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## From the Dean



*The Honorable Kathryn Kimball Mizelle talks to Professor David Landau's Constitutional Law I class.*

Last week, we hosted the Honorable Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, as part of our Jurist in Residence Program. While on campus, Judge Mizelle attended Professor David Landau's Constitutional Law I class and met with different groups of law students. During her lunch with students, Judge Mizelle spoke extensively about her experiences clerking for a U.S. Supreme Court justice and federal judges, including the skills and mentoring she received; gave advice on post-graduate employment searches; provided tips on how to be successful during the first years after law school; and answered a variety of student questions.

Judge Mizelle was confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida on November 18, 2020. Before joining the bench, Judge Mizelle practiced at Jones Day in Washington, D.C., from 2019-2020, clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas from 2018-2019, clerked for the Honorable Gregory G. Katsas, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 2018, was counsel to the United States associate attorney general from 2017-2018, and was a trial attorney for the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice from 2014-2017. Additionally, she clerked for the Honorable William H. Pryor Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and for the Honorable James S. Moody Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Mizelle has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and will teach this summer at the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

## Call for Public Service Award Nominations



*2022 Exemplary Public Service Career Award winner Susan Maher ('84) was honored during a special virtual ceremony in September 2022.*

FSU Law is seeking nominations of alumni who have devoted their entire careers to public service for the 2023 Exemplary Public Service Career Award. In addition to recognizing alumni who have dedicated their careers to public service, the award honors people who have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, leadership, humility, and professionalism, as well as the highest regard for ethics. The award also aims to recognize public servants whose dedication to the profession may otherwise go unnoticed.

Additional considerations include:

- Length of the nominee's public service career
- Impact of the nominee's public service career (number of people served, significant legal achievements benefiting a large number of people, etc.)
- Nominee's demonstrated ability to inspire others
- Nominee's genuine concern for others, as displayed in various facets of the nominee's personal and professional life

All previous nominations will be considered for the 2023 award, therefore if you nominated someone in the past, you do not need to nominate them again. Please [submit new nominations online](#) by Friday, April 21, 2023. All nominations should include the nominee's name and an explanation of how they meet the award criteria. You may also send additional documentation, including links to sources of information about the nominee. The award winner will be recognized during a special Zoom ceremony and at this fall's 2023 Homecoming festivities. In addition, a painted portrait of the award recipient will be displayed at the College of Law.

## Alum Michael B. Dobson ('16)

Michael B. Dobson has served as general counsel for the Florida Department of Financial Services since May 2022. In this role, Dobson is responsible for legal issues relating to a wide range of insurance regulatory functions. Prior to becoming general counsel, he was a policy director and special legal advisor for the department. While working for the department, Dobson has focused on a variety of insurer regulatory issues, including insurer solvency, oversight of Citizens Property Insurance, and the department's response to disasters such as Hurricane Ian and the Surfside Condominium collapse. Dobson's previous experience includes practicing at Dean Mead in Tallahassee and serving as a staff attorney for the House Ways & Means Committee of the Florida House of Representatives. He also was a CLE instructor for the Florida Institute of CPAs, where he taught about the regulatory pitfalls of cryptocurrency. Dobson recently spoke about the insurance markets from the government regulator perspective during FSU Law's 2023 Law & Risk Management course.



*“I have found working in state government to be incredibly rewarding, and I encourage anyone attending FSU Law to consider the bountiful opportunities Tallahassee offers to obtain valuable government experience. If Florida were a country, our \$1.4 trillion in gross state product would place us just behind Brazil's GDP at number 13 in the world. Many of the laws and regulations impacting this vast amount of commerce are promulgated right here in Tallahassee, and current FSU law students would do well to learn as much as they can about the structure and function of state government, even if they intend to ultimately practice elsewhere.”*

## Student Profile: 3L Brandon Elyakim

**Desired Practice Location:** Not focused on living in a particular city after graduation, but rather on the job

**Expected Graduation:** May 2023

**Field of Law Sought:** Litigation (trial or appellate) in either the civil or criminal field

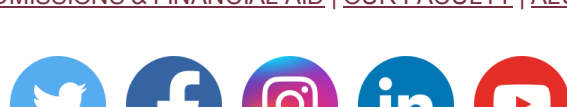
Brandon Elyakim is from Hollywood, Florida, and he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in sports management, with a minor in psychology, from Lynn University. Elyakim is currently a judicial extern for Circuit Judge Tiffany Baker-Carper at the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. There, he assists with a juvenile delinquency and family law docket, observing court proceedings, reviewing and organizing legal and court administrative documents, and conducting legal research and writing. He previously was a certified legal intern at the Public Defender's Office for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. In that role, Elyakim represented juveniles during all stages of proceedings, from arraignment to adjudication, including handling five juvenile misdemeanor bench trials. He interviewed clients; reviewed and classified evidence; prepped and questioned witnesses; presented motions, opening statements, and closing arguments; conducted legal research; and drafted motions. Elyakim also strategized with assistant public defenders in complex felony juvenile cases.



At FSU Law, Elyakim is a member of the Environmental Law Society, a mentor in the Bridge to Law School Program, where he provides advice to an undergraduate mentee who is interested in pursuing law school, and a law student pupil in the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Elyakim after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at [bme20k@fsu.edu](mailto:bme20k@fsu.edu).

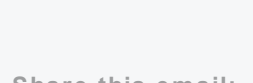
*“I appreciate constructive criticism, and I am genuinely attentive when people speak. I get along well with others and keep a calm composure when encountering various personalities. I also enjoy legal research and writing and learning different areas of the law. I believe these qualities will be very beneficial to my future employer.”*

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