



# COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

April 28, 2017

## From the Dean



If you know anyone who goes above-and-beyond for FSU Law, please consider nominating them for our 2017 Alumni Association Awards. We are accepting nominations until Friday, May 12, for the following honors:

### **Distinguished Alum Award**

- must be living FSU College of Law graduate
- distinguished professionally
- outstanding service to community/FSU College of Law

- good citizenship/humanitarian services

### Alumni Association Service Award

- must be living FSU College of Law graduate
- College of Law employee/faculty member can be considered
- distinguished service to FSU College of Law
- volunteer service to College of Law over time

### Class of '66 Award

- non-FSU College of Law graduate
- College of Law employees/faculty members eligible after retirement
- distinguished service to FSU College of Law/community

To nominate someone, please send a brief description of how the nominee meets the award criteria to [Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Fund Becky Shepherd](#). Awards will be presented this fall during the law school's Homecoming Weekend Alumni Reunion Reception.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

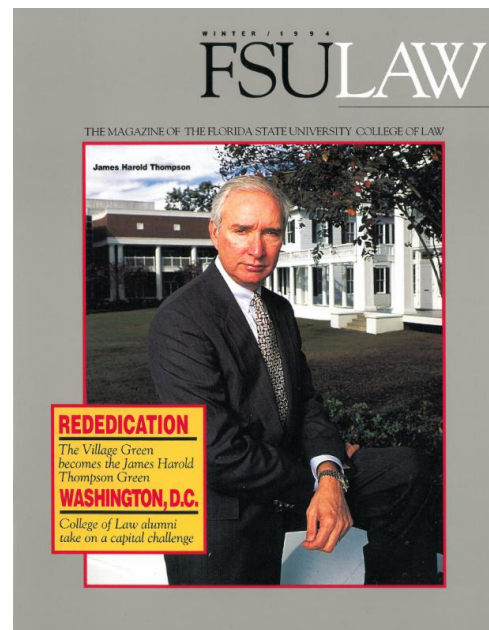
*Pictured above: (L-R) 2016 Alumni Association Award winners F. Philip Blank ('75), Judge Stephanie W. Ray ('95) and Professor Emeritus David Powell.*



## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1993

In October, 1993, the Florida Legislature and the FSU College of Law honored one of their most distinguished statesmen and alumni by naming the Village Green for James Harold Thompson, a member of the law school's charter class. Thompson was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1974, five years after graduating from FSU Law, and rose rapidly through the legislative ranks, serving as Speaker of the House in 1985 and 1986 and being elected "Most Effective Member of the House" by his peers. Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Florida Senate President Pat Thomas, whose amendment

to a legislative bill was responsible for renaming the Village Green in Thompson's honor. Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, who was dean of the College of Law from 1984 to 1989 when many improvements that resulted from Thompson's legislative effectiveness took place, also spoke. Also in 1993, a pilot project in Legal Writing Program Director Will Murphy's class was described in the *FSULaw* alumni magazine as, "connecting instructor and



students through an electronic mail (E-mail) computer network.” The article said 83 percent of the law school students had computers at home and if the pilot proved successful, all legal writing students would be using the network the following fall.

*“James Harold, you never asked that any place be named for you, but we are all honored to have your name grace this lovely spot,” said D’Alemberte in an excerpt from his dedication ceremony speech. “We hope that your vision of a vibrant law school, accessible to people who turn to the law as a path to service, is the vision that will be served with this marvelous facility. We hope that generations of law students will walk into this space and understand the message that the architecture conveys. Standing here at the law school, looking past the lovely houses to what I think is the most beautiful public building in Florida, the First District Court of Appeal [now the FSU Law Advocacy Center], makes us remember that we here in the academy are connected to the community and to what lawyers profess is public service and justice for all. Our fondest wish is that this school will produce many more people who believe in that profession and many more people like James Harold Thompson.”*

*Pictured above: James Harold Thompson on the cover of the Winter 1994 issue of FSULaw.*

## **Alumni Profile: Camille M. Evans ('05)**

[Camille M. Evans](#), a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig in Orlando, was recently recognized as a “Woman on the Move” by *ONYX Magazine*. The honor is bestowed upon women of color who “embody a can-do spirit that’s shattering glass ceilings, helping them to achieve their full potential, and paving the way for future generations of leaders.” Evans focuses her practice on public finance, serving as bond, disclosure, underwriter’s, bank’s and trustee’s counsel for both publicly and privately offered financings. Her transaction experience extends to a wide array of sectors, including general government, airports, health care, toll roads, K-12 education, higher education, community development districts, water, sewer and electric utilities, and industrial development. She is also very involved in the community and profession, serving on many local boards, as a



member of the National Association of Securities Professionals and the National Association of Bond Lawyers, and as vice-chair of The Florida Bar's Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee.

*“It is truly an honor to be included as a 2017 Woman on the Move. I am hopeful that my continued efforts to build communities will serve as a testament to the value of diversity and inclusion, in every level and mode of practicing law and engaging governmental entities, corporate entities and individuals.”*

## **Student Profile: 3L Gabriel Gari**

Originally from Jacksonville, third-year student Gabriel Gari earned his bachelor's degree from FSU with a major in media/communication and minors in English, Spanish and religion. During his law school career, Gari was president of the Republican Law Students Association and the lead university defender for the Student Government Association. As lead defender he managed the University Defender Program, including conducting client intake, engaging in the representation of students, and communicating with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities regarding accused students and their future with the university. He is also a contributor to the



sports and entertainment law blog [fromthelegalfield.com](http://fromthelegalfield.com). Gari worked two summers at the Fourth Judicial Circuit Office of the State Attorney, his second summer as a certified legal intern. Gari also clerked for the Law Office of Anabelle Dias, a criminal defense firm in Tallahassee. After graduation, Gari would like to practice in Jacksonville. He is interested in civil litigation, particularly dealing with contractual and intellectual property disputes. If you are interested in hiring Gari after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

*“I firmly believe criminal law is an excellent way for students to get their feet wet and gain practical experience as a litigator, regardless of the field of law they ultimately practice. Aside from my legal aspirations, I have always enjoyed writing and appreciate the difference a single word can make.”*

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