



Justice Lawson addresses graduates at the 2018 commencement ceremony.

From the Dean

On Sunday, we celebrated FSU Law's 50th graduating class during our 2018 commencement ceremony and reception. Congratulations to all of our new graduates, including the more than 150 Juris Doctor graduates, three Juris Master graduates and 11 LL.M. graduates who walked in the ceremony! We are very proud of your hard work and accomplishments and look forward to watching you soar. Sharing words of wisdom during the ceremony were two distinguished alumni: FSU President John Thrasher ('73) and Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson ('87). As the featured speaker, Justice Lawson discussed "five principles that have guided me well" that he hoped would be helpful for graduates: you are not who you are – you are only who you are becoming, take time for reflection, remember what's important, you get to choose your own attitude, and there is a God – you are not him. You can [watch all of Justice Lawson's inspirational speech, as well as the entire graduation ceremony, on our website](#). During the ceremony, we also recognized three outstanding FSU Law community members. Graduate Brenda Czekanski received the Blaise Gamba Award for her extraordinary commitment to pro bono service. Selected by members of the 2018 graduating class, graduate Jenna Von See was honored with the Raising the Bar Professionalism Award for exemplifying the ideals of professionalism and Professor Nat Stern received the Open Door Faculty Award for "going above and beyond" in mentoring law students. Thank you to all of the alumni who helped mentor and support our newest graduates while they studied law and who will continue to support them in their careers – your engagement makes a huge difference!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Maribel Roig

[Dean Maribel Roig](#) joined FSU Law in January 2018 as assistant dean for academic programs. She directs and manages activities related to improving the academic success of College of Law students, and coordinates academic program oversight, registrar and academic advising efforts, as well as strategic initiatives for new programs. Before joining FSU Law, Roig practiced law at firms in Maryland and Puerto Rico, with a focus in complex commercial litigation. She has substantial experience handling matters relating to the banking, real estate and insurance sectors. Prior to her work as an attorney, Roig completed a doctoral degree and served as faculty in the Program in History and Literature at Harvard University. In that role, she researched, published and taught on topics spanning the intersection of law and the humanities and was involved in academic program development and student advising. Roig received a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and served as articles editor for the *Journal of Healthcare Law and Policy*. She holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University, with a B.A. in Romance Languages and Literatures and Latin American Studies. She is also a former Fulbright Scholar.



"This year we are launching a new Academic Programs Office, an exciting initiative which underscores our law school's commitment to fostering an academic environment in which all students achieve their full potential. Our goal is to provide an integrated learning experience for all students and to ensure that they have access to a vast array of opportunities to enhance their intellectual, personal and professional growth. It has been a pleasure to join this dynamic and diverse community. Our team is ready to move forward to create new structures to support students fully once they are here, to help them find meaning and motivation in challenges, and to become well-rounded professionals and creative leaders."

Alum Profile: Patrick F. Martin ('93)

[Patrick F. Martin](#) is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig in Miami, where he specializes in employment law. Martin represents employers in cases involving wrongful termination, employment discrimination, workplace harassment, public accommodation, wage and hour matters, and employee disability and leave issues. In addition to litigating, he advises employers on strategies to minimize litigation and on creating policies to promote constructive employee relations. Martin is an executive council member of The Florida Bar's Labor & Employment Section, a director of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and a member of several voluntary bar associations. He also remains engaged at FSU Law and visited the law school in the fall to talk with students about careers in employment law as part of the Food for Thought luncheon series.



"I was a recipient of a Virgil Hawkins scholarship at FSU, which was a deciding factor in choosing to attend the College of Law. I still found my way to Miami and I have since sought to give back to the law school where I can and promote it here in South Florida."

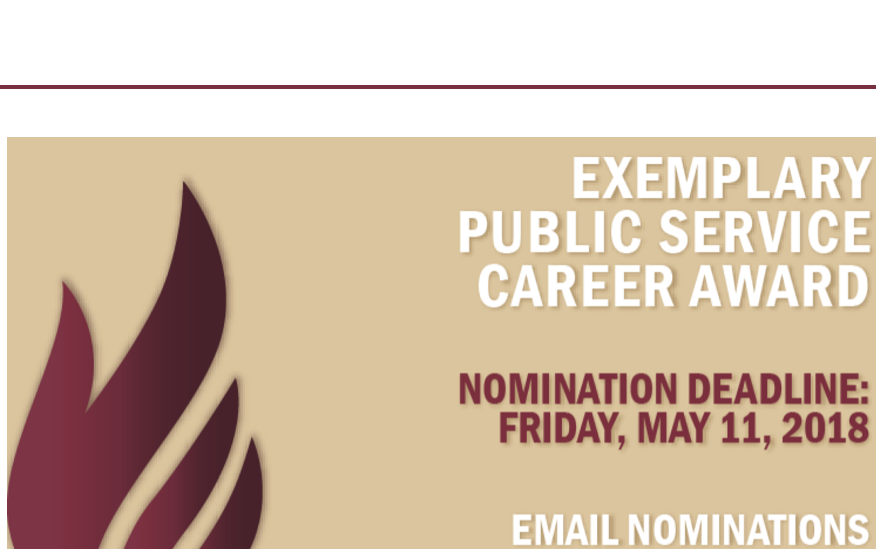
Student Profile: 2018 Grad Ryan Guerin

Desired Practice Location: Tampa
Specialization: Business law/real estate law
Field of Law Sought: Would like to practice in the fields of commercial real estate transactions or estate planning

Originally from Bradenton, recent graduate Ryan Guerin earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from FSU. For the last two years, Guerin was a member of the *Florida State University Law Review* and *FSU Business Review*. He also served as a member of the Student Bar Association board for all three years of law school, including most recently as vice president. The summer after his 1L year and throughout his 2L year, Guerin clerked at Moyé Law Firm, where he worked on a wide range of cases including federal and state qui tam actions, class action lawsuits and gender discrimination. During the fall semester of his 2L year, Guerin also externed at Domi Station, a non-profit startup incubator and coworking space in Tallahassee. In this position, he drafted contracts for local startup companies and advised them on various legal issues in an effort to assist them with the many legal challenges that face budding businesses. The summer following his 2L year, Guerin clerked at Spielberg Law Group in Tampa, where he worked on a variety of issues in the area of labor and employment law. Since last August, Guerin has clerked at H. Richard Bisbee, P.A. There, he has prepared legal documents and provided extensive research on many different legal issues. If you are interested in hiring Guerin, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).



"The courses I have taken in my time at Florida State College of Law have prepared me more for the legal world of business and real estate law than I could have ever hoped for. The courses I have taken have given me invaluable insight to these aspects of the law and I cannot thank the university enough for that."



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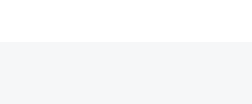
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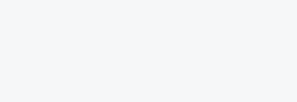
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