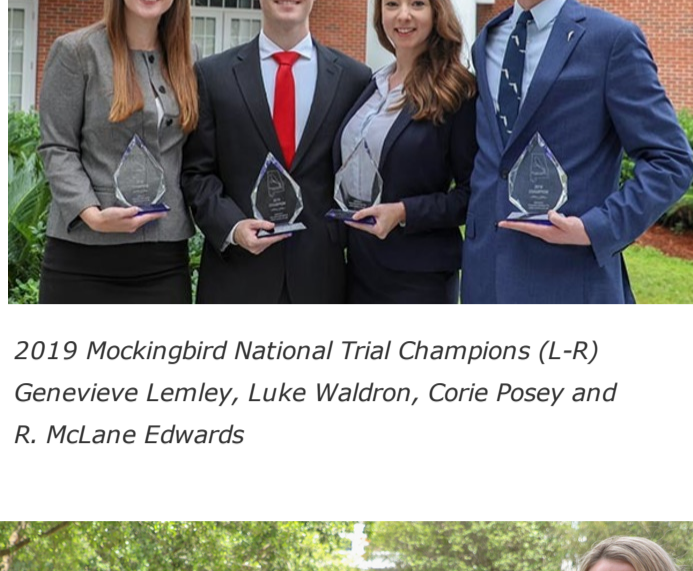


From the Dean: Good Tidings

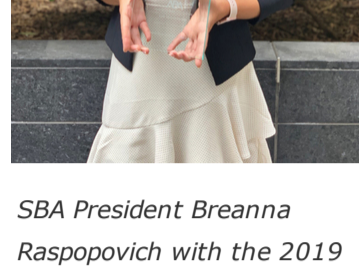
As we near the end of 2019 here at Florida State University College of Law, it has been heartwarming to recall the many recognitions, honors and milestones achieved by or bestowed upon our institution and its students and faculty. Florida State University moved up in the rankings to the 18th best public university in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and this rise has energized the entire campus. FSU Law has also experienced a very good year in the world of rankings and metrics. We were ranked third in the nation for student quality of life, eighth in the nation for demonstrated ability to launch government and public interest careers, eighth in the nation for best value law schools, and 29th in the nation (and, for all of these metrics, first in Florida) for our faculty scholarly impact. *The Black Student's Guide to Law Schools and Firms* has rated us among the very top southern law schools (and again, the only ranked school in Florida) for black students. Many of these recognitions reflect special attributes of the College of Law that have long made us proud, and it is gratifying to see such positive public recognition.



