



FSU LAW

Focus

July 28,
2023

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From the Dean



Sofia Azpúrua



Ashley Cevere



Marshawn Young

Congratulations to three recent FSU Law graduates for being selected for the prestigious Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC) 2023 class of Justice Fellows! Sofia Azpúrua ('23), Ashley Cevere ('23), and Marshawn Young ('23) are a part of the largest-ever fellowship class and are the first FSU Law students chosen for the IJC fellowship. The recent graduates were selected for their passion, talent, and commitment to immigrants' rights. IJC fellows serve for two years as staff attorneys at strategically selected immigrant legal services providers and community-based organizations across the country, providing legal assistance to low-income immigrants in complex immigration matters including deportation defense and affirmative applications for those fleeing persecution. Azpúrua will serve at Safe Passage Project, where she will work with the immigrant youth of New York City. Cevere, who is also featured below, will serve at Catholic Migration Services in New York City, where she will represent adults in removal proceedings. Young will serve at Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services in El Paso, Texas, where he will advocate on behalf of unaccompanied children.

"I am honored to represent FSU in the most prestigious program for immigration advocacy," said Azpúrua. "I am also particularly grateful to the Public Interest Law Center and Professor Ashley Hamill for giving me the skills and experience necessary to compete with candidates across the nation for this position."

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Students Gain Valuable Experience Through Summer Externships



Rising 3L Carson Hopkins externed at NASCAR this summer.

FSU Law students have obtained valuable, hands-on work experience this summer through externships located around the country and in London. About 60 students participated in summer externships, working for federal and state courts, businesses, government offices, non-profits, and a variety of law firms, public defender offices, and state attorney offices. To name a few, students externed with the U.S. Coast Guard in Miami, the International Bar Association in London, NASCAR in Daytona Beach, and the Legal Aid Society in New York City. The experience and skills gained by students this summer will benefit them in their future careers, and FSU Law is very grateful to the alumni and other attorneys and judges who supervised these important experiential learning opportunities.

Alum Profile: Markenzy Lapointe ('99)

Markenzy Lapointe was sworn in as the United States attorney for the Southern District of Florida in January, becoming the first Haitian American to serve in the role. He leads an office of nearly 500 attorneys and support professionals responsible for investigating and prosecuting federal crimes in South Florida and litigating civil matters in which the U.S. has an interest. Prior to his appointment, Lapointe was a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in Miami. There, he focused on commercial, high exposure product liability, professional malpractice, and criminal investigation matters. He also co-chaired the firm's Advancement of Diverse Attorneys Committee. His previous experience also includes serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida and a partner at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP. In 2021, he was honored with the American Inns of Court's Chief Justice Gerald Kogan Professionalism Award, and he has won awards for his pro bono work in the areas of child advocacy and family law. Lapointe has remained engaged with the College of Law, including previously serving as president of the law school's Alumni Association Board of Directors.



"It's certainly a great honor to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, representing my community and the Department of Justice at this level. Perhaps next to serving as a U.S. Marine, both in peace and wartime, nothing gives me greater pride than serving my country as a U.S. attorney at this time in our history. I'm grateful for the education I received at FSU College of Law, which prepared me well for this meaningful position."

Profile: Celebrating 2023 Grad Ashley Cevere

This fall, 2023 FSU Law graduate Ashley Cevere will begin a two-year fellowship with Immigrant Justice Corps in New York City, where she will work on immigrant removal defense. During law school, Cevere was the social justice chair of the Black Law Students Association and an associate justice of the supreme court of the FSU Student Government Association. Cevere also won the 2021 Wayne Hogan Intramural Mock Trial Competition and was a member of the FSU Law Trial Team. She was a semi-finalist in the 2022 MLK Civil Rights Trial Competition. Cevere was a recipient of the Garnet and Gold Scholarship and the Public Interest Scholarship, along with several other scholarships, and she was a 2022 Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation summer fellow. We wish Cevere all the best in her new role and look forward to celebrating her future accomplishments!

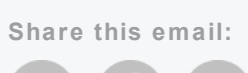


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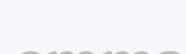
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