

From the Dean



FSU Law graduates at our Florida Bar Annual Convention Alumni Reception.

Last week, we were delighted to connect with many alumni at The Florida Bar's Annual Convention in Orlando. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss business at our Alumni Association Board Meeting and to network at our Alumni Reception, both of which are annual events at the convention. Thank you to all of our FSU Law family and friends who included us in their convention plans! During our events, we introduced our "Pave the Way" fundraising campaign with a new video that highlights the importance of giving to FSU Law student scholarships. Through the campaign, we aim to raise \$2 million for scholarships. Your support will allow us to recruit talented and diverse students, and will increase the value of an FSU Law degree. You can [view the video and learn more about giving to scholarships](#) on our website. We hope you will join us in Paving the Way!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Samuel R. Wiseman

[Samuel R. Wiseman](#), the McConaughay and Rissman Professor, teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure: Police and Gratuitous Transfers. His areas of academic specialty are criminal procedure, criminal law, constitutional law and food law. Wiseman's research focuses on pre- and post-trial issues in criminal procedure, including the use of DNA evidence, post-conviction litigation and the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against excessive bail. His scholarship has appeared in the *Boston College Law Review*, *George Washington Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Ohio State Law Journal* and *Yale Law Journal*, among others. After graduating from law school, Wiseman served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, of the Supreme Court of Texas, and to Judge Fortunato P. Benavides, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Wiseman also served as a fellow in the Texas Solicitor General's Office, focusing on post-conviction litigation before the Fifth Circuit. He joined the Florida State faculty in 2012. Wiseman graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University. He also holds a J.D. from Yale.



"The bright, engaged students, the accomplished and supportive alumni, and the presence of so many exceptional colleagues on the faculty and staff make FSU Law an outstanding place to teach – it's a privilege to be here."

Alum Profile: Francis H. "Frank" Sheppard ('84)

[Frank Sheppard](#) has served as managing partner of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell for the last 12 years. He works in the firm's Orlando office, where he focuses in the areas of professional liability, employment and commercial litigation. In addition to his trial practice, Sheppard handles appellate matters for clients in state and federal courts. He defends professionals against malpractice claims from a variety of industries, including legal, financial, real estate, construction and healthcare. Sheppard has handled many high-profile cases that involve complex issues, including claims for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and statutory violations. He also represents employers in cases involving claims of harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation and violation of civil rights, and has tried a number of such cases in state and federal courts. Sheppard is very involved in his community and in professional legal groups. He previously served on the law school's Alumni Association Board of Directors. Currently, he serves as chairman of the Hospice of the Comforter Foundation and is a member of the Florida Hospital Foundation Executive Board. Sheppard and his wife, Lisa, are actively involved in supporting other civic and non-profit organizations in the Central Florida community.



"My undergraduate degree in finance from Florida State has been very helpful in representing accountants and other financial professionals. My experience as managing partner has broadened my insight into defending legal malpractice claims and helped me to represent lawyers more effectively. I particularly enjoy representing lawyers because I understand the importance of these types of cases to my clients both personally and professionally."

Student Profile: 2018 Grad Rachel Stawski

Desired Practice Location: Orlando area

Field of Law Sought: Open to many areas of law, but particularly interested in animal law, elder law, estate planning and administrative law

Rachel Stawski graduated from FSU Law in May. Originally from Saint Cloud, Fla., Stawski earned her bachelor's degree in English with a creative writing focus from FSU. Stawski was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and the Women's Law Symposium. She also spent much of her free time riding and showing reining horses. Stawski reviewed the Alternative Spring Break Program during her 1L year and participated in the toxic tour, pesticide training and human trafficking training. The summer after her 1L year, Stawski interned with the Association Law Firm in Orlando, where she worked on a wide range of projects for homeowner and condominium association clients and gained experience in Florida Senator Darryl Rouson, where she researched proposed legislation and gained a greater understanding of the legislative process. During the summer after her 2L year, Stawski clerked at the Osceola County Attorney's Office in Kissimmee. During her 3L year, she interned for the Office of the General Counsel at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In this role, she researched, drafted pleadings, created memoranda and assisted in drafting legislation. Stawski also wrote an article in her Animal Law class that was later published by The Florida Bar Animal Law Section in their winter 2017 *Paw Review* newsletter. The article, "[Medication Prohibition at Horse Shows: Is the Florida Law Sensible and Effective?](#)" can be found on page five. If you are interested in hiring Stawski, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



"My education at FSU and my legal experiences over the past three years have been enlightening and rewarding, and have left me well prepared for a successful legal career. It is my hope that this preparation combined with my strong communication skills, eagerness to learn and tenacity will allow me to have a positive impact on the legal profession and my community."

**PLEASE HELP US REACH
OUR 31% ANNUAL FUND
ALUMNI PARTICIPATION GOAL
BY JUNE 30.**

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GIVE.FSU.EDU/LAW**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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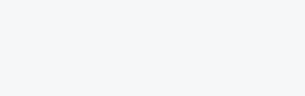


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