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From the Dean



Fred Karlinsky ('92) welcomes students to the Law and Risk Management course.

Last week, more than 100 FSU Law students spent spring break taking our annual Law and Risk Management course. Taught by alum Fred E. Karlinsky ('92), the course was fully remote this year and was a special opportunity to learn about risk management from some of the state's top experts in the industry. Speakers included Florida Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier, insurance regulatory officers, leaders in Florida's administration and public finance sectors, and professors from FSU's College of Business. Alumni presenting during the course included Gina Smith ('87), chief legal counsel at the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Michael Dobson ('16), policy director and special legal adviser at DFS. We appreciate the many lecturers who provided our students valuable information on risk management policy and tips for success in the practice of law and business.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU BLSA Wins National Championship



(L-R) Khamisi Thorpe, Kayla Neal, Nyah Tennell, and Judelande Jeune

Florida State University College of Law's Black Law Students Association (FSU BLSA) won first place in the national Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition. The competition took place virtually March 17-18, and FSU BLSA was undefeated throughout the event. Sixteen law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from the University of Maryland and Texas A&M University, which FSU BLSA beat in the final round. Winning team members were 3L Judelande Jeune, 2L Kayla Neal, 3L Nyah Tennell, and 2L Khamisi Thorpe. The team was coached by Florida State law alumna C. Erica White ('01), who is general counsel at the Office of the State Courts Administrator. In addition to winning the national championship, Thorpe was named the competition's Best Advocate for the Prosecution, and Tennell was honored as Best Advocate for the Defense.

"Congratulations to our BLSA student advocates on winning the national Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "These talented students are shining examples of our extremely impressive student body!"

Remembering Professor Dore

In honor of Women's History Month, we recognize Patricia A. Dore, who was the first woman to serve as a law professor at Florida State University in the early 1970s. In this role, she was a beacon for women who were just discovering the extent of opportunities in the legal profession. Dore was deeply dedicated to enhancing equality in the legal profession and in the law school student body. When she served on the admissions committee, Dore lifted the cap on women applicants and eliminated quotas for women law students. Dore's commitment to diversity led her to advocate for Florida's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and she encouraged her students to do the same.



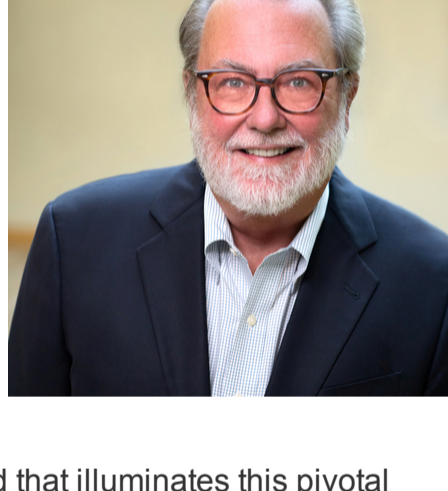
"She galvanized law students into action," said the Honorable Claudia Rickert Isom ('75). "We attended committee hearings at the Capitol, formed phone banks to call college professors to ask for their help in advocating for Florida's ratification of the ERA, and marched on the governor's mansion to demonstrate our support of ratification of the ERA. Even though ratification eluded us, Professor Dore left a lasting impression on me and my career."

Dore's contributions to Florida's legal landscape were many. She has been recognized as the "mother" of the Florida Administrative Procedure Act. Dore was critical to the adoption of the Florida Administrative Procedure Act. Dore and served on the Constitutional Revision Commission in 1977 and 1978. Further, she was the scholar of choice in administrative and constitutional law matters for many legislative leaders, state policymakers, and members of the press.

Among her many contributions to the law school, Dore developed the Supreme Court Role-Playing Seminar, which was seen by many students lucky enough to take it as the most influential course in their higher education. Dore's dedication to her students and influential teaching was recognized by FSU in 1980, when she received the University President's Teacher of the Year Award. In addition to inspiring generations of lawyers, Dore motivated many of her students to teach. In 1996, FSU College of Law honored Dore with the establishment of the Patricia A. Dore Professorship in Administrative Law. The professorship was funded with gifts from friends, admirers, and the Administrative Law Section of The Florida Bar.

Alum Profile: David L. Powell ('87)

David L. Powell published his debut book, "Ninety Miles and a Lifetime Away: Memories of Early Cuban Exiles" (University of Florida Press), on March 1. Based on 54 extensive interviews, the book preserves rare accounts of those who fled Cuba between 1959 and the early 1970s. In their own words, exiles describe why they left Cuba, how they prepared for departure, what situations they faced when they arrived in the U.S., and how they integrated into American life. Offering a historical background that illuminates this pivotal period in the context of the Cold War, Powell shows how the U.S. government's Cuban refugee assistance program had far-reaching effects on refugee policy, bilingual education, and child welfare programs. Powell, who graduated from FSU Law in December 1986, is retired from Hopping Green & Sams, where he represented clients in the planning and entitlement of complex real estate developments throughout Florida. He also was a journalist before practicing law.



"It's a great story. It's a story about ordinary people caught in a struggle with powerful historical forces beyond their control. It's a story that shows America at its best—not perfect, but as the land of refuge and opportunity that it's always been for oppressed people from around the world. It's a story that shows how refugees can strengthen America if we let them. For these reasons, it's a story we should keep in mind during our ongoing national debate about immigrants and refugees."

Student Profile: 3L Emily Stephenson

Desired Practice Location: Jacksonville, Tallahassee, or Orlando

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Field of Law Study: Civil defense; estate planning and probate; interested in both transactional and litigation



Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Emily Stephenson attended the University of North Florida for undergrad, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in business administration. From January to December 2021, Stephenson was a law clerk at McConnaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern, P.A. in Jacksonville, Florida, where she worked both in the office and remotely. In this role, she drafted motions, orders, and memoranda, performed investigation and discovery, and developed her WestLaw research skills. She also observed depositions, mediations, and hearings. During the summer of 2020, Stephenson was a student advocate in the FSU Public Interest Law Center's Veterans Legal Clinic, where she collaborated with another student advocate to determine the most efficient and effective mode of service for veterans and their families, and drafted a motion to compel as part of an adoption case. Before entering law school, Stephenson worked as a paralegal at the Office of the State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit for two and a half years. She worked on the Cold Case Special Victims Unit and Homicide Unit, where she organized and reported on over 1,700 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Federal Grant cases, planned task force meetings, researched and summarized legal materials, and coordinated and assisted with interviews and throughout trials. Stephenson received a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Special Assault Unit Challenge Coin for her SAKI work. Stephenson also worked as a Duval County Courthouse paralegal, where she aided assistant state attorneys and was also a part of the Pretrial Intervention Program, serving as a billable discovery liaison for defense attorneys and defendants.

At FSU Law, Stephenson is a member of the Trial Team, and during her 2L and 3L years, she has been an article and notes editor for the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law* and a staff editor for the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Stephenson after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at ems19r@my.fsu.edu.

"I pride myself on my work ethic, my attention to detail, and my creative problem solving. I am confident that my prior legal experiences will allow me to make an immediate, valuable contribution to my future employer."

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