



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

February 24, 2017

From the Dean



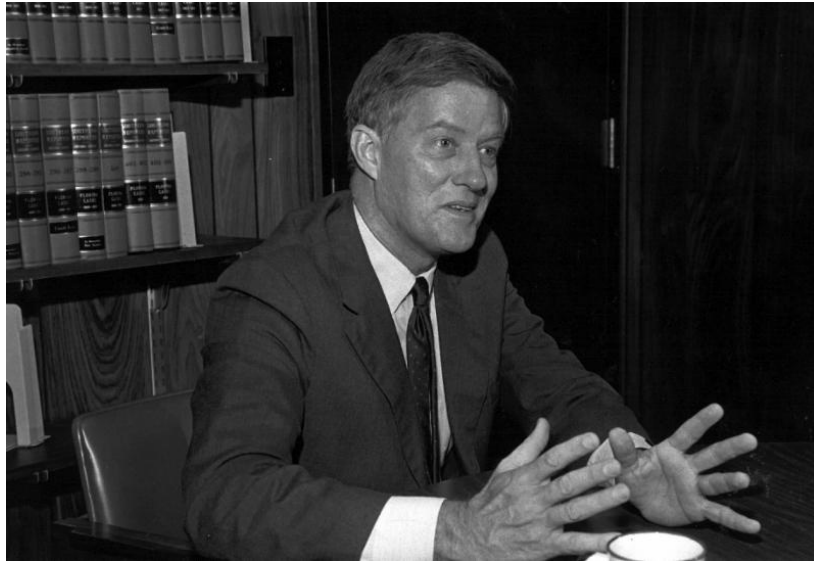
One of the most important ways that alumni engage with the law school is by helping students find jobs. There are many ways to help with this endeavor – one of which is facilitating networking between alums and students. In recent years, we've been fortunate to have many graduates host events in their cities to connect students with alums. Alumni have held events in Jacksonville, Orlando, South Florida, Tampa and Washington, D.C. This March, during Spring Break, alums Jason Burnett ('88) and Lauren Purdy ('11) are hosting an event in Jacksonville. Judge Heather Pinder Rodriguez ('98) and Woody

Rodriguez ('95) will also sponsor a lunch for current and admitted students, judges and alums, as part of a Judge Shadow Day for FSU law students in Orlando. Thank you to all alumni for your continued help on the jobs front!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Students and alumni at a 2016 networking event in Washington, D.C.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1984



President Emeritus and Professor [Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte](#) became dean of FSU Law in 1984. He served as dean until 1989. D'Alemberte was the president of the American Bar Association from 1991 to 1992 and was later appointed president of FSU, where he served until 2003. D'Alemberte has won numerous awards for his contributions to the legal profession and still teaches on campus as a student favorite. FSU Law also began a law school public service fellowship program in 1984. Made possible by a grant from The Florida Bar Foundation, the program was designed to attract and direct students to public service careers. An article in the Nov. 1, 1984 issue of *The Florida Bar News* said that approximately 10 fellowships would be awarded each year. Each fellow was required to spend at least 12 weeks of the summers after their 1L and 2L years working in a public service position and then write a major paper about a legal issue that arose during their experience. Also in 1984, the Florida Supreme Court gave FSU College of Law permission to videotape every session of court. The tapes were stored in the FSU law library as a permanent historical archive and, through what was advanced technology at the time, faculty and students could search the recordings by computer to watch specific cases.

Pictured above: Sandy D'Alemberte when he was dean in 1984

Faculty Profile: Nancy Benavides



Associate Dean for Student Affairs Nancy Benavides has won several awards for her work with FSU law students. In addition, she has been involved in numerous national and state higher education committees. She currently serves on the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Board of Trustees, chairing the organization's Diversity Committee. She also chairs LSAC's DiscoverLaw.org PLUS Subcommittee and was a member of the Pipeline Conference Planning Work Group. As a member of the work group, Benavides helped coordinate LSAC's September 2016 Pipeline Diversity Conference. The event, which attracted participants from approximately 100 law schools, highlighted initiatives at various law schools that aim to increase the diversity of law school applicants and students. Benavides previously directed FSU's nationally recognized pipeline program, the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. During her time as director, applications to the program increased by more than 900%.

“It has been an honor to work with LSAC. My involvement with the organization began through our summer program, which received an LSAC DiscoverLaw.org PLUS grant, allowing us to double the size of the program. Through my work with the LSAC Diversity Committee, I am now able to share my experiences with other law schools and encourage them as they implement and build their own pipeline programs. I am proud of the work we are doing to increase diversity in legal education!”

Student Profile: 3L Ellie Goralnick

Third-year student Ellie Goralnick is originally from Miami. She completed her undergraduate studies at FSU, earning dual bachelor's degrees in political science and criminology. Currently, Goralnick serves as president of OUTlaw, vice president of the Jewish Law Student Association and treasurer of FSU's student chapter of the ACLU. Her extensive work experience includes serving as a legislative intern for the Florida House of Representatives during the spring semester of her 1L year. The following summer she clerked for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Atlanta. In this role, she conducted research, drafted family law briefs and memoranda, and co-led community events to educate the public on social issues and the effects of recent case law. During her 2L year, Goralnick worked as a research assistant for the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and then as a judicial extern to the Honorable Charles Dodson, of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. Last summer she interned for GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) in Boston, where she researched and drafted memoranda in areas of elder housing discrimination, minors' constitutional rights to medical treatment and the effects of the recently enacted Maine Parentage Act. Currently, Goralnick is working as a Certified Legal Intern at the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office. Goralnick is interested in practicing in the areas of criminal defense, family law or civil rights. She would like to practice in Miami, but is open to other major cities such as Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. Goralnick loves live music, sports, traveling and meeting new people. If you are interested in hiring Goralnick for a job after graduation, please [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



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