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From the Dean

We are heartbroken to report that after battling COVID and its related complications for more than three months, Associate Dean for Admissions Jennifer Kessinger passed away on November 17. Since joining the law school in 2008, Jenn worked incredibly hard to recruit diverse, smart, hard-working, and collaborative incoming 1L classes. She creatively oversaw the admissions process with a calm assuredness and absolute professionalism, and many of us came to know her as a friend and/or mentor. For many alumni, Jenn was their first exposure to the collegiality that defines FSU Law. She made it a priority to ensure that students felt they would be valued members of our community. Jenn was an intense fighter in all things that mattered, so her death comes as a shock to all of us.



For those who are able to attend, Jenn's services are being held this weekend in Tallahassee. A viewing will take place today, Friday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Culley's Funeral Home (700 Timberlane Road). Her funeral will be held Saturday, November 20, at 11 a.m. at Celebration Baptist Church (3300 Shamrock Street East). For the many people who are unable to attend, we have created an [e-card where you can share your thoughts and memories](#) for Jenn's family. Above all, Jenn was an extraordinarily loving wife and mother, and we know her family would appreciate hearing how she enriched the lives of so many members of the FSU Law community.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Florida Legislative Practice Course



A student presents during a mock committee hearing on November 9, which included special guests Clay Ingram and Curtis Richardson.

During this fall semester, the law school and Associate Dean Debra Henley offered for the sixth time a skills-training course that teaches students the fundamentals of the legislative process relating to bill drafting, analysis, the committee and amendatory processes, advocacy, and the passage of legislation. Students enrolled in Florida Legislative Practice: From Bill Drafting to the Governor's Desk participate in mock committee hearings, assuming the roles of committee members and lobbyists. Current and former state legislators serve alongside the students as committee members, providing insightful questions and debate, as well as their observations on the process. "The committee meetings were such a treat to be a part of," said 2L Troy Osorio, who is enrolled in the class this semester. "This course has been one of my favorite and most memorable classes at FSU Law."

The fall 2021 semester's mock committee hearings, which recently concluded, featured the following guests who served as "senators:" Representative Dan Daley, Senator Gary Farmer, FSU Chief Legislative Affairs Officer and Former Representative Clay Ingram, Former Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Representative Andrew Learned, Representative Amber Mariano, Representative Holly Raschein, and Tallahassee City Commissioner and Former Representative Curtis Richardson. Chief of Staff to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis James Uthmeier wrapped up the class for the semester earlier this week with a discussion about the process for establishing legislative priorities, the role of the governor in the legislative process, considerations made on legislation presented to the governor, and the budget.

Alum Profile: G. Brock Magruder, III ('14)

G. Brock Magruder was elevated to shareholder at GrayRobinson in September 2021 and was named "One to Watch" by Best Lawyers in America for 2021-2022. Magruder practices in the firm's Orlando office, where he concentrates on commercial litigation, handling cases ranging from simple breach of contract claims to defense of statewide class action lawsuits. Magruder represents clients in diverse industries, from sports and entertainment to healthcare. He also represents state universities and colleges in public records issues and constitutional claims. He is very engaged in professional and civic activities. Magruder is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Orange County Bar Association, and Leadership Orlando's Class 101. He previously was a member of the board of governors for the Tallahassee Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and served on the board of trustees for the Orlando Science Center.



"I loved my time and experiences at FSU College of Law. I will always appreciate and value the relationships I developed and the educational and professional foundation I received in Tallahassee. Go 'Noles!"

Student Profile: 3L Isaac Allen

Desired Practice Location: Anywhere along the east coast of Florida, but also open to the west coast

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Specialization: Business law

Field of Law Sought: Transactional law, contract drafting and review, compliance, in-house corporate counsel, or real estate law (preferably on the transactional side)

Isaac Allen is from Melbourne, Florida. He attended the University of Florida for undergrad, where he earned a degree in forest resources and conservation with an emphasis on business management. Allen will graduate from FSU Law in May. During the summer of 2021, Allen performed pro bono work with the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County and also worked as an in-house corporate counsel extern with L3Harris Technologies in Melbourne, Florida. At L3Harris, he worked with the legal department across various divisions and gained experience working on license characterizations, performing legal research for commercial disputes, and researching and drafting contract terms for commercial transactions. He also drafted fraudulent domain name takedown demands and updated COVID-19 benefits available to L3Harris employees. The summer before his 2L year, Allen was a legal extern with the Florida Public Service Commission, where he participated in administrative and regulatory processes. Specifically, he worked with the Regulatory Analysis Section of the Office of General Counsel in the area of utility regulation. He assisted with issuing notices of noncompliance, converting staff recommendations to proposed agency action orders, drafting consummating orders and notices of intervention, and updating the Florida Public Service Commission's case digest.

When Allen graduates from FSU Law, he will also earn the Business Law Certificate. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Allen after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at ida19@my.fsu.edu.

"I am fascinated by the power of transactions and contracts. The main reasons I went to law school were to learn to minimize risk and keep people out of the courtroom with smart contracts and transactions."

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