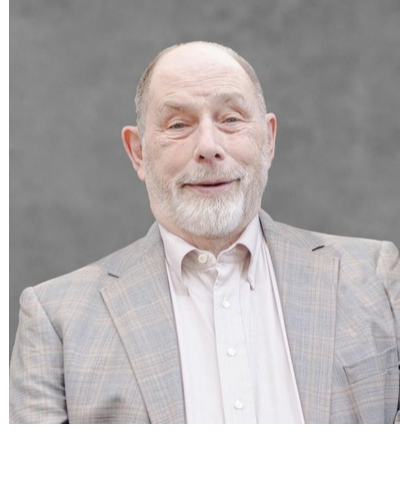


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From the Dean

Deacon Joseph Weller Jacobs, who taught at the FSU College of Law for 25 years before retiring from teaching in 1999, passed away on April 18, 2023. Jacobs was born December 27, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned his J.D. from Yale Law School and practiced in New York City before joining the FSU Law faculty. During his time at FSU Law, Jacobs taught tax courses using his own unique set of creative teaching materials. He inspired many students to pursue careers in tax law.



“Joe was a brilliant tax teacher who brought the highest level of Wall Street sophistication to his classes,” said Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Donald J. Weidner, who was introduced to the FSU Law faculty by Jacobs. “He made rigorous analysis of tax practice and policy both accessible and entertaining. Joe was a natural showman with a wonderful sense of humor that delighted students and faculty colleagues alike.”

After he retired from the law school, Jacobs began a second career and served as chief executive officer of Gulf Atlantic Insurance Company. He also was ordained as a deacon in the Catholic church in 2010 and served at his parish, St. Louis Catholic Church in Tallahassee. Jacobs gave his final homily on Palm Sunday of this year. According to [his obituary](#), in retirement, Jacobs enjoyed reading, working on crossword puzzles, and doing daily prayers and traveling the world with his wife, Cindy. Visitation followed by evening prayer will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 28, and a funeral mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, both at St. Louis Catholic Church. A reception at St. Louis Parish Hall will follow the mass.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

2023 Lillich Lecture Presented by NYU Professor



Professor Gráinne de Búrca presents the 2023 Lillich Lecture.

On Monday, April 17, FSU's *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy* presented their annual Lillich Lecture, featuring Gráinne de Búrca, the Florence Ellinwood Allen professor of law at New York University, where she also serves as director of the Hauser Global Law School and co-director of the Jean Monnet Center. In her lecture, “Illiberal Human Rights?,” de Búrca argued that in recent years, there have been significant new challenges to the postwar international system of human rights by coalitions of illiberal actors, including right-wing populist, religious, and political leaders. According to de Búrca, rather than contesting the language and institutions of human rights, these groups appropriate human rights language, concepts, and institutions, attempting to reshape the corpus of human rights in a more conservative fashion. De Búrca argued that while human rights principles should be open to reinterpretation and change, they should always be, at their core, dignity enhancing, recognizing of human equality, universalist in orientation, welfare promoting, and accepting of accountability. De Búrca discussed several strategies to resist the illiberal drift, including mobilizing people, activists, and governments whose approaches align with this conception of human rights.

Alum Profile: Meaghan K. Maus ('20)

Meaghan K. Maus is an associate at Johnson Jackson PLLC in Tampa, where she represents private- and public-sector employers in the defense of labor and employment related claims. In addition to her practice, Maus is engaged in the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. In December 2022, Maus received the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Member of the Year Award, which recognizes someone who went above and beyond for the YLD committee. In 2022, Maus planned two events for the organization—she coordinated a brand-new community service event, and she co-chaired the annual Staying in the Game program, which encourages women and minorities to stay in the practice of law.



“I am so fortunate to have such a great support system at Johnson Jackson PLLC. My colleagues not only go above and beyond in the practice of law, but they constantly encourage me to get involved in our local legal community. I love giving back through various organizations, and I am very excited to see what the future has in store. Go 'Noles!”

Student Profile: 3L Sophia Muina

Desired Practice Location: Northern Dallas, TX area (McKinney, Frisco, Plano) or Downtown Dallas

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: International law, immigration law, or appellate law

Sophia Muina is from Orlando, Florida, and she earned her bachelor's degree summa cum laude in international affairs with a minor in psychology from Florida State University. When she graduates from FSU Law this spring, she will also earn a master's degree in international affairs. Muina has worked with two Public Interest Law Center (PILC) clinics during her time as a law student. She was a student advocate in the PILC International Human Rights Clinic during the spring 2022 semester and did pro bono work with the Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic. She also served as a research assistant for the director of the International Human Rights Clinic. During the summer of 2021, Muina was a teaching assistant for Introduction to International Affairs at Florida State University. In this role, Muina provided feedback on student writing and analysis. In 2020-2021, Muina was a research fellow at the Foundation for Law & International Affairs, where she edited articles, helped launch two academic journals, and published her own research papers.



At FSU Law, Muina is currently a member of the 2022-2023 Vis Arbitration Moot Team. She also served as president, vice president, and a 1L representative of the International Law Students Association, and she was responsible for social media for the Human Trafficking in America Taskforce student organization for 2020-2021. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Muina after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn page](#) or email her at SMM15V@fsu.edu.

“Through the clinics, I had the opportunity to hone my research and writing skills, work in collaborative environments, and learn about immigration and human rights law in practice. As a member of Vis, I learned effective oral advocacy and how to be responsive to different styles. As a first generation student coming from a family of immigrants, my personal experiences provide a unique perspective to my work and contributions. I look forward to continuing this journey of fulfilling my childhood dream of becoming a lawyer and utilizing the skills provided by FSU Law.”

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