



# COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

January 6, 2017

## From the Dean



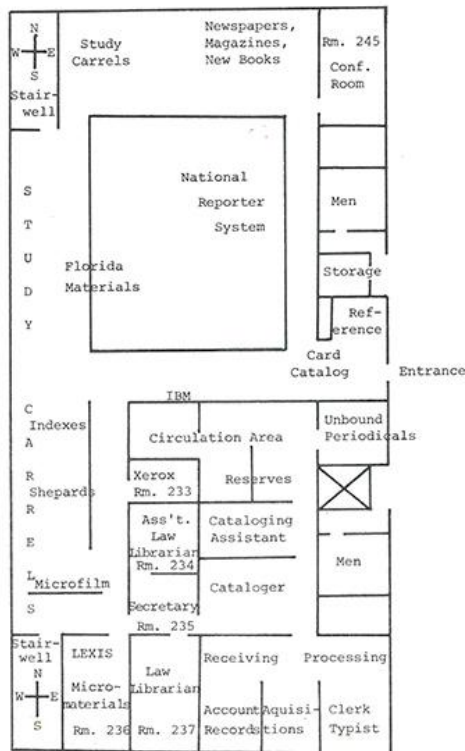
Happy New Year! We're very excited for the start of a new semester and to see what members of the FSU Law family accomplish in 2017!

If you know any undergraduate students who are considering law school, please encourage them to apply for our 2017 [Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program](#). Since 1992, the award-winning program has been acquainting students with the study of law and helping them acquire skills designed to benefit their undergraduate and future law school studies. Every year, we hear from participants that the program was life-changing! We are accepting applications from rising sophomores, juniors and seniors for the 2017 program until Friday, March 24. Thanks to the support and generosity of alum Wayne Hogan ('72) and his wife, Patricia, the program is free for all participants.

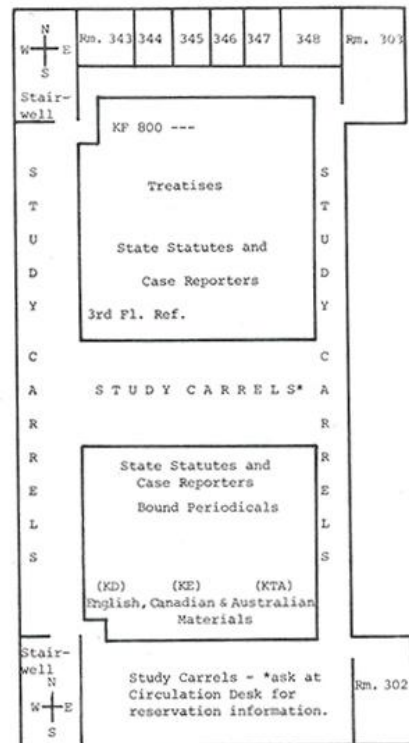
- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: 2016 summer program participants at the Florida Capitol*

## 50-Year Anniversary: 1977



Second Floor



Third Floor



In April of 1977, FSU's Governmental Law Center received a \$25,000 grant to help revise the Florida Constitution. At the request of Governor Reubin Askew's Office, the center worked with the University of Florida Center for Governmental Responsibility in an examination of the 12 articles of the Constitution. FSU law students looked at articles one through four, six and nine to research problems faced by other states and programs in other states that may have been more successful. Also in 1977, the Florida Legislature followed several lean budget years with a \$10 million special appropriation to the nine

libraries of the state universities. FSU law librarian Edwin Schroeder called his 1977 book budget “beautiful,” and was expected to add around 10,000 volumes and 10,000 microfilms. Student and faculty needs, along with innovations in legal research technology, have driven dramatic changes in the Research Center's collections over the years. As more legal materials become available digitally, the Research Center has consolidated the print and microform collection to create more space for student study. The Research Center's current collection stands at more than 287,938 titles and 756,561 volumes, with more than half of those figures representing online databases and other electronic resources.

*Pictured above: Law library floor plan when it was located on the second and third floors of the current main classroom building.*

## **Alum Profile: Lauren Vickroy Purdy ('11)**

[Lauren Vickroy Purdy](#) is an associate in Gunster's Jacksonville office, where she is a member of the Business Litigation and Appellate Practice Groups. She represents clients in a variety of matters, but focuses primarily on complex commercial litigation and professional liability defense. Prior to joining Gunster in 2013, she clerked for Judge Robert L. Hinkle, of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, and for Judge Joel F. Dubina, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Since graduating from the College of Law in 2011, Purdy has remained very involved. She has hosted events in Jacksonville to facilitate networking between current students and alumni, has come to campus to meet with students, and currently chairs the Alumni Board Placement Committee.



*“The faculty, administration and fellow alumni at FSU have provided me with tremendous encouragement and support throughout not only my time as a student, but also in my legal career. I am excited about the direction of the College of Law and proud to give back to a school that has given me so much.”*

## Student Profile: 3L Aqueelah Mitchell

Aqueelah Mitchell is a third-year student from Miami. She is a graduate of FSU, where she earned bachelor's degrees in International Affairs and in English with a minor in Communication. Mitchell's accomplished resume includes serving as president of the Black Law Students Association. She also serves as an associate justice for the Florida State University Supreme Court, a position she has held since her 2L year. Mitchell is a member of the Moot Court Team and served as editorial chair last year. She was the recipient of the Nat S. Stern Award, chosen by her Moot Court teammates as the member who makes an outstanding contribution to the team and best embodies the spirit of their faculty advisor, Nat S. Stern. Her team won first place and Best Petitioner Brief in the regional 2016 Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and placed third at the national level. She is a student ambassador for the College of Law and a member of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association. The summer after her 1L year, Mitchell traveled to the University of Oxford to study European Union law, comparative law and public international law. She also served as a judicial intern for Judge W. Matthew Stevenson, of the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal. Last summer, Mitchell was the recipient of the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation Fellowship. Over the summer she served as a judicial intern for Judge Stephanie W. Ray, of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. She was also a legal intern for the Miami Gardens City Attorney's Office. Mitchell is currently clerking at Young Qualls, P.A., and would like to practice in the area of civil litigation after she graduates in May. If you are interested in hiring Mitchell, please [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE YOUR TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

