

From the Dean

We are delighted to announce that The Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. has pledged \$1 million to create the Stoops Center for Law and Business at the FSU College of Law. This generous gift will serve as a development fund for the Center, which will help FSU Law become one of the nation's preeminent business law schools. The Center will leverage the school's current strengths to become a nexus of thought leadership and training in business law and compliance for academics, students, lawyers, and business professionals. This important addition to the law school will be a valuable resource for the business community, and likewise, will increase the reputation of FSU Law and our students by showcasing our community on a national scale. We anticipate that the exposure of our students to the sophisticated professionals and elite academics who utilize the Center will lead to meaningful mentoring relationships and jobs. Please join me in thanking The Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. and alumnus Jeffrey A. Stoops ('84) for their generous support of FSU Law and our business law programs.



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Justice Muñiz Teaching New Course on Textualism

This fall, Florida Supreme Court Justice Carlos G. Muñiz is teaching a new course, Textualism and its Rivals, at FSU Law. Using Scalia and Garner's *Reading Law* as the principal course book, students enrolled in the course will learn in depth about textualism, a dominant mode of statutory interpretation in federal and Florida courts today. Students will also learn about alternative approaches to statutory interpretation and how those approaches have been applied in case law. The course will challenge students to consider how statutory interpretation should be done and will equip them with practical knowledge that will make them more effective law clerks, advocates, and counselors.



Because the law school is located across the street from the Florida Supreme Court, FSU Law students have many unique opportunities to interact with justices. This is the third course Justice Muñiz is teaching and he is one of many Florida Supreme Court justices who have taught courses at the law school. Justice Ricky Polston, who has taught numerous classes at FSU, will also be teaching at the law school this fall. Justice Alan Lawson also regularly teaches and most recently taught during the spring 2021 semester.

"It's been a great privilege to teach at the law school, and I'm looking forward to working with a new group of students this fall," said Justice Muñiz.

Justice Muñiz was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court on January 22, 2019, becoming the 89th justice since statehood was granted in 1845. Prior to joining the court, he served as the presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed general counsel of the United States Department of Education. He also was in private practice and had an extensive career in Florida state government.

Alum Profile: Lauren R. Storch ('17)

Lauren R. Storch is the government relations coordinator for Hillsborough County. In her role, she advocates on behalf of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners at both the state and federal level. In her work for the county, she travels to Tallahassee during Florida's legislative session with the hopes of obtaining additional resources and funding to assist residents of Hillsborough County. She previously worked as an attorney for the Florida Senate Criminal Justice Committee, where she was tasked with drafting and editing bill analyses for proposed legislation. Between internships and the aforementioned roles, Storch has enjoyed the experiences she has had working through six state legislative sessions.



"I am so grateful for my experience at FSU Law and the relationships that I have been fortunate enough to cultivate. It was through the connections that I made within the FSU Law alumni network that helped me to secure the job I have today. I will forever be thankful for my time at FSU Law."

Student Profile: 3L Shannon Duncanson

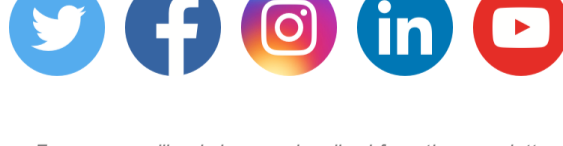
Desired Practice Location: Washington, D.C., Tallahassee or Tampa, but open to other locations in Florida
Expected Graduation: April 2022
Field of Law Sought: International law, public policy, legislation or government work, but open to other areas as well



Originally from Tallahassee, Florida, Shannon Duncanson earned her bachelor's degree in management with an emphasis in international management and minors in French and legal studies from Clemson University. She will graduate from FSU Law in April 2022. Duncanson was recently selected to participate in Class XVII of the prestigious Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program and will work with an agency for nine months beginning later this month. This summer, Duncanson held an externship at the International Bar Association, where she worked for Executive Director Mark Ellis ('84) conducting legal research and writing on various topics in international law, international criminal law, and international human rights. She will also be working as a teaching assistant for Ellis' International Criminal Law course in the spring of 2022. During the spring of her 2L year, Duncanson worked as a law clerk/legislative assistant for Peebles, Smith & Matthews, a lobbying firm in Tallahassee, where she conducted legal research and bill and amendment review and tracking, assisted in preparing a weekly newsletter for clients, and was actively involved in the 2021 Florida legislative session. Last summer, Duncanson worked with the James Madison Institute, where she conducted legal research on the constitutional amendments listed on the 2020 ballot and researched various public policy issues.

At FSU Law, Duncanson is a member of the Women's Law Symposium, where she served as secretary during her 2L year, a member of the International Law Students Association, and a student ambassador. She has received book awards for Conflict of Laws and Public International Law. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Duncanson after graduation, visit her [Linkedin Profile](#).

"My time at FSU College of Law has provided me with many opportunities to grow intellectually, professionally, and personally. Few have the privilege to attend law school just steps away from all levels of state government and I am extremely grateful for this unique experience. I am looking forward to taking the skills I have gained into life beyond law school."



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