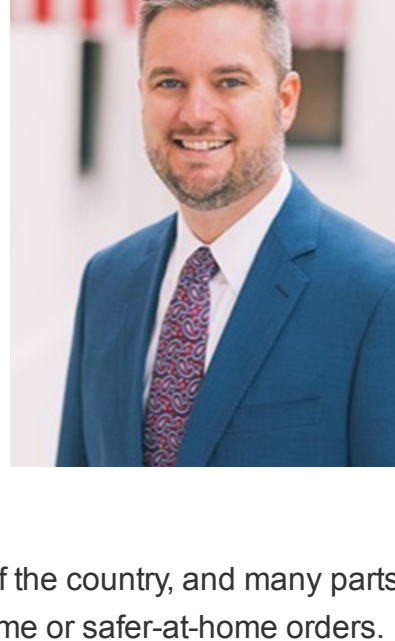


## From the FSU Law Alumni Association Board

Fellow FSU Law Alumni,

On behalf of the FSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, I write to wish everyone well and to congratulate the College of Law and university on an exceptional year. Students and alumni alike faced many hurdles, missed milestone accomplishments and were forced to adjust how we interact. Despite these challenges, FSU Law continues to shine and our students will be stronger for having persevered and overcome these challenges.



When the 2020-2021 school year began, much of the country, and many parts of the state of Florida, remained under stay-at-home or safer-at-home orders. There were mask restrictions, social distancing guidelines, working from home, and Zoom... lots of Zoom! Under different—and sometimes more difficult—circumstances, FSU Law audibled and many of our alumni did the same to help support the College of Law and the current students. We had alumni coaching Moot Court teams via Zoom, professors teaching split classes that were part virtual and part socially distanced, and alumni and interested firms interviewing our outstanding students virtually.

One thing that has suffered a bit more because of the social distancing and concerns around outreach is the annual alumni giving rate. Currently, class agents and members of the Alumni Board of Directors are calling to encourage each of you (if you have not yet given) to contribute to the FSU College of Law and help support our alma mater. Our current giving rate is 17%, which is down significantly from just a few years ago when we proudly hit the 30% mark.

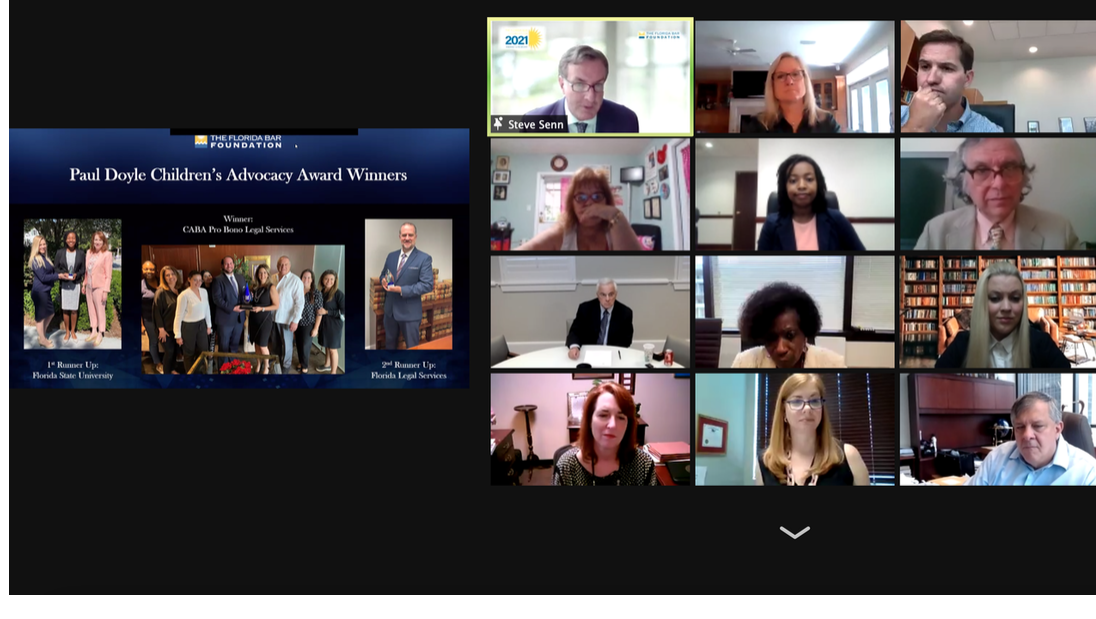
Please answer their calls, emails and texts, and help support FSU College of Law. Students will return in August to a normal school year, with in-person classes, and your support continues to bolster the College of Law's ranking nationally and improve our standings. If you have not heard from a classmate or member of the College of Law Alumni Association yet, please take a moment to [give online now](#). If you want to help in these efforts, please feel free to reach out directly to Becky Shepherd, executive director of alumni outreach and engagement, at [rshepher@law.fsu.edu](mailto:rshepher@law.fsu.edu).

Again, on behalf of the College of Law Alumni Board, we hope you are doing well and look forward to welcoming each of you back to campus next year.

In Seminole Pride,

Greg Black, president, FSU College of Law Alumni Association

## Human Trafficking Project Honored by The Florida Bar Foundation



FSU Law's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project was honored during The Florida Bar Foundation's virtual award ceremony on June 17.

