



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

March 24, 2017

From the Dean



Earlier this month, we concluded our 2017 Student Give Back Campaign. We're delighted to report that 84% of students participated in the campaign, exceeding our goal of 80% class participation. Thank you to all of our students who participated! Our 1Ls finished the campaign with an impressive 94% participation rate! This was the first year we incorporated service into the campaign, so students had the option of volunteering their time or donating money to "give back" to the law school. As in previous years, faculty

challenges were critical. Participation was no doubt influenced by a record number of faculty challenges. Because student satisfaction with the faculty and our program drives participation, the 2017 campaign results confirm that FSU Law is a special place with a strong sense of community.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: (L-R) 1Ls Lauren Pettine, Jennifer Mosquera and Heather Wolfe. Students had many opportunities to give back during the Student Give Back Campaign. The Women's Law Symposium held a silent auction and bake sale, the proceeds of which benefited Tallahassee Legal Aid Foundation, an important partner in our pro bono programs. Students volunteering were counted as participating in the campaign.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1988



The final two homes in the James Harold Thompson Green project were brought to campus in 1988. In January, the 19th century Damon House was donated by the City of Tallahassee and moved from the corner of College and Duval Streets. In August, the Stanley House, a South Georgia farmhouse donated by FSU alumni Sandra and Henry C. Wortman, was relocated to the Green. In 1988, the rotunda addition was also completed. The rotunda dome was made from Hormalite, a special concrete with glass fiber reinforcement. The dome, 45-feet in diameter, has 16 segments each weighing 1,400 pounds. It was reported that the structure was the world's largest dome made from Hormalite at that time. Today, the Rotunda is one of the main event areas at the law school, frequently used to host guest speakers and events where students and alums network. Also in 1988, long-time FSU Law administrator Elora Harwood retired. Harwood joined the law school in June of 1967 as secretary to Dean Mason Ladd and was an instrumental member of the administration. Upon her retirement, she was serving as director of placement and alumni affairs. "Elora has helped us build a tradition," said then-Alumni Association President Wayne Hogan in the September 1988 alumni newsletter. "None of us will forget her."

Alum Profile: Michelle Dennard ('04)

In February, alum [Michelle Dennard](#) was unanimously selected to become president and CEO of CareerSource Florida by the workforce organization's board of directors. She had served since 2014 as the nonprofit organization's vice president of policy. CareerSource Florida is the statewide workforce development board, which sets policies and makes investments to help connect employers with skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities. Dennard's previous experience includes directing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Strategic Business Development and serving as legal counsel in the state's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development.



“As president and CEO of CareerSource Florida, it’s an honor to work with leaders in business, education, economic development and community development, as well as thousands of workforce professionals statewide to ensure Florida is positioned through our actions, investments and outcomes to help job seekers, workers and employers achieve economic prosperity. Law school prepared me for my new leadership role by teaching me to learn by asking questions and solve problems by creatively and critically exploring solutions — often through collaboration.”

Student Profile: 3L Mackenzie Medich

Mackenzie Medich graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in legal studies and minors in sport business management and real estate. When she graduates with her J.D. in May, she will also earn the Environmental Law Certificate. Originally from Tampa, Medich is particularly interested in moving to Raleigh, North Carolina. However, she is also open to jobs in other states, as well as staying in Florida. During her

law school career, Medich revived the Real Estate Law Society and served as president during her 1L and 2L years. She also served as secretary for the Estate Planning and Elder Law Society. This year, the two organizations have combined into one new organization, the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society, of which Medich is currently vice president. Medich has also been awarded funding to attend the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation special institute on oil and gas agreements this May in Colorado. During the summer after her 1L year, Medich worked at the Law Office of Robert E. Sharbaugh in St. Petersburg. The office focuses on estate planning and elder law. Last summer she externed with the Leon County Attorney's Office. Her supervisor focused on real estate and eminent domain, but when they realized Medich's interest in environmental and land use law, she was given assignments in that area as well. By the end of the year, Medich will have also completed approximately 45 pro bono hours with the Leon County Teen Court. Medich's goal is to practice environmental law. She is also open to environmental advocacy positions, as well as real property and estate planning. If you are interested in hiring Medich for a job after graduation, please [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



“I have been a competitive horseback rider since I was eight, and have kept up with riding and showing through law school,” Medich said. “Riding has taught me a lot of things about being a dedicated, strong, patient, knowledgeable and adaptive person.”

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