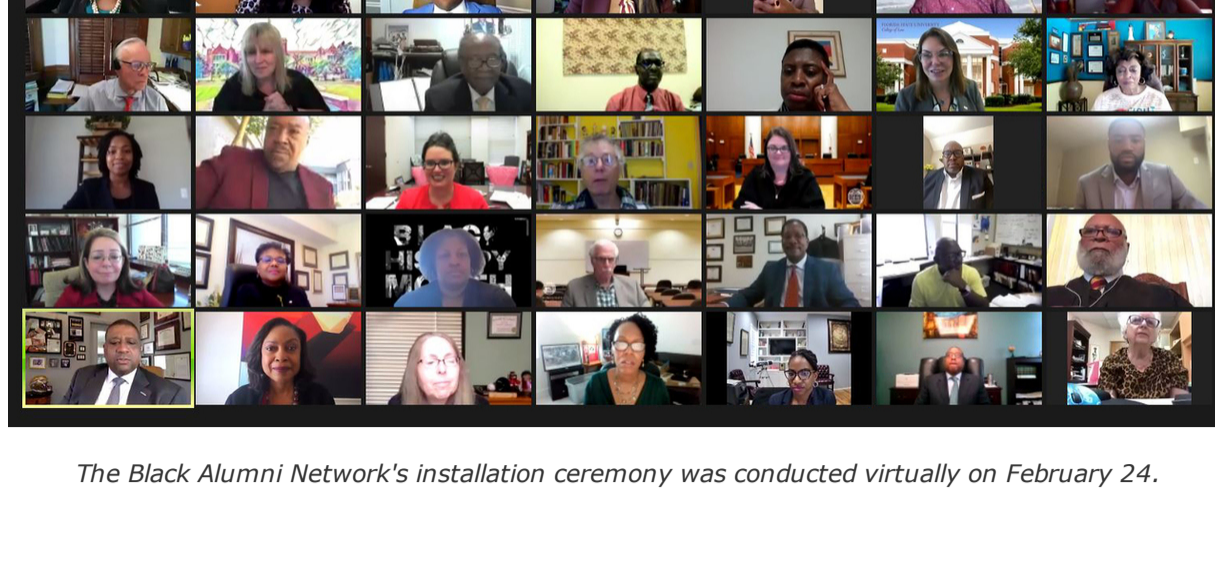


## From the Dean



The Black Alumni Network's installation ceremony was conducted virtually on February 24.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the installation ceremony for the inaugural board of our newly established Black Alumni Network (BAN). The virtual celebration was attended by more than 70 people, including the first Black male and female graduates of FSU Law—the Honorable Zebedee Wright ('71) and the Honorable Catherine Brunson ('75)—and other judges and Florida Bar leaders. BAN is the first of our alumni affiliate groups not based on location. This network of dynamic FSU Law alumni was founded by alumni Jasmynne Henderson ('15), Salesia Smith-Gordon ('92) and Kareem Spratling ('06). The group's mission is to empower and support the Black students, alumni, faculty and staff of the Florida State University College of Law in order to assist those individuals and the College of Law as a whole in achieving their full potential. We are delighted to have them assist with recruiting new students, fundraising and supporting Black FSU Law community members, among other goals. You can [learn more about BAN](#) and [sign up to be a member](#) on our website. You can also [view the installation ceremony](#) online if you were unable to attend. Congratulations to the following recently installed Black Alumni Network board members:

- Salesia Smith-Gordon ('92), president, racial justice consortium co-chair and Florida Bar Board of Governors advisor
- Conti Smith ('07), president-elect
- Alicia Dixon ('10), secretary
- Kenneth D. Pratt ('99), treasurer and fund development
- Jasmynne Henderson ('15), general counsel, governmental affairs co-chair and networking chair
- Sia Baker-Barnes ('00), racial justice consortium co-chair
- Daynica Harley (3L), Black Law Students Association president and student liaison
- Marlon Hill ('95), communications chair and mentorship
- Hon. Anthony Miller ('00), judicial co-chair
- G.C. Murray II ('12), bylaws/corporate governance, membership development and recruitment
- Sean Pittman ('94), governmental affairs co-chair
- Hon. Stephen Stokes ('91), judicial co-chair
- Glenda Thornton ('89), faculty advisor

-Dean Erin O'Connor

## Moot Court Team Wins National Competition



Competition judges announce FSU Law Moot Court Team members Corinne Bowden and Kaitlin Anouge as winners of the 2021 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law.

This past weekend, the FSU Law Moot Court Team won first place in the 2021 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law. The virtual competition was held February 26-27 and hosted by the Family & Youth Law Center at Capital University Law School. Twenty-six teams participated in the competition, including teams from Baylor University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University and William & Mary Law School.

