



FSU LAW

Focus

August 25,
2023

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From the Dean



FSU Law incoming 1L class

This week, we welcomed our incoming 1Ls to the law school for orientation, and it has been energizing to have them and their enthusiasm on campus. The new class has already been extremely engaging and impressive, and it is no wonder, since they boast a record-high median undergraduate GPA of 3.85 and a median LSAT score of 165. Highlights of orientation week included mock contracts classes and other sessions featuring our talented faculty members; an alumni panel on professionalism featuring Rebecca Bandy ('05), Linda Bond Edwards ('95), Judge Jason Jones ('04), Lolia Fernandez ('17), and Judge Suzanne Van Wyk ('94); a welcome reception at Challenger Learning Center, where our new students networked with more than 50 judges and lawyers; and small-group community service opportunities. Later today, the new students will also have an opportunity to learn about many of our outstanding student groups during a fair with student leaders

from more than 25 law school student organizations. We are all delighted to have our new 1Ls on campus!

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

2023 Alumni Awards Presentation



Dimmig



Ellis



Van Wyk



Weidner



Zornosa

FSU College of Law alumni and friends are invited to join us on Tuesday, September 26, for a Zoom event celebrating the law school's 2023 Alumni Awards recipients. The virtual event will take place from 6-7 p.m. and will include the presentation of

awards and remarks by the award recipients and other guests. Mark Ellis ('84) will be honored with the Distinguished Alum Award, Judge Suzanne Van Wyk ('94) with the Alumni Association Service Award, Dean Emeritus Don Weidner with the Class of '66 Award, Rex Dimmig ('78) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award, and Francisco Zornosa ('15) with the Everyday Hero Award. Each of these individuals has contributed in many significant ways to the law school and the legal community. Please [register online](#) to attend the event and receive Zoom information. We hope many of you will join us as we celebrate our exceptional award recipients!

Alum Profile: Erin M. Carr ('10)

Erin M. Carr is an assistant professor of law at Seattle University School of Law, where she teaches and writes in the areas of educational inequality, juvenile and criminal (in)justice, power and privilege, constitutional law, and legal research and writing. Prior to joining Seattle University School of Law, she taught at Gonzaga University School of Law, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and Northeastern University. Carr's previous experience also includes serving in administrative roles at Everett Community College and the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Carr also practiced in the area of public interest law.



“The holistic legal education that I received at FSU Law has informed both my scholarship and pedagogical approach. My formative experience at FSU Law taught me that the law can be a powerful and positive force for change, a sentiment that I now endeavor to instill in my own students.”

Student Profile: 3L Shannon Kelley

Desired Practice Location: Melbourne, Florida, anywhere along Florida’s space coast, or the Orlando area

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Business or tax law



Shannon Kelley is from Port St. Lucie, Florida, and she attended the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, where she obtained a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a minor in pre-law. Kelley also earned a Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Forensics and a Master of Business Administration. When she graduates from FSU Law in the spring, she will also earn the Business Law Certificate. This semester, Kelley will be participating in the College of Law’s Business Law Clinic, and since the spring of her 2L year, she has worked as a law clerk at the Florida Department of Financial Services, where she conducts research and prepares memoranda. The summer before her 2L year, Kelley worked at the Florida Office of the Attorney General as the ABA Janet D. Steiger Fellow for the State of Florida. As a fellow, Kelley conducted research and assisted attorneys in their consumer protection efforts in the Multistate and Privacy Bureau, which included drafting an assurance of voluntary compliance.

At FSU Law, Kelley is secretary of the Business Law Society and the Transfer Student Organization. She is also a student ambassador with the Office of Admissions and a member of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Kelley after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at sk22bz@fsu.edu.

“I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have acquired at FSU Law to make a difference and to continue learning and growing throughout my career as a lawyer.”

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