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From the Dean



Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Class XVIII

We are delighted to report that the 11-member Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Class XVIII includes six FSU Law students! As fellows, these students are immersed in key areas of state government. They receive advanced on-the-job training and a glimpse into the inner workings of government as they fulfill roles of critical responsibility and interact closely with the state's top leaders. Congratulations to FSU Law students Thomas Kelly (back row, second from right), who is working at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation; Hunter Pollack (front row, third from right), who is working at the Florida Department of Education; Kelvin Ready (back row, second from left), who is working in the Executive Office of the Governor, Office of General Counsel; Matthew Toplak (back row, center), who is working at the Florida Division of Emergency Management; Tarah Yeager (front row, second from left), who is working at the Florida Department of Children and Families; and Destiny Young (front row, second from right), who is working at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: James Parker-Flynn (LL.M. '14)

James Parker-Flynn recently joined the FSU Law faculty as director of the Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law. Parker-Flynn specializes in environmental and energy law, with a focus on climate change-related issues. He is teaching Energy Law and Policy during the fall 2022 semester, and he will teach Land Use Law and a new Environmental Justice Seminar during the spring 2023 semester. Before joining the faculty, Parker-Flynn practiced law with Carlton Fields, where he specialized in appellate practice, land use litigation, and environmental law, assisting clients with a wide array of regulatory and litigation issues. He has handled environmental and land use litigation in Florida's state courts and administrative forums, and he has worked on a variety of appeals and other litigation in state and federal courts around the country. He has published several articles on climate law and policy, and frequently speaks about climate-related issues at seminars and other CLE events. Parker-Flynn earned an LL.M. in Environmental Law from FSU, after receiving his J.D. from Georgia State University.



“I could not be more excited to join the incredible faculty in the Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law, and to work alongside them to continue and expand on the center’s mission. I am equally thrilled to work with FSU Law’s remarkable students, and to help prepare them for the challenges faced by attorneys and policymakers in the areas of environmental, land use, energy, and natural resources law —challenges that become more critical every day.”

Alum Profile: Joanna Bonfanti ('05)

Joanna Bonfanti is director of business development for Provident Title, a full service, licensed title agency located on Florida's Emerald Coast serving clients with commercial and residential transactions, refinances, and 1031 exchanges. Bonfanti also is a licensed real estate agent with Premier Property Group in the Destin/30A area. Prior to joining Provident in 2022, Bonfanti was a governmental affairs consultant at Gunster for more than a decade. There, she represented clients before the legislative and executive branches of state government on issues relating to energy, water and waste water, natural gas, regulated industries, growth management, healthcare, education, appropriations, and retail.



“The skills I learned in law school and during my time at Gunster are extremely helpful in my work at Provident Title. I’m excited to be able to help our clients achieve their goals and dreams!”

Student Profile: 3L Lani Page

Desired Practice Location: South Florida, specifically Ft. Lauderdale or Miami
Expected graduation: May 2023
Field of Law Sought: Corporate and business transactional law with an interest in mergers and acquisitions



Lani Page is from Tallahassee, Florida, and she earned her bachelor's degree with university honors in English – creative writing from the University of Central Florida. She will graduate from FSU Law in May. Page is currently completing a semester abroad at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where she is studying

Dutch comparative law, law and narrative in theory and practice, international corporate governance, and commercial contracts. During the summer, Page worked as an in-house corporate counsel legal intern with The Swatch Group (U.S.) Inc., where she drafted and reviewed non-disclosure, commercial leasing, and service agreements, and completed risk assessments. Because she was the first legal intern with The Swatch Group, she presented an overview of her work to The Swatch Group's general counsel in Switzerland. During the 2022 Florida legislative session, Page worked at GrayRobinson as a junior legislative aide, where she drafted memoranda for lobbyists and clients as she tracked legislation through the Florida committees and chambers. She also drafted legislation amendments and worked with lobbyists to summarize the 2022 Florida legislative session in an end-of-session report for GrayRobinson's clients. Page will return to GrayRobinson for the 2023 Florida legislative session. During the summer after her 1L year, Page worked with the COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic at FSU Law.

At FSU Law, Page was a teaching assistant for the Juris Master Program's Consumer Protection Law course. She also served as a board member of the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program in the spring of 2021, and she is a member of the Women's Law Symposium. Through the Women's Law Symposium, Page serves as a mentor to an FSU pre-law student to prepare the student for entering the legal community as a fellow first-generation student. She also mentors 1L Women's Law Symposium members to help them acclimate to law school. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Page after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at lpag2@fsu.edu.

“I have loved my time at FSU Law and the people I have met. I am so honored to represent the law school during my time at Erasmus University and thankful to be able to study abroad to learn about our legal systems from a comparative viewpoint. My experiences at FSU and abroad have deepened my knowledge and will make me a more qualified and skillful lawyer.”

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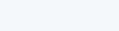
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