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## From the Dean



*National leaders spoke to the FSU community during the President's Symposium: The Future of Higher Education.*

Last Friday, the university community celebrated the inauguration of President Richard McCullough. In addition to an investiture ceremony, the entire community was invited to a very special event—The President's Symposium: The Future of Higher Education. The symposium was moderated by our new president and featured national leaders in higher education who discussed the future of the university and higher education. Speakers were James Frazier, dean of the FSU College of Fine Arts; Laurel Fulkerson, interim vice president for research at FSU; Alan Garber, professor and provost at Harvard University; Mark Kamlet, professor and provost emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University; and Holden Thorp, editor-in-chief of the *Science* family of journals.

During the enlightening discussion, speakers talked about topics including breakthroughs in the sciences and their impact on medicine, artificial intelligence, emerging research in the social sciences, the importance of a liberal arts education in preparing students for their futures, the role of the arts in the university—including in cultivating creative thinkers, and the promotion of entrepreneurship in universities. I was delighted to attend the symposium with my colleagues and am looking forward to watching our great university flourish under President McCullough's leadership.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

## FSU BLSA Wins Advocacy Competition



*(L-R) FSU BLSA team members Kayla Neal, Khamisi Thorpe, Coach Erica White, Nyah Tennell, and Judelande Jeune*

For the third year in a row, FSU Law's Black Law Students Association (FSU BLSA) won first place in the regional Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition during the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association Convention. The 2022 competition took place February 24-26, in Atlanta. Ten law school teams participated in the regional event. The final round occurred at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center's Court of Appeals of Georgia courtroom, where students argued in front of the Honorable Walter W. Davis. Winning team members were 3L Judelande Jeune, 2L Kayla Neal, 3L Nyah Tennell, and 2L Khamisi Thorpe. They were coached by FSU Law alumna C. Erica White ('01). The team will compete in the related national competition in March.

During the convention, FSU BLSA also won the Best Petitioner's Brief Award in the regional Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition. Due to a scoring error, the team did not excel in the competition as far as they participated in, but because of their excellent performance in the rounds they participated in, they will advance to the related national competition. Moot court team members were 3L Nia Anan-Ankomah and 2L Olivia Ingram, and they were coached by alumni Janeia Ingram ('04), Aqueelah Mitchell ('17), and Matletha Bennette ('17). Congratulations to all the talented student advocates!

## Alum Profile: Elmer C. Ignacio ('01)

**Elmer C. Ignacio** is now a shareholder of Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. in Tallahassee, where he focuses on labor and employment law. He is an experienced litigator and has served as lead defense counsel in state and federal jury trials and administrative hearings. Ignacio also advises various clients in matters involving labor and employment laws, compliance, and handbook review and drafting. He has published numerous articles and presented on various labor and employment law topics. Prior to joining Sniffen & Spellman, Ignacio was an assistant attorney general with the Florida Attorney General's Office Employment Litigation Bureau for five years. He also previously served as the director of FSU Law's Placement Office.



## Student Profile: 3L Taylor Greenan

**Desired Practice Location:** Tampa, Florida

**Expected Graduation:** May 2022

**Field of Law Sought:** Environmental law, local government law

Taylor Greenan is from Sarasota, Florida, and earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of South Florida. Last semester, Greenan was an extern with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, where she attended a trial and several pre-trial and informal hearings over Zoom. She prepared exhibits for trial and also prepared a settlement offer letter. In addition, she conducted legal research regarding

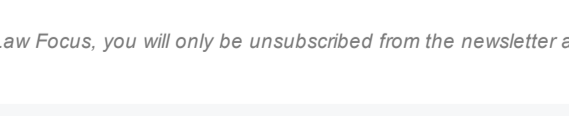


takings, sworn-officer duties, E-Verify, invasive species bans, the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act, and sea turtle projections. During the summer of 2021, Greenan was a law clerk at the Center for Biological Diversity. In this role, she drafted an endangered species petition for listing, attended 15 workshops regarding environmental protections, and wrote legal memoranda regarding hazardous waste, Florida drone operation, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Endangered Species Act. In the fall of her 2L year, Greenan externed with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where she drafted discovery motions and conducted legal research on property law, civil procedure, pollution, takings, perfluoroalkyl substances, state lands, and attorney/client privilege. She also attended depositions and client meetings. During the summer after her 1L year, Greenan worked as a legal intern with the State Attorney's Office for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. There, she wrote an oral argument for a bond denial hearing, drafted responses to motions to suppress and bond reduction, and conducted legal research on self-defense and felony murder. In addition, she reviewed interview footage and edited transcripts of interviews.

Greenan has co-authored three peer-reviewed journal articles: "First Report of Lionfish Prey From Western Florida Waters as Identified by DNA Barcoding," *PeerJ*, Vol. 8 (2020); "Phylogeography and Cryptic Diversity of Intertidal *Ligia* Isopods Across the Southern Africa Coastline," *PeerJ*, Vol. 6 (2018); and "Maternal Transfer and Sublethal Immune System Effects of Brevetoxin Exposure in Nesting Loggerhead Sea Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) From Western Florida," *Aquatic Toxicology*, Vol. 180 (2016). At FSU Law, Greenan is a member of the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law*. She also is an inaugural recipient of the Professor David L. Markell Memorial Scholarship. After earning her bachelor's degree, Greenan worked for two years at Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services. She was a mosquito management aide for four months and then served as the community outreach specialist until beginning law school. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Greenan after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [tmg18bt@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tmg18bt@my.fsu.edu).

***"As a third generation Floridian, I've always had a passion for protecting Florida's ecosystems. I look forward to applying my research skills, scientific knowledge, and communication abilities at a local government or government agency to best serve citizens and the environment."***

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