Practice Location: Open to opportunities in Florida, Colorado, North Carolina, Georgia, Massachusetts, or Washington, D.C.

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Land use and zoning/development, government operations, legislation, lobbying, employment and labor law, professional liability, or arbitration

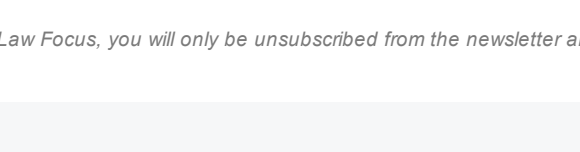
Gavin Sitkoff-Vuong was raised in Miami, Florida. He earned a B.A. in international economic development with a minor in Latin American studies from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and he will graduate from FSU Law in May. During Sitkoff-Vuong's 2L and 3L years, he has worked at GrayRobinson, P.A. as a legislative intern in their lobbying division. In this role, he follows legislative committee meetings and provides written weekly reports for clients regarding their legislative priorities. During the summer after his 2L year, Sitkoff-Vuong worked as a summer intern for the Office of the City Attorney in Miami. There, he worked on a procurement dispute from start to finish, which involved assisting the assistant city attorneys with research and writing the city's positional memorandum and closing arguments. He also assisted with issues concerning finance and city operations and attended city commission meetings and citizen committee meetings. During the summer after his 1L year, Sitkoff-Vuong worked in the office of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez as a summer legal associate. He assisted Mayor Suarez's legal advisor and provided support to the mayor's communications and community outreach teams. Prior to beginning law school, Sitkoff-Vuong worked for the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners as a legislative aide for District 7 Commissioner Xavier Suarez. During his two years with the county, he gained experience working on many aspects of local government operations, including affordable housing development, land use and zoning, parks and recreations management and improvements, public transportation, and budgetary analysis.



At FSU Law, Sitkoff-Vuong is the internal vice president for the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. He is also a member of the Cuban American Bar Association, the Jewish Law Students Association, and the Public Interest Law Students Association. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Sitkoff-Vuong after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at gsitkoffvuong@fsu.edu.

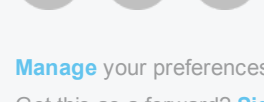
“I am a driven, quick-learning professional who enjoys puzzles and challenges and endeavors to build constructive, lasting professional relationships.”

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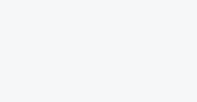
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