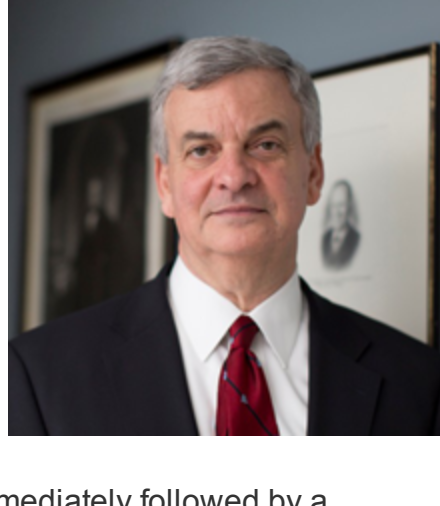




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### From the Dean

You are invited to join us at the law school at the end of March for our inaugural D’Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights. We are delighted to host former General Counsel of the U.S. Navy Alberto J. Mora as our lecturer, and he will present “Reflections on the Rule of Law in Human Rights.” Mora’s lecture promises to be an enlightening, interdisciplinary discussion on his experiences in fighting to end torture and how important the rule of law is to the protection of human rights and vice versa. The lecture will take place Wednesday, March 29, from 4-5 p.m. in the FSU College of Law D’Alemberte Rotunda, and it will be immediately followed by a reception. The first Ellis Medal will be awarded during the event to an FSU law student committed to international human rights.



Mora served as general counsel of the United States Navy from 2001 to 2006, and he recently retired as a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. During his tenure at the U.S. Navy, Mora led efforts to end the use of cruel and unlawful interrogation practices at Guantanamo Bay. He received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2006 in recognition of his opposition to the torture of detainees. In 2013, Mora was also included in a book, “Justice,” as one of 99 individuals worldwide who have made a significant contribution to human rights.

We hope you can join us at the law school for our inaugural lecture, which coincides with the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. If you are not able to attend the event in person, you can [register now to attend virtually](#).

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

### Article by Professors and Alum Recognized as One of the Best in IP Law



Professor Jake Linford



Professor Justin Sevier

The Journal of Things We Like (Lots) (JOTWELL) recently recognized an article written by two FSU Law professors and an alumna as one of the best works of recent scholarship relating to intellectual property law. For their paper, [Trademark Tarnishmyths](#), Loula Fuller and Dan Myers Professor Jake Linford, Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation Justin Sevier, and FSU Law alumna Allyson Willis ('21) conducted two experiments on trademarks to determine if tarnishment on a seller’s reputation occurs when affiliated with disreputable topics. Based on the results of the experiments, the authors suggest that the case for tarnishment might be weak in circumstances where courts have been most willing to presume tarnishment occurs. Further, they argue that much of what courts have presumed about the tarnishing effect of sex-, drug-, and sacrilege-related uses may be more mythic than material. The JOTWELL review of *Trademark Tarnishmyths* concluded that the article is “a very valuable addition to the trademark dilution literature.”

### Alum Ben Odom ('04)

Ben Odom has served as vice president of business and legal affairs for NASCAR since January 2020. Odom provides NASCAR legal guidance in litigation, large transactions, corporate governance, and special projects. He began his career at International Speedway Corporation (ISC) in 2006, and from 2018 through the completion of the merger between NASCAR and ISC, he was vice president and deputy general counsel for ISC. At ISC, Odom was responsible for managing the company’s legal and risk management department, board of directors, SEC filings, corporate governance, compliance, litigation, and mergers and acquisitions. Odom also serves as a board member for Cognitive Kinetics and CLASH Endurance. Odom remains extremely engaged with FSU Law—he counsels law students as a J.D. Advisor through the Career Services Office and will co-teach Sports Business and the Law through the Stoops Center of Law and Business.



*“I had a great experience at Florida State, and I’ve appreciated getting to know Dean O’Connor since she joined the law school. Every stop along my career, people have helped me when they didn’t have to. Not everyone did, but the people that did made an outsized impact. I just want to be a resource for Dean O’Connor and the law school to help today’s students. Being engaged with the law school has grown into something that I really appreciate doing, and I hope the school gets out of it half of what I get out of it.”*

### Student Profile: 3L Hayden Hurlbut

**Desired Practice Location:** Tampa; open to work in other cities in Florida or other states

**Expected Graduation:** May 2023

**Field of Law Sought:** Criminal law; open to other areas

Hayden Hurlbut is originally from Jacksonville, Florida, and he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in international business, with a concentration in economics, from the University of South Florida. From August to December of his 3L year, Hurlbut worked at the Office of the Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit as a certified legal intern. In this role, he had his own caseload, appearing in court on behalf of clients, reviewing case files, conducting client meetings, and drafting and filing motions. For one of his cases, Hurlbut sat first chair on a criminal misdemeanor trial that received a favorable verdict for his client. The summer before his 3L year, Hurlbut was a summer associate at Orr | Cook in Jacksonville, where he worked in a variety of practice areas, including first- and third-party property defense, personal injury, and construction law. Within all areas, Hurlbut’s main responsibilities were conducting legal research and preparing legal memos, while also helping to prepare motions for summary judgement and motions to dismiss. During the summer prior to his 2L year, Hurlbut worked as a law clerk for Fusco Law Group, where he conducted legal research for the lead attorney, assisted in preparing motions for criminal law clients, and led client intake interviews to prepare contracts for clients.



While at FSU Law, Hurlbut has been a staff editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* since July 2021, and he participated in the Vis Moot Court Team as an arbitrator. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Hurlbut after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at [hgh19e@fsu.edu](mailto:hgh19e@fsu.edu).

*“During law school, I’ve tried to live by the Jerry Rice quote, ‘Today I will do what others won’t, so tomorrow I can do what others can’t.’ I look forward to applying this after law school as I zealously advocate for my clients.”*

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