



FSU LAW

Focus

February 2,
2024

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From the Dean

We were saddened to hear that Judge James “Jimmy” Joanos passed away on January 20, 2024, in Tallahassee. Among the many ways Judge Joanos enriched this university and community was his service on the committee that founded FSU Law in the 1960s. A Yale Law graduate, Judge Joanos was one of four committee members who selected the first dean, secured our location on campus, and provided other valuable input that created a strong foundation for FSU Law. In addition, he taught classes at the law school. His impact on this university extended far beyond the law school—



Judge Joanos also served as chairman of the FSU National Alumni Association, taught at the College of Criminology, and chaired and served on many university committees. He is survived by his wife, Betty Lou Whittle Joanos, and as a couple, they were perhaps best known as faithful FSU supporters and ambassadors who seemed to attend every FSU event! We are so grateful for Judge Joanos’ many contributions to our community, and we will miss him very much. In October 2023, we filmed a conversation between Judge Joanos, Professor Chuck Ehrhart, and FSU Law alumnus President Emeritus John Thrasher about the founding of the law school. In memory of Judge Joanos, we have published a small portion of that conversation, which you can [watch online now](#).

Students Calling During Spring 2024 Fundathon



On Monday, February 5, students will begin calling and emailing alumni as part of our three-week Spring 2024 Fundathon. Students will contact graduates to solicit support for our Annual Fund, which is utilized for important needs at the law school, including student scholarships and student enrichment activities. A gift in any amount makes an impact, and you can designate gifts to a wide variety of causes, organizations, and programs. Please consider giving to the Annual Fund if you have not already. Donations can be made when you receive our students' calls or emails, or you can [**donate online now**](#). If you have already given, thank you very much for your support!

Alum Profile: G.C. Murray II ('12)

G.C. Murray II is the chief executive officer and managing attorney at Association GC, where he

focuses on advising trade associations and nonprofit organizations. He also is a motivational speaker who is nationally recognized for his expertise in leadership, organization management, and executive coaching. In addition, Murray is the founder of the Innovative Community Engagement (ICE) Foundation—a nonprofit that supports low-resource communities. Murray has been honored numerous times for his work; most recently he received the MLK 2024 Excellence in Community Service Award from The MLK Foundation of Florida, Inc. He also is a past recipient of the Young Floridian of the Year Award and the American Institute for Public Service’s National Jefferson Award. Murray remains very involved with the College of Law, including currently serving as president of the FSU Law Black Alumni Network.



“I am deeply honored to receive the MLK 2024 Excellence in Community Service Award from The MLK Foundation of Florida, Inc. This award is not just a recognition of my efforts, but also a testament to the power of collective action and community spirit. As a proud alum and current president of the FSU Law Black Alumni Network, I am continuously inspired by the commitment to excellence and community engagement that FSU Law instills. This award and my work with FSU Law reinforce my commitment to advocate for meaningful change and to empower others to actively engage in uplifting their communities, a mission that truly resonates with Dr. King’s enduring vision of service and equality.”

Desired Practice Location: Open to any location

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Civil rights law; legal aid with a non-profit organization



Christina Portuallo, from Flagler Beach, Florida, attended Florida State University for her undergraduate studies, graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Classics. This semester, Portuallo is working as a student advocate with the College of Law's Children's Advocacy Clinic, where she previously worked during the summer before and fall of her 2L year. During her time with the clinic, Portuallo has provided legal services to children, interviewed clients, drafted memoranda and a petition, presented on resources at youth shelters, and conducted legal research on adoption and immigration. This semester, she is working on the clinic's project to end solitary confinement for children in Florida. A bill she drafted directing the study of solitary confinement in Florida has been sponsored by state Senator Bobby Powell. During the summer before her 3L year, Portuallo was a legal intern with the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. In that role, she conducted legal research on habeas corpus petitions and prison conditions and wrote memoranda on the right to intrastate travel and on Daubert motions related to gender-affirming care in prisons. She also drafted declarations and a complaint alleging First Amendment violations, edited amicus briefs, and conducted document review. During the spring of her 2L year, Portuallo was a student advocate with the law school's Elder Law Clinic. Her work with the clinic included drafting advance directives and wills, presenting on resources at senior centers, preparing conditional medical release applications, and advocating for tax-free incontinence products in Florida. During the summer before her 1L year, Portuallo was a legal intern with the Law Office of James V. Cook in Tallahassee, where she conducted legal research and document review, drafted motions, and analyzed evidence to represent incarcerated persons in civil rights litigation.

At FSU Law, Portuallo has earned a Book Award in her Election Law course, and she received the Outstanding Clinical Student Advocate Award from the Clinical Legal Education Association. Additionally, she was previously a fellow with the Florida Law Schools' Consortium on Racial Justice and served as 2L representative for FSU Law's OUTLaw student organization. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Portuallo after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at cdp16j@fsu.edu.

“Through my work in civil rights law, I developed

strong legal research and writing skills. As an advocate for children and elders, I gained trauma-informed lawyering skills to build trust with clients from different backgrounds. I am passionate about public interest law and hope to continue this work after graduation.”



We are inviting all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a new platform exclusively for the FSU Law community. Alumni can keep in touch with the College of Law and other alumni, post jobs, and access career development tools. If you haven't already joined FSU Law Connect, please join today to help us reach our 15% alumni registration goal. Currently, 1% of alumni have joined the networking platform.

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