



# FSU LAW

## Focus

October 7, 2022

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### From the Dean

We are excited to share the news that our very own Lisa Duke has been selected as FSU's 2022 Max Carraway Employee of the Year. This university-wide award recognizes one FSU staff member each year who works tirelessly to assist our students and who consistently promotes excellence. Lisa is a most deserving recipient of this award, and we believe she is the only law school employee to have the honor of serving as the university's employee of the year. Lisa has been an integral member of our Career Services team since 2016. She has skillfully helped hundreds of students and recent graduates in their job searches, and in the process, Lisa has become a confidante, mentor, and friend to many of them. Students rave about her dedication, caring nature, wisdom, and tireless efforts on their behalf. In addition, faculty and staff members always enjoy collaborating with Lisa.



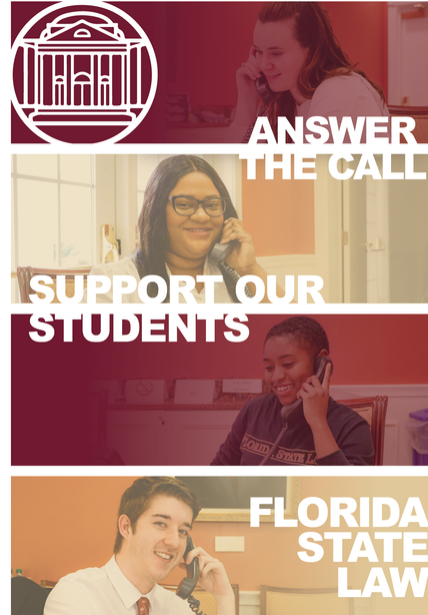
You can read more about Lisa and the award in the university's article, "[Alisa Duke selected as Max Carraway Employee of the Year.](#)" Please join me in congratulating Lisa for this recognition and thanking her for serving as a role model for the pursuit of excellence on behalf of our students and the law school.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

### Students Calling for Fall 2022 Fundathon

On Monday, October 10, students will begin contacting alumni during FSU Law's three-week Fall 2022 Fundathon. The students will be calling, emailing, and texting graduates to solicit support for our 2022-2023 Annual Fund, which is utilized for important needs at the law school, including student scholarships and student enrichment activities. Gifts can be designated to align with the causes, groups, and programs at the law school that are most important to a donor. A gift in any amount will make an impact on the law school and our students, so please consider giving to the Annual Fund if you have not already given. If you would like to make a donation before students start calling, you can [give online now](#). For those who have already donated this campaign year, we thank you for your support of our students and programs!



### Alum Profile: Reid M. Wakefield ('09)

**Reid M. Wakefield** is an associate at Mirick O'Connell in Massachusetts, where he is a member of the firm's Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits Group. Wakefield represents employers and executives in litigation before federal and state courts and administrative agencies, defending against claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, misclassification, breaches of employment agreements, and wage and hour violations. He also advises employers on day-to-day employment matters and drafts employment agreements, severance agreements, handbooks, and workplace policies. He recently was selected for inclusion in the 2023 edition of the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* in the category of Litigation – Labor and Employment. Wakefield previously served as commission counsel for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, practiced at Coppins Monroe Adkins & Dincman, P.A., and Hayward & Grant, P.A., in Tallahassee, and was an assistant attorney general at the Florida Office of the Attorney General.



*"I am very grateful for my experience at FSU Law. Its proximity to the center of state government along with FSU's career placement and internship programs helped me gain invaluable experience working at state agencies during law school, leading to my first job after graduation and propelling my career. Over a decade of practice later, having advanced through multiple roles and transitioning across the country, I owe much to my start at Florida State."*

### Student Profile: 3L David Melito

**Desired Practice Location:** Tallahassee  
**Expected graduation:** May 2023  
**Field of Law Sought:** State and local government law; administrative law; land use and real estate; public utilities; economic development and public finance



David Melito, from Indialantic, Florida, attended the University of Florida for his undergraduate studies, where he majored in political science and minored in philosophy. He will graduate from FSU Law in May and will also earn a master's in urban and regional planning from FSU. In his master's program, Melito specializes in real estate and economic development. Melito is currently a law clerk with the City of Tallahassee Attorney's Office, where he has performed research on an array of topics related to municipal governance, including municipal financing schemes, interlocal agreements, municipal utility regulation, subdivision law, construction liens, and Florida Government in the Sunshine issues. He has also drafted and edited appellate arguments and civil litigation motions. During the summer, Melito worked as a law clerk with the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA). In this role, he performed research pertaining to the administration of the state court system and reviewed procurement contracts for legal and proprietary issues. He also assisted in reviewing and drafting human resources policies. During the 2021-2022 academic year, Melito was a legislative fellow with the Florida House of Representatives. He worked as an analyst for the House Minority Office, covering the Insurance & Banking Subcommittee and the Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. His work involved drafting bill analyses and briefing members on more than 100 bills. Prior to entering this role, Melito was a law clerk with the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, where he reviewed responses to public records requests and worked on administrative law issues, including the drafting of an agency final order. Beginning in the summer of 2020, Melito was a law clerk with the Florida Department of Management Services for more than a year, where he completed more than 20 memoranda on a variety of topics related to state contracting and procurement, real property issues related to the State Facility Pool, and a major research assignment relating to the State Group Insurance Program. He also gained familiarity with Florida administrative law, public records and government ethics practices, and agency rulemaking. Melito also developed arguments and drafts for two appellate briefs. In addition, Melito was a law clerk during a gap year between his undergraduate studies and law school, for Brevard County Legal Aid and the Brevard County Attorney's Office. At Legal Aid, he prepared more than 30 research memoranda and more than 20 motions for staff attorneys in multiple family law cases, and he drafted a trial memorandum for a trust contest and a subsequent appellee response brief and cross appeal. At the Brevard County Attorney's Office, he drafted more than 20 memoranda on topics including tourist development taxes, short-term rental regulation, and real property issues.

For the past year, Melito has volunteered as an assistant editor for the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society's biannual publication, the *Historical Review*, and he was a contributor to the spring/summer 2022 edition. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Melito after graduation, email him at [dam13g@fsu.edu](mailto:dam13g@fsu.edu).

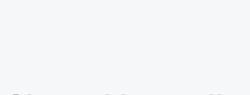
*"Studying at FSU has been an amazing experience that has allowed me to make lifelong friendships, gain invaluable knowledge and professional skills, and deeply explore my academic interests. I look forward to applying what I have learned as I take the next step in my career in Tallahassee and to building on my knowledge of state and local government, real property, and economic development law."*

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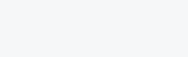
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