



FSU LAW

Focus

November 3,
2023

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From the Dean



We are delighted to unveil the [2023 Florida State Law magazine](#)—the first issue of our exclusively online magazine. This digital publication will make it easier for us to provide more timely news and human-interest stories, while economizing on cost and serving the environment. The digital format also allows us to link directly to webpages with information that may be of interest to alumni and friends of FSU Law. As in the past when the magazine was printed, this new format includes articles about some of our most successful and engaged alumni, covers news about our

outstanding students and faculty members, gives you a glimpse into some of the events—fun and academically enriching—that have taken place on campus, and allows you to read class notes detailing the accomplishments of alumni. We hope you enjoy reading the 2023 magazine!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Gift Funds New Student Lockers



Thanks to a generous gift from FSU Law alumnus Abb Payne ('01) and his wife, Jennifer (M.S. '07), the College of Law has renovated its student locker spaces, complete with all new lockers. The lockers can be rented from the Student Bar Association (SBA) by students who need a place on campus to store books, backpacks, and other personal belongings. SBA uses the revenue from locker rentals to fund their activities, and with the space renovation, more lockers were installed than were in the spaces originally. This means more students can rent lockers, and SBA will have additional funds to put toward programming that enriches the law school community. The new student lockers replaced the lockers on the first floor of the Main Classroom Building, which were installed in the 1970s. FSU Law is grateful to the Paynes for enabling the space to be revamped to better meet the needs and size of the current student body.

“My wife and I are both FSU grads and hold a mutually deep affinity for all things Florida State,” said Payne. “We wanted to do something very practical that would

impact student life in a material way on a daily basis and are so excited these new lockers can do just that!”

Alum Profile: Alexander S. Douglas II ('89)

Alexander S. Douglas is a partner at ShuffieldLowman in Orlando, where he practices in the areas of probate, trust, and guardianship litigation. He is a member of The Florida Bar Probate Rules Committee, serves on the executive council of The Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section, and chairs The Florida Bar's Statutory Discharge Joint Sub-Committee of the Probate Trust Litigation Committee & the Trust Law Committee. Douglas is a co-vice chair of Action Line, a publication of The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section. He also is an active member and former chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Estate, Trust, and Guardianship Committee. Recently, Douglas was named to the advisory board of the Professional Fiduciary Council of Florida. Douglas frequently speaks to bar associations and organizations around the state on various probate and trust litigation topics.



“Early in my practice, my father referred a probate matter to me that involved a very dysfunctional family. I told myself—never again! For several years, I handled commercial litigation, but found the cases for the most part to be dull. My sister then referred to me my first probate/trust litigation matter which involved a daughter who had been disinherited by her father because of the undue influence of his caregiver. After winning that case, I was hooked! Helping families, trustees, and personal representatives problem solve estate and trust issues while navigating family dynamics

is very satisfying to me. It has been a great practice niche.”

Student Profile: 3L Savannah Sherman

Desired Practice Location: Hawaii; especially interested in opportunities in Oahu

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Animal law, environmental law, or criminal law



Savannah Sherman, from Shelter Island, New York, attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate studies, where she earned a B.A. in philosophy and minored in history. During the summer before her 3L year, Sherman was a summer law clerk with Wicker Smith, and she was a legal intern with McConnaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern, P.A. during the spring of her 2L year. In both positions, Sherman drafted motions, conducted research, and attended civil proceedings. During the spring of her 2L year, Sherman also was a legal extern with Pets Ad Litem, where she worked on animal law and environmental law cases, conducting legal research and fact investigations.

Sherman is president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at FSU Law. In this position, which she also held as a 2L, she organizes animal advocacy and educational events for law students. During her presidency, the organization has served as an editorial board for The Florida Bar Animal Law Section's Animal Law Treatise, held a donation drive for the Humane Society, and spoken with legislators about animal law bills during Humane Lobby Day at the Florida Capitol. Sherman also participated in the Moot Court Final Four Competition as a 2L and is now a Final Four co-chair for the Moot Court Team. As co-chair, she coaches the upcoming advocates and is organizing this year's Final Four Competition. Additionally, Sherman is a staff editor for the Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Sherman after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at sms20gu@fsu.edu.

“I have cherished my time at FSU Law and the

relationships I formed with classmates and professors. Moving into my career as an attorney is something that brings me a deep sense of gratitude and excitement. I hope to apply all that I have learned in law school to improve the lives of animals and protect the environment.”

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