



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

August 25, 2017

From the Dean

When classes begin on Monday, our student body will include 34 new Juris Master students – a record number since the program’s inception in 2014. This class includes our first students enrolled in the online Juris Master option. I am very excited to introduce this online program, which was one of my top goals coming in as dean. It is designed for professionals who regularly work with legal issues and will give students a strong foundation in regulatory compliance and legal risk management. The three online concentrations – Financial Regulation and Compliance, Health Care Regulation, and Legal Risk Management and HR Compliance – have been developed with industry professionals and prominent in-house and outside counsel . The online master’s degree is ideal for working professionals, as it is flexible and the lessons learned can be quickly applied at work. If you know of any professional organizations whose members would be interested in earning the Juris Master degree, please let us know so we can reach out to those organizations. If you know someone who would benefit from the online master's program, please encourage them to [visit our website](#) for more information.



- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2010



In 2010, an earthquake in Haiti brought the law school together to raise funds, food and supplies. Student efforts did not end there—twelve students volunteered for the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights' Alternative Spring Break, many of whom helped Haitians already in the United States receive Temporary Protected Status. In April 2010, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia visited the College of Law. He met with faculty and friends of the law school during an informal reception before addressing about 400 students and guests at the Augustus B. Turnbull III Center. During the spring of 2010, the Moot Court Team experienced unprecedented success - first place in four national competitions. They won the Religious Freedom Moot Court Competition and National Security Law Moot Court Competition, both at George Washington University Law School. They also brought home national titles from the Gabrielli National Family Law Competition at Albany Law School in Albany, NY, and the Luke Charles Moore Civil Rights Invitational at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Also, a 2010 United States Supreme Court decision relied heavily on a study by FSU Law Clinical Professor Paolo Annino and Public Interest Law Center students. The decision, in the case of *Graham vs. Florida*, reflected the majority of the Court's consensus that life in prison without the opportunity for parole represents cruel and unusual punishment for juvenile offenders who did not commit homicide.

Pictured above: During his remarks at the law school in 2010, Justice Antonin Scalia expressed the importance of supporting law schools and reminded those in attendance that he was a law professor before becoming a judge.

Alum Profile: Debra A. Henley ('88)

Debra A. Henley recently joined the College of Law as assistant dean for career services and professional development. Henley has a

wealth of legal experience and an extensive network of professional legal relationships that she utilizes to help FSU Law students and alumni advance in their careers. She previously served for seven years as executive director and 18 years as legislative director of the Florida Justice Association (FJA). Before joining FJA, she was a civil trial attorney with Connor and Martinez, a legislative analyst for the Florida House of Representatives and a commissioner on the Florida Commission of Ethics, among other positions. Henley also teaches Legislative Practice at FSU Law.



“Our role in career services is to collaborate with students and graduates. We keep our ears to the ground, seek out opportunities and keep students informed, while coaching and preparing them to project excellence and reach new heights.”

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Kristin DuPont

Kristin DuPont graduated from FSU College of Law in May 2017, with a specialization in business law. Originally from Lakeland, DuPont moved with her family to Ohio where she earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in political science from Miami University. There, she was an active member of the Associated Student Government, interned with U.S. Senator Rob Portman and was vice president of public relations for the Campus Activities Council. During law school, DuPont was elected to serve as president of the Student Bar Association. As president, DuPont created a collaborative communication stream for the students and faculty by implementing a new master calendar. She also helped organize and host FSU’s first annual golf tournament, where she paired students with alumni in their desired practice areas to promote an ideal networking environment. DuPont’s hard work and creative solutions were recognized by the American Bar Association at last week’s Annual ABA Conference, where FSU Law was awarded a National Achievement Award for “Student Bar Association of the Year” for the 2016-17 school year. DuPont also earned a Distinguished Pro Bono Award for her work with juvenile offenders in the Leon County Teen Court Program. She was a member of the Mock Trial Team and competed in several competitions across the state. She was also an



active member of the William H. Stafford Inn of Court, Phi Alpha Delta and Women's Law Symposium, and was secretary of the Law School Council. As one of seven students elected to the Law School Council, DuPont decided how to disperse over \$50,000 a year to the 30+ registered student organizations within the law school. DuPont's work experience reflects her desire to examine a variety of legal careers until she narrowed down her true passion. For her 1L summer, DuPont clerked at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, where she provided legal advice and interpretation on the Medicaid State Plan. That same summer, she also worked part-time at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, where she reviewed contracts, initiated litigation and worked directly with the commissioner of agriculture. During her 2L year, DuPont worked at the International Speedway Corporation (ISC) in Daytona. At ISC, she worked directly with the assistant general counsel and was responsible for drafting, reviewing and negotiating contracts with various sponsors and vendors. Throughout her 3L year, DuPont honed her skills in commercial and civil litigation, labor and employment law and real estate foreclosure actions while clerking at the Mowrey Law Firm in Tallahassee. DuPont recently moved to Tampa where she plans to practice commercial litigation or corporate law, utilizing her financial acumen to facilitate mergers and acquisitions. If you are interested in hiring DuPont, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#) .

**PROFESSOR
CHUCK EHRHARDT'S
50-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Friday, September 22, 2017
5:30-7:30 PM
Dunlap Champions Club

Please RSVP by Friday,
September 15, 2017

Alumni Office | 800.788.7097
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