Winning team members were second-year law students Kaitlin Anouge, from Orlando, and Corinne Bowden, from Fort Myers. In addition, second-year student Megan Schroder, from Jacksonville, participated in the brief writing portion of the competition. FSU Law alumni Nora Bailey ('17), who practices at Dennis, Jackson, Martin & Fontela, P.A. in Tallahassee, and Jordann Wilhelm ('17), who practices at Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, coached the team to victory. In addition to winning the national championship, Anouge won Best Oralist honors in the finals and the team won the Second-Best Brief Award.

"We are very proud of our talented Moot Court students and grateful to their dedicated coaches," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "The team has continued its streak of winning competitions, even in the virtual space, further cementing FSU Law Moot Court's excellence on the national stage."

## Alum Profile: Leigh Braslow Altman ('97)

Leigh Braslow Altman is serving her first term on the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners in North Carolina. As an at-large commissioner, she represents all of Mecklenburg County's 1.2 million residents. During her 17 year legal career, Altman was a staff attorney for the Council for Children's Rights in Charlotte, North Carolina, a guardian ad litem for seniors and persons with disabilities, and an attorney for law firms in Charlotte and Atlanta. She began her career as an assistant attorney general for the Attorney General of Georgia, where she was lead counsel for the state's consumer protection agency and fair housing agency. Prior to running for office, Altman was involved in numerous community activities, including serving as an officer of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, as a Democratic precinct chair, and later as the juvenile defense attorney representative for the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. In her capacity as a commissioner, Altman also serves on the Economic Development Committee, Environmental Stewardship Committee and Metropolitan Transit Commission.



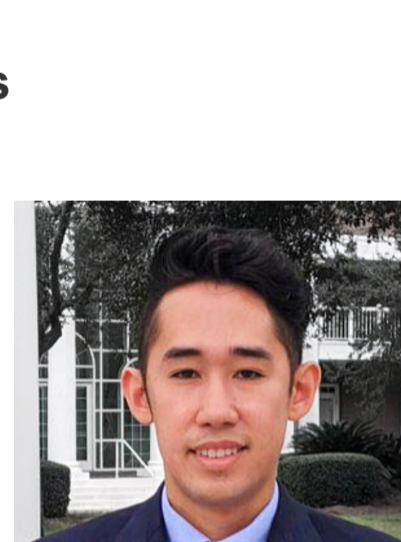
"Being a lawyer gave me the tools and training I needed to fight for a better world, and I am proud of the work I did over the course of my legal career. I'm excited to work now at the policy level to address the barriers to thriving, which my clients often encountered despite my best efforts to advocate for them. First as an attorney and now as a commissioner, I will fight for greater fairness, justice and equity."

## Student Profile: 3L Alex Reyes

**Desired Practice Location:** Primarily interested in Tallahassee, but open to other Florida cities and other states

**Expected Graduation:** Spring 2021

**Field of Law Sought:** Would like to practice criminal prosecution or defense, child advocacy or legal issues regarding technology



Alex Reyes is from Jacksonville, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of North Florida and will graduate from FSU Law in April 2021. Currently, Reyes is externing as a certified legal intern with the Florida Department of Children and Families, where he writes proposed orders and petitions. During the fall semester of his 3L year, Reyes conducted legislative research and drafted bills for the House Minority Office of the Florida House of Representatives. Last summer and into the fall semester, Reyes participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center (PILC) Veterans Legal Clinic. As a certified legal intern in the clinic, he received litigation experience in hearings pertaining to family law in front of Judge Barbara K. Hobbs ('81). He also worked with traffic issues, will drafting, quiet title claims and probate research, and gained negotiation experience in construction, tort and contract issues. During his time at the clinic, he helped negotiate a \$10,000 settlement award for a clinic client. Reyes received the summer 2020 Veterans Legal Clinic Book Award. During his 1L summer, Reyes was a judicial intern for the chambers of Judge Kevin J. Carroll, of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. His responsibilities included legal research pertaining to technology and constitutional issues and writing internal memos for civil actions. Also during his 1L summer, Reyes participated in the PILC Children's Advocacy Clinic, where he wrote motions for hearings with administrative agencies, performed legal research for statutes, caselaw and state regulations, conducted research regarding healthcare and foster care, worked with special needs trusts, and served subpoenas on behalf of the clinic.

Reyes is president of the American Constitution Society and a member of the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. He was a semifinalist in the FSU College of Law Trial Team's 2020 Intramural Competition, and he has a forthcoming article in the *Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts*. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Reyes after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"FSU Law has bolstered my innate dedication to serving the greater good. Through this hands-on education, the importance of empathy and putting your soul into whatever you are doing was emphasized time and again. My work ethic, boundless optimism and first-rate education surely will prove ever valuable as we enter and seek to shape, progress and serve the legal profession for decades to come."

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