

From the Dean



(L-R) De Almeida and DuShane

We are thrilled to report that our Moot Court Team has won first place in a national moot court competition for the second week in a row! On Saturday, February 29, FSU Law won the 2020 Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Moot Court Competition held at Albany Law School in New York. This is the fifth time Florida State has won the Gabrielli competition, which is a testament to the strength of our family law program. Twenty-seven law school teams participated in the competition, including a team from New York University School of Law, which Florida State beat in the final round. Other competing law schools included Northeastern University, Seton Hall University, University of California Hastings, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Wake Forest University and William & Mary.

Winning team members are second-year law students Gabriela De Almeida and Hannah DuShane. Barbara Busharis, who is an assistant public defender in Tallahassee and previously taught legal writing at FSU Law, coached the team to victory. Our talented student advocates competed in six rounds of competition and we are extremely proud of them and their dedicated coach!

The competition problem addressed whether the changed circumstance rule should apply where a custody arrangement was entered pursuant to stipulation of the parties, without an adversarial hearing; and if the rule applies, whether the petitioner sufficiently demonstrated a material change in circumstance, where one parent is treating a young child with antidepressants, which may be potentially harmful to the child's health. Judges for the final round of competition were the Honorable Richard Rivera, Albany County Family Court; the Honorable Christina Ryba, State of New York Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department; and the Honorable Leslie Stein, State of New York Court of Appeals.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Alumnus Bob Rice ('79) Presents Inaugural Amelia Rea Maguire Business Law Lecture



(L-R) Bob Rice ('79) and FSU Law Professor Jeff Kahn

Last week, we hosted alumnus Bob Rice ('79) as the featured speaker during our Inaugural Amelia Rea Maguire Business Law Lecture. Rice gave an inspiring talk, "Defining Your Value in the Digital Age," to a packed room of alumni, students and friends.

Rice, who is teaching The Law & Business of Investment Management this semester, spoke about how the industrialized world has been conquered by the digital world of artificial intelligence and machine learning. He said that the key to being competitive in this world of increased digitization is being good at what the computers and over-specialized individuals are not. "We're never going to be able to outmunch the computers," Rice said when discussing the ability of machines to process data. "But what we can do is zoom out and see the connections and abstract from one body of thinking and results to another body of thinking and results, and see how the trends collide."

He suggested attendees become knowledgeable about multiple areas, such as private equity, investment management, markets, trends and globalization, so they can see how they overlap and make the connections other people do not see. Rice said individuals who add value that way and never stop learning and pushing will have amazing careers.

The lecture ended with an audience Q&A moderated by Jeffrey H. Kahn, the FSU Harry W. Walborsky professor and associate dean for business law programs. The event was co-sponsored by the FSU College of Business and made possible by the generous support of alumna Amelia (Mel) Rea Maguire ('87). A recording of Rice's lecture is [available online](#).

Alum Profile: Christina J. Strasser ('17)

[Christy Strasser](#) is an associate at Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, where she practices in the areas of corporate and tax law. She handles a wide variety of tax matters, ranging from federal tax controversy to international tax planning. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for the Honorable Mark V. Holmes, of the United States Tax Court in Washington, D.C. After graduating from FSU Law *magna cum laude*, Strasser earned an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida. She was a graduate assistant for the *Florida Tax Review* while pursuing her LL.M. degree.



"I knew FSU Law was a special place the first time I set foot on its campus and will always consider my time there as some of the best years of my life. It is rare to have a strong academic experience in a friendly and fun law school environment. I have not been surprised to find that FSU Law alumni have carried the same level of collegiality into their practices."

Student Profile: 3L Michael Bacallao

Desired Practice Location: Open to anywhere in the U.S.
Expected Graduation: May 2020
Specialization: Entertainment, sports and intellectual property
Field of Law Sought: Eager to work on transactional matters in the entertainment and/or sports industries



Originally from Miami, Michael Bacallao earned a bachelor's degree in international politics from Penn State University. He will graduate from FSU College of Law in May 2020. As a 3L, Bacallao participated in the Public Interest Law Center Immigration Law Project, where he served as a student advocate. He also worked as a certified legal intern for the Veteran's Legal Clinic. During the summer after his 2L year, Bacallao interned at NFL Films in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, where he drafted, reviewed and negotiated various agreements for their filming crew's production activities. During his 2L year, Bacallao worked for Blues Pros Talent on projects concerning the touring and booking side of the music industry. The summer after his 1L year, Bacallao interned for the Law Offices of Allen Jacobi/Pyramid Records in Miami. He drafted domestic and international entertainment contracts, such as licensing, production, investment and recording agreements. Bacallao also gained a working knowledge of the music industry, including distributing music and signing artists to the record label.

During law school, Bacallao has served as 1L representative, vice president and ambassador for the Aviation and Space Society. He was also a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office. If you are interested in hiring Bacallao after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"With a background in music and a passion for sports and entertainment, I used the skills I learned at FSU Law and my various experiences to find my true calling: helping artists and athletes navigate their respective industries."



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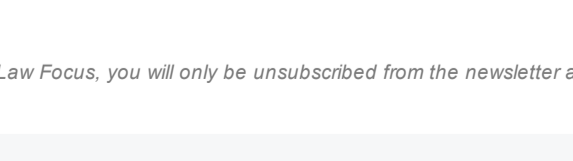
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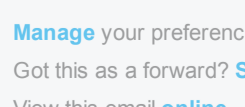
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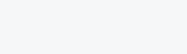
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