

From the Dean

We are delighted to report that our Public Interest Law Center recently received a \$100,000 Florida Bar Foundation grant to launch a new clinical project aimed at eliminating economic barriers for immigrants and agricultural workers. Students working on the project will learn important legal advocacy skills while assisting immigrants and agricultural workers who face employment barriers, such as undocumented status, lack of housing and lack of healthcare. In addition to helping clients attain lawful immigration status and the proper employment authorization documents, students will conduct community outreach to educate immigrants and agricultural workers of their rights, and will engage in legal reform through legislative and administrative advocacy. This new initiative comes in response to demand from our students for more opportunities to gain hands-on immigration law experience. It also allows us to expand significantly the assistance we have been providing for many years to farmworkers during our Alternative Spring Break, which has been extremely popular with students. We are excited to collaborate with the University of Florida on this project—professors from UF and FSU will team-teach the students in this project from both law schools in real time! In addition, the unique collaboration will allow us to serve a larger geographic area. Please stay tuned for more details about our new clinical project, which will launch in the fall.



- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty and Alum Profile: Ruth E. Stone ('76)

Ruth E. Stone, the Wayne and Pat Hogan Professor of Trial Practice, teaches in and is a supervising attorney for the Public Interest Law Center. She also is a faculty advisor for the FSU Law Trial Team and has served as a coach for many mock trial competitions. The mock trial problems Stone wrote over the last six years include highly important topics involving gun violence, right of access to Florida beaches by the public and more. The problems, accessible on the [FSU Law website](#), have since been used across the country—a major law firm in Texas asked for permission to use Stone's copyright problem to train their trial attorneys, and a federal public defenders association in South Florida asked for permission to use a defamation/drone problem she wrote. Stone will be retiring from the university on June 29, after serving for more than 22 years as a member of our clinical faculty. Before joining the law school faculty, Stone practiced with Florida Legal Services in Pensacola, served as an assistant state attorney in the juvenile division of the First Judicial Court State Attorney's Office and was the managing attorney for the Gadsden Region of Legal Services Corporation of Alabama. She earned a bachelor's degree in social science from Florida State University and graduated with honors from FSU College of Law in 1976.



"I have admired the quality of the students and how great the support staff is at the FSU College of Law. I will miss everyone. Additionally, I want to acknowledge Wayne and Pat Hogan. Nothing would be the same without their support."

Alum Profile: Tanya L. Bower ('96)

Tanya L. Bower is a director with Tripp Scott in Fort Lauderdale, where she specializes in corporate and tax matters, including estate planning, asset protection and wealth preservation. She counsels owners of closely-held businesses on estate-planning matters and assists business clients with Employee Retirement Income Security Act matters, including establishing, amending and terminating pension plans. Bower's practice also involves drafting corporate contracts and other documents; establishing and dissolving corporations, limited-liability companies and partnerships; and representing owners in acquisitions and mergers. She is extremely engaged in her community, currently serving as a director of ARC Broward and previously chairing Leadership Broward. She also is a member of the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, for which she has held a variety of leadership roles, and many other local civic organizations. In addition to earning her J.D. from FSU Law, Bower holds an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Miami School of Law.



"I have always looked at the role of attorneys as not only to safeguard the law, but to safeguard our communities. Attorneys are uniquely placed where they can benefit their local communities by assisting in solving community issues. A successful lawyer is not just one who is respected by their colleagues in the law but also by their neighbors for helping make the community a better place for all."

Student Profile: 2018 Grad Daniel Wade

Desired Practice Location: Prefers Central or South Florida

Field of Law Sought: Interested in criminal defense, family law and class action lawsuits

Originally from Kissimmee, Daniel Wade earned a bachelor's degree from FSU with a double major in economics and political science. He graduated from FSU Law in May 2018. Wade played club water polo throughout all of his undergraduate and law school careers. The summer after his 1L year, Wade worked for the FSU Public Interest Law Center, where he represented indigent clients through the Family Law Clinic and supervising professor Ruth Stone. During his 2L year, he clerked at the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration. Wade clerked for FSU alum Mark O'Mara ('82) at the O'Mara Law Group in Orlando the summer after his 2L year and continued working for him remotely while taking classes during his 3L year. In this position, Wade worked diverse civil law, including during his 3L year cases and multiple murder cases, family law and a large multidistrict litigation/class action case against a major corporation. Wade also externed at the Second Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office during the last semester of his 3L year. He worked on many motions, but spent most of his time researching, compiling information and examining evidence for a first-degree murder case. Wade also wrote a 53-page paper, "A Thought Experiment on the Death Penalty: The Impact of Abolition," where he used empirical data to discover some of the lesser known, hidden or nuanced effects that follow abolition of the death penalty. With the help of Professor Wayne Logan, an expert in criminal law, Wade is actively working to have it published. If you are interested in connecting with Wade, email him at dew10d@my.fsu.edu.



"I have been heavily involved in a class action lawsuit—speaking with attorneys around the country in weekly calls, contacting clients and working with concentrated groups to defeat an arbitration clause. This has really been one of the most rewarding experiences for me, getting to be so heavily involved in the case. I have taken classes, including Florida Civil Practice and a class actions skills class so that I can continue to work on class action cases throughout my career."

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

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