2019 William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Champions (L-R) Carlos Gomez and Ryan Nicholas



2019 Mockingbird National Trial Champions (L-R) Genevieve Lemley, Luke Waldron, Corie Posey and R. McLane Edwards



SBA President Breanna Raspopovich with the 2019 SBA of the Year Award



2019 Vis Moot Team members (L-R) Skye Musson, Jemma Takx, Andrew Faris, Samantha Blatz (coach) and Taylor Fleming

Student Successes

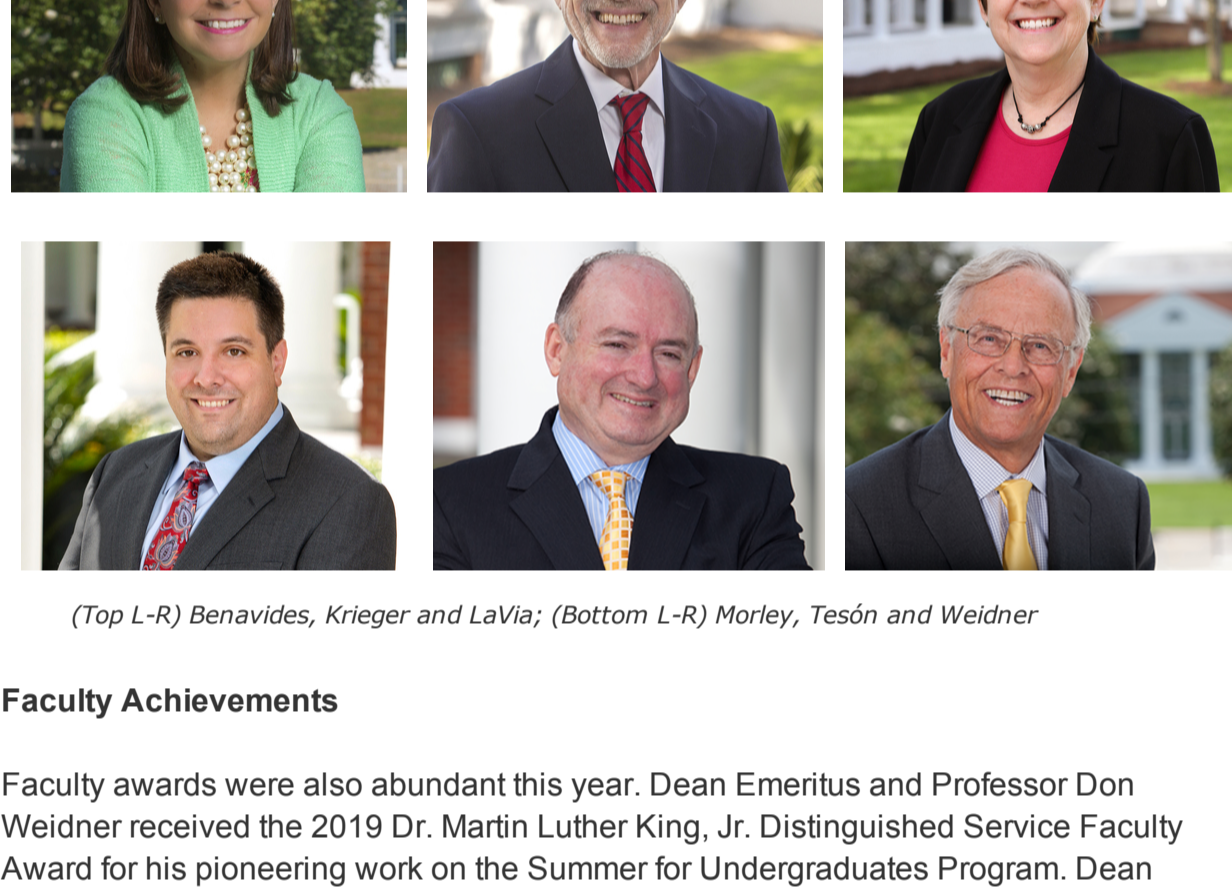
Student success could be seen just about everywhere we looked this year. The Student Bar Association received the ABA Law Student Division's Student Bar Association Award, which honors the best SBA in the nation. This SBA award was earned by FSU Law for the eighth time since 2008 and for the third consecutive year. In March, the FSU Moot Court Team won first place in the 2019 William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition. In addition, third-year FSU Law student Rima Nathan was named the competition's best oralist. Also in March, the team won second place in the Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition, the National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law and the August A. Rendigs, Jr. National Products Liability Moot Court Competition, with students winning best brief in the latter competition. Additionally, the FSU Law Trial Team won the 2019 Mockingbird Challenge National Trial Competition in October, and placed second in the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition in March and the Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition in November. Two team members won best advocate honors this year: Alejandra De La Fuente at the Battle of Experts National Mock Trial Competition in October and Christina Henry at the John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Advocacy Competition in February. The Vis Moot Team won the Second Annual Atlanta Arbitration Competition in March.

Graduate Accomplishments

Student successes are translating into impressive graduate successes. Our 2019 graduates enjoyed increased Florida Bar passage rates for the third consecutive July sitting, with our July 2019 bar passage rate at just under 87 percent. Currently, FSU Law is the top law school in Florida and the 28th nationally for the highest percentage of graduates who pass a bar examination on a first attempt. We learned this year that both the 2018 and 2019 graduating classes also have experienced significantly increased job placement success 10 months after and at graduation, respectively. We are incredibly proud of our students and graduates, and I am honored to be able to announce such broad-reaching accomplishments!