Last week, the FSU College of Law Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project (HELP) was recognized as first runner-up for The Florida Bar Foundation's Paul C. Doyle Children's Advocacy Award. HELP was honored for its direct legal representation of children survivors of human trafficking, for its advocacy in getting a rule passed that requires all public schools to teach human trafficking prevention, and for its creation—with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence—of an eight episode podcast on human trafficking and trial advocacy. During the virtual award ceremony on Thursday, June 17, third-year law student Melody Andrews and recent FSU Law graduate Daynica Harley ('21) were recognized on behalf of all HELP students. Andrews and Harley received the award from alumnus Judge Suzanne Van Wyk ('94) at the end of May.

HELP is a unique project within the Public Interest Law Center that aims to serve a currently underserved subpopulation of child human trafficking victims: commercially sexually exploited children not already involved in the dependency system. This subpopulation has fallen through the cracks, unable to access services available to other children who are in foster care. HELP is training a new generation of lawyers to advocate for child human trafficking victims and, through precedent-setting direct representation and collaborative outreach and prevention efforts, is working to create a service model that can be replicated in other parts of the state, potentially impacting children in all regions of Florida.

## Alum Profile: Manuel J. "John" Dominguez ('95)

**Manuel J. "John" Dominguez** is a partner at Cohen Milstein in Palm Beach Gardens, where he is a member of the Antitrust Practice Group. He specializes in complex, multi-district antitrust litigation, representing individuals and businesses harmed by anticompetitive business practices. Dominguez has served as lead counsel in numerous high-profile cases. His practice also involves identifying and investigating potential antitrust violations. Prior to joining Cohen Milstein, Dominguez was a partner at Berman DeValerio and an assistant attorney general for the Florida Department of Economic Crimes. He is engaged in the profession and previously chaired the Antitrust, Franchise & Trade Regulation Committee of The Florida Bar's Business Law Section.



*"Attending FSU College of Law was a life-changing event. The professors and my classmates were truly gifted and wonderful people who made the academic environment at the school special and unique. Being in Tallahassee also provided me with many chances to work and interact with several attorneys in that legal community and helped set the course of my career. While my practice is national, addressing antitrust and anticompetition claims on behalf of plaintiffs, I am still 'local' and practice out of Cohen Milstein's Palm Beach Gardens Office. I will always be very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend FSU and will always look back at my time at the school with great fondness and admiration. Go 'Noles!"*

## Student Profile: 2021 Grad Alexa Gebert

**Desired Practice Location:** South Florida, specifically Fort Lauderdale, Miami or Boca Raton. Also open to Tallahassee.

**Field of Law Sought:** Interested in appellate work, litigation, environmental law, land use and real estate law, probate and estate planning. Open to other areas as well.



Originally from Boca Raton, Florida, Alexa Gebert earned her bachelor's degree in political science and minor in philosophy from the University of Florida. She graduated from FSU Law in April. During the fall of her 1L year, Gebert worked with FSU's Public Interest Law Center in Professor Carla Laroche's Gender and Family Justice Clinic. There, she worked on mostly civil matters, such as dissolutions of marriage, and assisted the Florida Restoration of Rights Coalition in their effort to restore civil rights to returning citizens. The summer before her 3L year, Gebert clerked with personal injury firm Fasig Brooks, where she drafted complaints, motions, interrogatories and other pleadings related to trial preparation and discovery. She also maintained virtual contact with clients to gather information in response to discovery requests and pertinent case information, and researched complex tort issues to prepare memoranda. As a 2L, Gebert clerked for the Hon. Nina Ashenafi-Richardson ('91) in the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida and observed a multitude of criminal and civil trials, including a high-profile criminal trial. During the summer after Gebert's 1L year, she clerked for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, where she gained exposure to administrative agency rule-making processes and assisted in the implementation of Florida's first industrial hemp program.

At FSU Law, Gebert was a member of the Environmental Law Society, Business Law Society and LitiGators, and she was a pupil-member of the First District Appellate Inn of Court. She was also a member of the FSU Law Moot Court Team, where she served as secretary during her 2L year and as president during her 3L year. While Gebert was Moot Court president, the team set two school records, won five national championships and ended the season ranked eighth in the nation, despite the complications of competing virtually and COVID-19. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Gebert, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#).

*"As a die-hard Gator fan, I had no idea what to expect coming to FSU Law and spending time in Tallahassee. These past three years provided me with an abundance of professional, personal and academic growth. I am greatly looking forward to applying my newfound skills and strengths to the job I end up in!"*

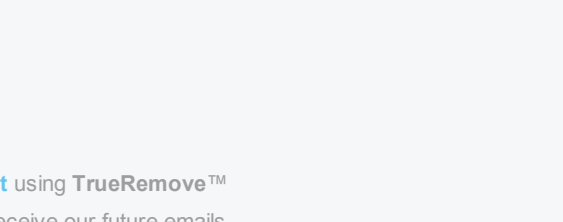
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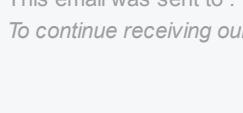
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