

From the Dean

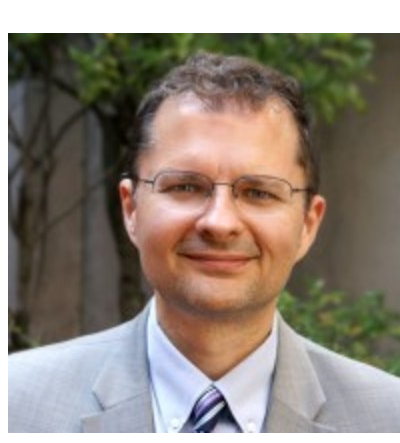
Episodes from season two of our Takin' Care of Business podcast recently launched on our [website](#) and on [YouTube](#), and they feature several of FSU Law's highly regarded business law faculty members. The new episodes include fascinating conversations with Professors Jay Kesten, David Landau, Jake Linford, Lauren Scholz, Don Weidner, and Kelli Alces Williams, and Adjunct Professor Fred Karlinsky ('92). The podcast guests discuss their paths to their varied areas of expertise and law teaching; timely issues they address in their scholarship; advice for current and prospective law students; and interesting non-law-related facts about them. The podcast, which is part of our Stoops Center of Law and Business, was created to give listeners an inside look at FSU Law's business law program from the perspective of its community members. Season one episodes featured FSU Law students, and season three episodes will feature alumni, some of whom teach in the Stoops Center's new executive education program.



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Preston McLane ('09)

Preston McLane has joined FSU Law as an attorney advisor and visiting professor. McLane will teach in the law school's environmental law program. He is currently a program administrator with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Resource Management. His responsibilities range over many key programs under the Clean Air Act, including managing the State Implementation Plan development and revision process, rulemaking, regulatory planning, budget development, grant program development, and coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on matters relating to Florida's attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. He will share his expertise on practicing public environmental law as one of our featured alumni panelists in the Spring Careers Panel to be held at the law school in January, and he is currently available to counsel students one-on-one. McLane graduated from FSU Law in 2009.



"I am excited to join the environmental law program faculty at the FSU College of Law, and I look forward to helping students learn more about environmental law practice and career paths in both the public and private sectors."

Alum Profile: Thomas R. Philpot ('11)

Thomas R. Philpot is now a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Tallahassee, where he counsels clients in navigating regulatory channels and advancing competitive business plans in Florida and throughout the United States. Philpot helps clients identify pathways for regulatory compliance and opportunities for improving regulatory policy, focusing on industry sectors relating to alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food, lodging, and other associated interests intersecting with the hospitality marketplace. Before joining GrayRobinson this year, Philpot was chief of staff of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). In that role, he led the regulatory policy objectives and daily operations for the agency that administers the licensure and regulation of more than 1.4 million businesses and professionals across more than 30 occupational fields. During his tenure at DBPR, Philpot also served as director of Florida's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco and as the acting deputy secretary for DBPR's business regulation programs relating to hotels and restaurants, condominiums, and pari-mutuel wagering. In 2021-2022, Philpot was elected by other state regulators throughout the country to serve as president of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators.



"In my years as a regulator, I respected the depth of preparation and proficiency that GrayRobinson's team consistently invested in their representation of client interests, and I appreciated the candor and enthusiasm that accompanied their commitment to achieving client objectives on many complex matters. I share these values, and I am honored to bring my experience to such a high-caliber team of professionals who are striving every day to find solutions and deliver results for clients facing regulatory challenges at all levels of government."

Student Profile: 3L Elena Gallego

Desired Practice Location: San Diego, California, or surrounding areas

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Immigration, corporate, criminal, employment, or personal injury

Elena Gallego is from Chaska, Minnesota, and she earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She will graduate from FSU Law in May. During the summer before her 3L year, Gallego worked as a certified legal intern with the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit, where she managed a personal caseload in county court, assisted with docket management, and reviewed case files, applicable statutes and case law, victim information and input, and determined an appropriate recommendation for case resolution. She handled assigned pre-trial motions filed by defense counsel, including requests for further discovery and evidentiary and non-evidentiary motions to suppress and dismiss. She also prepared written memoranda and briefs, developed trial strategy, and conducted plea negotiations. During the fall of her 2L year, Gallego was a student attorney in the FSU Law Public Interest Law Center's Immigration and Farmworker Clinic. She worked on assigned asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile cases, assisted classmates with their cases, and volunteered at a legal screening. During the summer before her 2L year, Gallego was a summer legal intern at Gloria Roa Bodin, P.A. in Coral Gables. There, she directly communicated with and supported clients while working on Temporary Protected Status cases and assisted attorneys by performing research, contacting clients, organizing applications for the court, and filing online forms.



At FSU Law, Gallego started the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association with a classmate during her 2L year and served as the organization's president that year. She is currently the 3L representative for the College of Law's Christian Legal Society. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Gallego after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at EJG20@fsu.edu.

"I am grateful for my time at FSU Law, as I have gained invaluable legal knowledge and experience, lifelong friends, and a better sense of who I aim to be as an attorney—an honest advocate who seeks justice and serves others well. I'm looking forward to what lies ahead and trust that I will be thoroughly equipped to excel in whatever that may be!"