FSU LAW Focus

November 4, 2022

From the Dean

Professor Hsu addresses attendees during the book forum.

Last week, we celebrated our colleague Shi-Ling Hsu and his recently published book, *Capitalism and the Environment: A Proposal to Save the Planet*. During the book forum, Shi-Ling, Yale Law School Professor Carol Rose, and University of Virginia School of Law Professor Michael Livermore discussed the book, which advocates for harnessing the power of capitalism to protect the Earth from human-caused pollution and climate change. We heard from Shi-Ling about the reasons he wrote the book, his thoughts on the power of capitalism, and his proposal to enact a system of environmental taxes. We then heard from Michael and Carol, who are two of the nation's top scholars in environmental law. If you were unable to attend the thought-provoking forum, you can **watch a recording online**.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Salesia Smith-Gordon Portrait Unveiling

On Thursday, October 27, we celebrated FSU Law alumna Salesia Smith-Gordon's ('92) generous financial support of the College of Law with a portrait unveiling ceremony. Friends of the law school and of Smith-Gordon, including her mother, Jeraldine Williams ('81), Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson ('91), and Jason Burnett ('88), president of the FSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, spoke to Smith-Gordon's character, leadership through action, and giving spirit during the event. Smith-Gordon said she hopes her gift will be meaningful for years to come and that it will help foster an environment of inclusion at the law school. In addition to supporting FSU Law financially, Smith-Gordon often meets with law students, serves on the FSU Law Board of Visitors, and served as the first president of the law school's Black Alumni Network. The law school community is very thankful for Smith-Gordon's generosity and for the many other alumni who, like her, give monetarily and of their time to invest in our students.

Alum Profile: Joshua E. Pratt ('15)

Joshua E. Pratt recently joined the Tallahassee office of Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC. Pratt is a senior associate and focuses his practice on litigation and compliance matters. Prior to joining Holtzman Vogel, Pratt served as deputy general counsel to Governor Ron DeSantis. There, he provided legal counsel, represented the governor in high-profile litigation, oversaw the legal departments of executive branch agencies, prepared executive orders, reviewed legislative initiatives, assisted with Cabinet-related matters, assisted in the review and selection of judicial candidates, and served as the governor's clemency aide. Pratt's previous experience also includes serving as a law clerk to Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater and Judge Lee Ann Reno, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and to Justice Charles T. Canady, of the Florida Supreme Court.

"Working for Governor DeSantis was the privilege of a lifetime. Having successfully transitioned from government to private practice, I am truly grateful for the privilege of working with each of my wonderful new colleagues at Holtzman Vogel. I look forward to continuing to serve all our clients with integrity, excellence, and dedication."

Student Profile: 3L Fatou Calixte

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee or surrounding areas
Expected Graduation: May 2023
Field of Law Sought: Litigation; would especially like to work in election law, land use, or government relations/government law

Fatou Calixte is originally from Neunkirchen, Saarland in Germany. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and she will graduate from FSU Law in the spring, also earning the International Law Certificate. Calixte is currently a student advocate with FSU Law's International Human Rights Clinic, and she works at Stearns Weaver Miller. She began working at Stearns Weaver Miller in May, first as a litigation law clerk, and now as a land use law clerk. Her work there includes performing legal research and drafting motions for attorney's fees, transfer and consolidation of cases, and permit extensions. She also observes hearings and mediations and edits citations for articles pending publication. During the summer after her 2L year, Calixte was a judicial extern for the Northern District of the Division of Administrative Hearings. There, she conducted research for the administrative judges, drafted memoranda regarding findings of fact, and observed hearings on various topics, including environmental disputes, child support, teacher suspension, and employment discrimination. She received a book award for the 1L Judicial Externship. From October 2021 to March 2022, Calixte served as a legislative fellow with the Florida House of Representatives, working with the Health & Human Services Committee. As a fellow, she provided bill analysis for proposed legislation, tracked bills as they passed through committees, and conducted research for staff attorneys on various health-related topics, including topics pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. From July to October of 2021, Calixte was a research assistant in the College of Law's Research Center, where she conducted research for a large-scale research project for a professor on state statutes and local ordinances that regulate female toplessness. She also conducted research on other topics for the College of Law's faculty and helped edit citations for pending articles. Prior to law school, Calixte worked for the Hawaii Supreme Court in the Planning and Program Evaluation Department.

At FSU Law, Calixte serves as an invited staff editor for the *Journal of Transnational Law and Policy* and is a member of the Career Services Student Advisory Board and the Student Advisory Board for the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. Additionally, she is a pupil of the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court. As a 2L, Calixte served as treasurer of the Black Law Students Association, and during her 1L year, she competed on the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team which won first place in the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition. She will soon begin serving on the board for the Tallahassee Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division as the law school representative. Calixte is a native German speaker and is a certified court interpreter in German and English. She also possesses basic French and Spanish skills. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Calixte after graduation, visit her **LinkedIn profile** or email her at **fcalixte@fsu.edu**.

"As a military spouse, I've traveled the world, and for the last three years, it's been my distinct honor to call FSU home. I am confident that my experiences in the classroom, as a legislative fellow for the Florida House of Representatives, and as a member of the BLSA Mock Trial Team have equipped me with the necessary skills to be a well-rounded and zealous advocate."

If you unsubscribe from the FSU Law Focus, you will only be unsubscribed from the newsletter and not other emails from FSU Law.

Share this email:

Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

425 West Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL | 32306 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

Subscribe to our email list.