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From the Dean



Bayern



Linford



Williams

We are fortunate at the law school to have brilliant, engaged faculty members, many of whom enrich our community by lending their expertise and talents to administrative roles that are vital to our operations. After serving for four years as associate dean for academic affairs, Shawn Bayern is stepping down from that role this summer. We are very grateful to Shawn for his steadfast service to the faculty and College of Law, especially through the pandemic. I am delighted to report that Shawn has agreed to transition into the the role of associate dean for technology, so he will remain an integral member of our administration. Kelli Williams has agreed to step into the associate dean for academic affairs role beginning this summer, and we are thankful she is taking on this important role. Kelli previously served as associate dean for research. In that role, she adeptly helped spread the word about the phenomenal work of our faculty. With Kelli transitioning roles, Jake Linford has agreed to serve as associate dean for research beginning this summer, and we are all looking forward to him lending his expertise to the administrative team. Please join me in thanking Shawn, Kelli, and Jake for their leadership and service to FSU Law!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Cecelia Smith

Professor Cecelia Smith is beginning a new position with the College of Law as professor of advanced legal writing in addition to her role as writing specialist. Professor Smith heads the [FSU College of Law Writing Center](#), a role which includes presenting writing workshops on various topics, providing students with writing guides, and meeting with students individually to help them improve their writing. She assists students individually with writing issues including organization, analysis, legal style, usage, and citations. Professor Smith has been with the College of Law since the fall of 2021. She was formerly an instructor at Tallahassee Community College, where she taught Foundations of the United States Constitution for 10 years. She also previously practiced law at Judkins, Simpson & High in the areas of family law, criminal law, and appellate law, and at Hopping Green & Sams in the areas of administrative and civil litigation, environmental and land use law, and appellate law. Prior to joining FSU Law, Smith served multiple times as a panelist judge for the FSU Legal Writing and Research oral arguments.



“I am thrilled to help our students learn to love the art and craft of legal writing. We are lucky to work in a literary profession. I find that talent is overrated; more important are the usual: discipline, love, and most of all, persistence.”

Alum Profile: Anthony E. DiResta ('82)

[Anthony E. DiResta](#) is a partner at Holland & Knight, where he co-chairs the firm’s Consumer Protection Defense and Compliance Team and practices out of the Washington, D.C. and Miami offices. DiResta defends companies and individuals in governmental law enforcement investigations and litigation. His clients span a wide range of industries, including financial services, health care, media, hospitality, food and beverage, real estate, transportation, manufacturing, and retail. He has successfully defended clients in dozens of high-profile, "bet-the-company" investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), and almost all of the state attorneys general. DiResta also assists clients with related crisis management functions, including media relations and advising executives and boards of directors. His previous experience includes serving as director of the FTC’s Southeast Regional Office, where he supervised enforcement, investigative, litigation, and outreach activities related to the Competition and Consumer Protection bureaus of the agency. He also was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division. DiResta has served as an advisor on several American Law Institute projects and in leadership positions with the American Bar Association Section of Litigation. He is also a frequent speaker and is widely published in the areas of commercial litigation, FTC and CFPB matters, governmental investigations, consumer protection, and antitrust law. In addition, he remains engaged with FSU Law—he will teach Administrative and Government Law as an adjunct professor in the spring and currently serves on a law school committee related to the laws and regulations governing cybersecurity, data security, privacy, and artificial intelligence.



“Being a lawyer is a noble and honorable calling. To be an effective professional, a lawyer must not only possess the analytical and communications skills to succeed, but the virtues of character that promote excellence in thought and conduct. The College of Law at FSU currently has the appropriate vision to serve these values, and I’m proud to be an alum and to participate in the college’s mission.”

Profile: Celebrating 2023 Grad Nicolette Jones

2023 FSU Law graduate Nicolette Jones will begin a clerkship for Judge Adam Tanenbaum of the Florida First District Court of Appeal in August! During law school, Jones was a member and secretary of the Moot Court Team. She was a quarterfinalist in the Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition and won Best Petitioner Brief. Jones was a Florida Supreme Court fellow during the spring of her 3L year, working under the supervision of Chief Justice Carlos Muñiz. She graduated from FSU Law cum laude. We wish Jones all the best in her clerkship and look forward to celebrating her future accomplishments!



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