May 2019 FSU Law graduates at the reception on the Rotunda Green



(Top L-R) Benavides, Krieger and LaVia; (Bottom L-R) Morley, Tesón and Weidner

Faculty Achievements

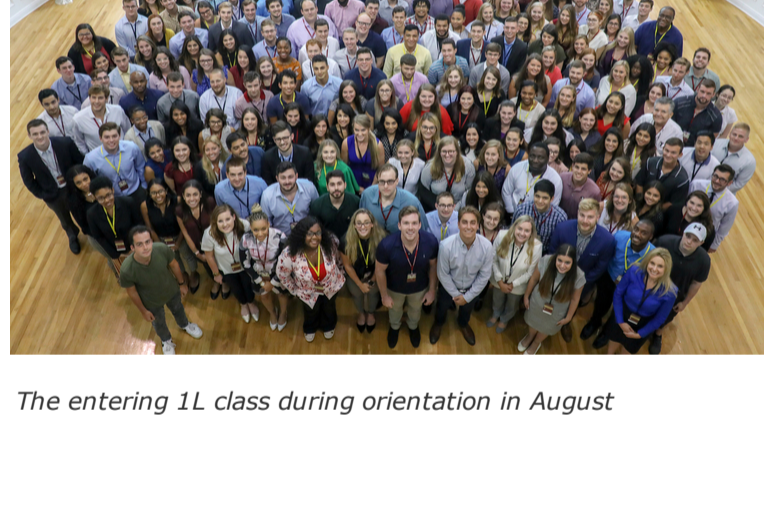
Faculty awards were also abundant this year. Dean Emeritus and Professor Don Weidner received the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Faculty Award for his pioneering work on the Summer for Undergraduates Program. Dean Nancy Benavides received the 2019 Law Faculty/Administrator Professionalism and Standing Committee on Professionalism. The award is presented to a law school professor or administrator who best supports or exemplifies the mission of the Standing Committee on Professionalism. Professor Larry Krieger received the Meritorious Service Award for Law Student Wellness of the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, for work with law student and lawyer health and wellness. Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Professor Michael Morley to the Criminal Punishment Code Task Force. Professor Emeritus Fernando Tesón was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Professor Jennifer LaVia received a pro bono service award from The Florida Bar. And our Public Interest Law Center received the 2019 Judy M. Weightman Memorial Public Interest Award for outstanding contributions to underrepresented groups or public interest causes, as well as first runner-up for the Paul C. Doyle Award for their work advocating for child victims of human trafficking. These awards are just a few of the accomplishments and recognitions of our first-rate scholars and teachers.



Class of 1969 members at a homecoming brunch celebrating their 50-year graduation anniversary



(L-R) Dean O'Connor, Justice Carlos G. Muñoz, Judge Barbara Lagoa, Judge Robert J. Luck and President Thrasher (Dec. '72)



The entering 1L class during orientation in August



Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte (1933-2019)



(L-R) Gentry, Powell ('10) and Quintela

Events and Milestones

Other significant events brought us together in 2019 to celebrate milestones and contributions. This year marked our first-ever, 50-year emeritus graduating class reunion at the College of Law, which we celebrated with a brunch at Longmire Hall during homecoming weekend. Also this year, our first online Juris Master degree students joined our graduation ceremony as graduates of the program. The J.M. program's student enrollment climbed to 250 for the first time. Our new 1L students joined us in August for the newly mandated one-week orientation course. Current 1Ls made history with the highest median G.P.A. (3.73) of any incoming class, and they include our first Gen Z students. We celebrated the retirements of Professor Sally Gertz ('85) and Librarian Mary McCormick. We welcomed Professor Elissa Gentry to our tenure-track faculty, Professor Hillary Powell ('10) to our legal writing faculty, and Professor Adria Quintela as co-director of our Externships Program. When three new Florida Supreme Court justices joined the court, we hosted a reception to welcome them to Tallahassee and the College of Law. Sadly, this year we also mourned the loss and celebrated the impressive life of President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus and Professor Sandy D'Alemberte.

Notwithstanding some sadness, it was truly a year of good tidings for Florida State University College of Law. All of us here wish you and your loved ones future good tidings, good cheer, a fulfilling holiday season, and a new year full of love and abundance. We hope to see you with us in 2020!

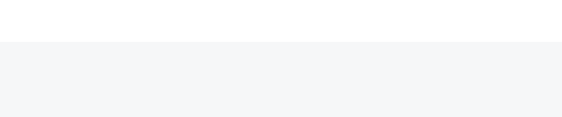
- Dean Erin O'Connor

We need your support for student scholarships!

Visit law.fsu.edu/pavetheway to learn how you can change lives and pave the way for future FSU Law students while increasing the value of an FSU Law degree. As of December 3, 2019, we have raised \$1,545,448.36 our \$2 million campaign goal.

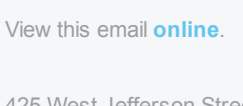
- GET INVOLVED
- SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE
- SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT
- MAKE A GIFT

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