



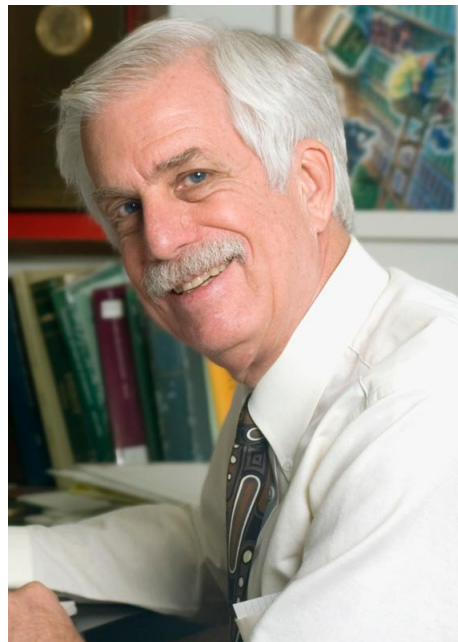
COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

September 8, 2017

From the Dean

As you probably know, on Friday, September 22, we will celebrate Professor Chuck Ehrhardt's 50-year anniversary with the College of Law! We are delighted that many of you plan to join us in Tallahassee for this special event. If you haven't yet let us know that you will attend, please email alumni@law.fsu.edu to RSVP. In addition, as a gift to Chuck for his longstanding service to the law school, we hope to increase his endowment fund – to which he has been donating for many years – to the level necessary to create the Charles W. Ehrhardt Professorship in Litigation. If you would like to help us reach this goal, you can give online at give.fsu.edu/law . Thank you to everyone who has already donated! We are also still accepting emails with your favorite memories and photos of Chuck at ehrhardt50@law.fsu.edu .



- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Professor Emeritus Charles W. "Chuck" Ehrhardt

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2012



In time for the spring 2012 semester, FSU Law expanded into the 50,000-square-foot Advocacy Center, which had previously been occupied by the Florida First District Court of Appeal. FSU Law worked with the Division of Historical Resources of the Florida Department of State to ensure preservation of the exterior of the building and the existing appellate courtroom, now named the John W. Frost, II Courtroom. The Business Law Certificate Program was created in 2012 to allow students planning a career in business or business law to receive specialized training in a set of core areas: publicly traded corporations, closely-held business entities, corporate finance, law and economics, and taxation. During the spring 2012 semester, the FSU Law Moot Court Team won four national competitions. Following the team's world championship in October 2011, it was a record five championships for the 2011-2012 academic year. Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston ('87) was elected unanimously to serve as Florida's 55th Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, starting July 1, 2012. Polston was the first FSU Law alum to be selected as Chief Justice of the state's highest court. FSU College of Law alumni were well-represented in the national media in 2012 and beyond regarding the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin. The case attracted media from around the United States and attorneys on both sides of the case had ties to the law school. Benjamin Crump ('95), Daryl Parks ('95) and Jasmine Rand ('09) all represented the family of the late Trayvon Martin. George Zimmerman, the man who openly admitted to shooting Martin while maintaining that he acted in self-defense, was represented by defense attorney Mark O'Mara ('82).

Pictured above: Competitors utilize one of the Advocacy Center's five courtrooms during the 2017 National Civil Mock Trial Competition, hosted by FSU Law's Trial Team.

Alum Profile: Melissa N. VanSickle ('02)

Melissa N. VanSickle is a partner in the Tallahassee office of Broad and Cassel LLP, where she handles commercial real estate transactions and residential real estate development matters. She also provides general counsel services to clients and represents financial institutions for the closing of real estate related loans. VanSickle is an elected member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, the chair of the Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel, a past president of the Tallahassee Bar Association and previously served on the Second Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee. She has won awards, including the Tallahassee Bar Association's 2011 Thomas M. Ervin Distinguished Young Lawyer Award, and has been recognized as an "Up and Comer" in *Florida Trend* magazine's Florida Legal Elite. She also remains very engaged with the College of Law, where she teaches as an adjunct professor.



“The certified legal intern program at the Florida State University College of Law provided me with a hands on learning experience where I was able to apply my studies to a real world setting. I had the opportunity to prepare and argue cases in court and, although my practice now focuses on transactional matters, the exposure gave me confidence as a lawyer and created opportunities as I began my career.”

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Jamie Tasker

Jamie Tasker graduated from FSU Law this summer in the top 20% of the 2017 graduating class. He is a triple grad of Florida State University, having also earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in international affairs from FSU. Tasker also completed a graduate certificate in emergency management and homeland security at FSU. During law school, Tasker was a member of the Student Bar Association, Women's Legal Society ("Yes, men can join!" he said.), and was a member of the *Law Review* at Florida Coastal School of Law prior to transferring to FSU. He is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Tallahassee Bar Association. He also attended the FSU Summer Program in Law at Oxford last summer.



Tasker's work experience includes an externship at the North Florida Center for Equal Justice, where he conducted case prep and review for a case on behalf of handicapped children. This summer, Tasker externed for Judge Ross L. Bilbrey of the First District Court of Appeal. He worked on case summaries for Judge Bilbrey's review and attended two oral arguments. Originally from Live Oak, Tasker recently moved to Tampa with his wife Amy and would like to stay in Tampa for some time. However, he is open to relocating if the right opportunity presents itself. Tasker would like to practice corporate law, including tax law or mergers and acquisitions. If you are interested in hiring Tasker, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#) .

"I graduated law school in two years, where I booked five courses, and hiked through Scotland and Spain. While hiking 500 miles across northern Spain, I took tax law online with Professor Johnson, which helped steer me towards wanting to work in a corporate law setting."

**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
850.644.7260 | alumni@law.fsu.edu

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