



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

March 10, 2017

From the Dean



This past weekend, our Moot Court Team won first place in the 2017 William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition, held at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to winning team members Marlie Blaise (2L), Aqueelah Mitchell (3L) and Dominique Mortimer (2L), and to their coach, Legal Writing Professor Jennifer Parker LaVia! Ten law schools participated in the competition, including Georgetown University Law Center and the University of North Carolina School of Law.



Also this past weekend, our Mock Trial Team hosted its fifth annual National Civil Mock Trial Competition at the College of Law. Thank you very much to the many alumni and friends of the law school who served as judges and jurors. We could not host this event without your help! And congratulations to the winning team from St. John's University School of Law! The other law schools competing were Brooklyn, Charleston, Emory University, Florida Coastal, Fordham University, Louisiana State University, University of Florida, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Virginia, University of South Carolina and University of South Dakota. FSU Mock Trial Team advisor Ruth Stone, the Wayne and Pat Hogan Professor of Trial Practice, drafted a unique and fun competition problem, which was a fictional copyright infringement and unauthorized use of likeness case based on real-life events that took place in the early 1800s. Thank you also to everyone who made this event possible, especially alumnus and competition sponsor Wayne Hogan ('72), and mock trial students Joseph Leavitt and Lolia Fernandez.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: (TOP) Winning FSU Law Moot Court Team members (L-R) Mitchell, Blaise and Mortimer. (BOTTOM) National Civil Mock Trial Competition winning team from St. John's University School of Law.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1986



In 1986, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist visited campus. During his time here, Justice Rehnquist taught a class and addressed the university on

the changing role of the Supreme Court, calling for a new national appeals court. During more recent years, U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day

O'Connor and Antonin Scalia visited FSU Law. Also in 1986, FSU established the Edward Ball Chair in International Law. The chair was one of the first of its type in the Southeast and was endowed with a total of \$1 million. Edward Ball played a major role in the development of modern-day Florida. Today, Frederick M. Abbott is the Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law. The first of four historic homes arrived at the law school in 1986. Donated by First District Court of Appeal Judge Ann Booth and her sister, Sara Shaw, the Classical-Revival style home was saved from demolition in the 1960s by the donors' parents, Sarah Payne Cawthon and Rainey Cawthon. Today, the Cawthon House serves as classroom and office space.



Justice Rehnquist

Justice Rehnquist to Visit College of Law in February

Alum Profile: Jack E. "Jake" Kiker, III ('05)

[Jake Kiker](#) is a shareholder at WilliamsGautier in Tallahassee, where he specializes in credit union member business lending, and regularly assists credit union clients from across the country with their business lending programs, compliance, loan participations and credit union service organizations. He also represents entrepreneurs and entities in corporate organization, transactional and governance matters, including business start-ups, finance and sales/mergers/acquisitions. In addition to his law practice, Kiker is an owner/co-founder of Domi Station – a business incubator and coworking space offering programs, resources and events that help entrepreneurs start/scale, and existing business owners expand, sustainable companies. In collaboration with FSU College of Law faculty and staff, Kiker created an externship for FSU law students at Domi Station, and he has spoken to students during the Business Law Certificate Program orientation for the past two years.



“I’ve always been fascinated by the intersection of law and business, and the impact it has upon the changing landscape of the legal profession. My engagement with the FSU College of Law has allowed

me to not only gain valuable insight from the impressive faculty regarding what they see in the future, but perhaps more importantly, to work directly with the talented students who will build that future (in an innovation-focused setting).”

Student Profile: 3L Joseph Leavitt

Originally from West Palm Beach, Joseph Leavitt graduated cum laude from FSU with a bachelor's degree in economics and philosophy. Leavitt's extensive extracurricular experience includes serving as executive editor of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law* and secretary for the Aviation & Space Law Society. He is also the current chairperson of the National Trial Competition Committee for the Mock Trial Team. His team was a semi-finalist at the Mockingbird National Mock Trial Competition in Montgomery, AL, and won the Buffalo-Niagara National Mock Trial Competition in Buffalo, NY. This past summer, Leavitt clerked for the Honorable Charles A. Stampelos, United States Magistrate Judge at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Leavitt worked on cases involving federal habeas corpus petitions and federal civil rights complaints. Currently, he is a research assistant for Professor Nat S. Stern, the John W. & Ashley E. Frost Professor, and is also externing for the Capital Habeas Unit at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida. In this position, cases involve seeking relief for death row inmates based on the recent holdings in *Hurst v. Florida* and *Hurst v. State* regarding Florida's capital sentencing system. Leavitt is moving to Jacksonville after graduation and is interested in criminal or civil trial work, clerking, or intellectual property. If you are interested in hiring Leavitt for a job after graduation, please [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).



“The most interesting aspect of law, to me, is how it affects human behavior. Nothing is done in a vacuum. Nothing is just for the present moment. Whether successful or not, every legal strategy employed can change the way people act and react in the future.”

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