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From the Dean

We are in the final days of our annual fund campaign, as the deadline to make a gift for this year is Thursday, June 30. We are very grateful for the many alumni who have already generously contributed and hope that if you have not yet given, you will consider making a gift in any amount. You can donate online at give.fsu.edu/law, where you will have the option to earmark your gift as you wish. Please consider a donation to student scholarships—our greatest need. Scholarships help us recruit the best and brightest students, many of whom would not be able to attend FSU Law without assistance. Your support of FSU Law and our students makes a tremendous impact and is critical to our future success!



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Career Advisor Participates in USMC Educators' Workshop



Thomas Latino, of FSU Law's Career Services Office, and other USMC Educators' Workshop participants

Earlier in June, Manager of Employer Development & Career Advisor Thomas Latino attended the U.S. Marine Corps Educators' Workshop at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. The unique five-day event provided educators from priority colleges and universities an opportunity to learn how Marine officers are recruited from a pool of highly qualified students, trained, and developed into leaders. The program was designed to demystify recruitment and officer candidate training and foster stronger relationships among recruiting personnel and the communities they serve. Latino's schedule included sessions on officer candidates school, a visit to the Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico with flight orientation, participation in the leadership reaction course, indoor simulator marksmanship training, and a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Latino plans to use the training he received to better counsel FSU Law students who are considering Judge Advocate General (JAG) service.

"This experience was one of the most transformative of my career," said Latino. "Participating in just a small portion of Marine training afforded me such a unique perspective on what it takes to be not just a JAG but also a USMC JAG. The standards for acceptance are stringent. However, if a student is fortunate enough to be appointed a USMC JAG, the skills that student will develop over the course of their four years—leadership, mentorship, managing a team, working under pressure, managing tight deadlines, and developing an effective strategy from fragments of incomplete information—along with their legal education, will transform them into a fundamentally different person. There is not an employer from Maine to Honolulu that would not want someone like that in their organization. Special thank you to Captain Steven Lamb of the U.S. Marine Corps Tallahassee, for coordinating this experience for me."

Alum Profile: Courtney Momborg Johnson ('12)

Courtney Momborg Johnson is an associate at Marks Gray, P.A., in Jacksonville. She focuses on the defense of cases involving premises liability, products liability, trucking and auto liability, construction defect, general negligence claims, and aviation law. Johnson also recently began practicing in the areas of surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology law, where she uses her first-hand personal and legal knowledge to advocate for those seeking to grow their families through surrogacy and assisted reproductive technologies. Prior to joining Marks Gray in 2021, Johnson practiced at Boyd & Jenerette and Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer. Johnson is a member of the American Bar Association Family Law Section's Assisted Reproductive Technologies Committee, and the Jacksonville Bar Association's Adoption Law and Family Law sections.



"We used a gestational surrogate to carry and give birth to our son after many years of trying to have a child, and that journey forever changed who I am as a person, mother, and lawyer. I am passionate about helping others build their families through surrogacy and assisted reproduction, and I utilize my ten years of experience practicing as a litigator to advocate for the best interests of the parents and/or surrogates involved in alternative methods of family formation. I was able to take a wide range of courses at FSU, including health law and bioethics, which have helped to provide important context to my practice."

Celebrating 2022 Grad Craig Simpson

Recent FSU Law graduate Craig Simpson has accepted a post-graduate position as an associate in the civil division of McConaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern, P.A., in Tallahassee! Simpson began working with the firm last summer, and during his time there, he has performed legal research, prepared memoranda, drafted and edited legal documents, and prepared detailed summaries of medical records and legal proceedings. He has also assisted with workers' compensation and civil litigation cases. Simpson graduated summa cum laude in 2019 from High Point University in North Carolina, where he double majored in political science and human relations, and minored in philosophy. During law school, Simpson participated in the COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic, where he assisted local veterans with legal issues related to the pandemic, including evictions, stimulus checks, and unemployment. He earned a book award in the clinic. Simpson also interned with the First Amendment Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on the application of the Florida Sunshine Law, where he performed pro bono legal research on a variety of topics. Congratulations to Craig Simpson on his graduation and many achievements! We wish him all the best in his new role and look forward to celebrating his future accomplishments.



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