



FSU LAW

Focus

October 6,
2023

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From the Dean

Congratulations to Kelli Alces Williams, our Matthews & Hawkins professor of property and associate dean for academic affairs, on her election to the American Law Institute (ALI)! Election into ALI is an extremely prestigious honor, bestowed on the nation's most prominent judges, lawyers, and law professors. The institute is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law. Williams' selection signifies her important contributions to the legal profession and legal scholarship, and FSU Law now has six faculty members serving as ALI members. FSU Law's other members include me, Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts and Associate Dean for Technology Shawn Bayern, Steven M. Goldstein Professor Wayne Logan, Sheila M. McDevitt Professor Michael Morley, and Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Don Weidner. About her election, Williams said, "It is an honor to be able to participate in the very important work the ALI does in areas of law that I care deeply about."

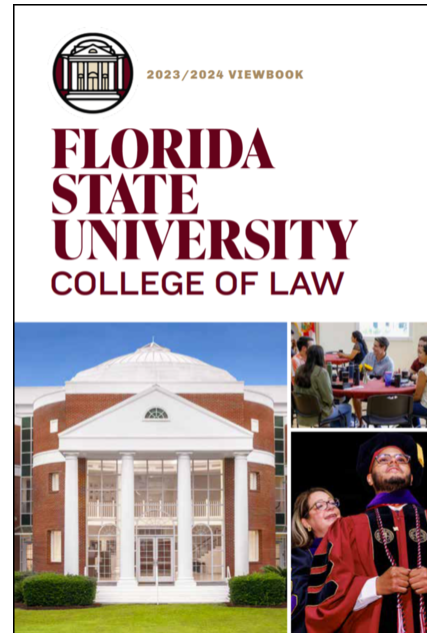


Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

New Viewbook for Prospective Students Available

FSU College of Law's **newly revamped Viewbook** for prospective students is available on the FSU Law website! Those considering law school can view the publication online or request a physical copy to be sent to them. The Viewbook provides insights into the College of Law's academic and clinical programs, the wide range of student support services, and the many advantages of choosing FSU for law school. For any inquiries beyond what is covered in the Viewbook, the College of Law's admissions team stands ready to assist. Prospective students may **arrange tours of the law school**, participate in online and nationwide **recruitment events**, or directly reach out to the **Admissions Office**. FSU Law also encourages alumni and friends to speak with those in their networks who are interested in pursuing law school about the many opportunities available to FSU College of Law students.



Alum Profile: Dana C. Matthews ('81)

Dana C. Matthews is managing partner at Matthews & Jones in Destin, Florida. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation, residential and commercial real estate development, land use permitting, finance structuring, condominium projects, bank representation, business organization, and business consulting. He represents real estate development clients from land acquisition to closing and beyond. Matthews is a past president of the Okaloosa-Walton Bar Association and a member of the American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, and Florida Justice Association. He previously served on the Okaloosa-Walton County Florida Bar Grievance Committee, and he is a member of the First Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission. Matthews also is a former member of the FSU College of Law Board of Visitors. Married to Patricia Marie Matthews for 41 years, Matthews has five grown children and five grandchildren.



“I moved back home to our beautiful barrier island and sleepy fishing village of Destin in 1983. Over the past 40 years, I have had the opportunity to participate in exponential population growth, economic development, preservation of natural resources, and the creation of one of the world’s first-class tourist destinations. My family and law firm have been blessed during this time and are proud to have shared in collaborative efforts with our neighbors to mold this island into a truly great place to live, work, and play. Come join us!”

Student Profile: 3L Maxwell Holleman

Desired Practice Location: South Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Tax law or mergers and acquisitions

Maxwell “Max” Holleman is from the metropolitan Detroit area. He attended Evangel University for his undergraduate studies and graduated summa cum laude, with the highest grade point average in the social sciences department, with a B.S in political science. He will graduate from FSU Law this spring with a Business Law Certificate in addition to his J.D. Holleman is currently an extern with the U.S.

District Court for the Northern District of Florida, working under the supervision of Magistrate Judge Martin Fitzpatrick ('94). In this role, Holleman has drafted orders for the court, observed several jury trials, and proofread recommendations and reports. Holleman is also a teaching/instructional assistant for the College of Law’s Juris Master Program. During the summer before his 3L year, Holleman was a summer associate with Morgan & Morgan, P.A. in Jacksonville, where he completed research assignments and drafted litigation documents, including complaints, discovery requests, responses to motions for



summary judgment, responses to motions to dismiss, and various legal memoranda. He also participated in four civil jury trials. During the summer after his 1L year, Holleman worked as a law clerk for Crary Buchanan in Stuart, Florida, and he continued to work remotely for the firm throughout his 2L year. In that role, he worked on research assignments and drafted litigation documents, including complaints, answers, discovery requests, motions for summary judgment, and motions to dismiss.

At FSU Law, Holleman is the executive notes and comments editor for the FSU Law Review and a staff editor for the FSU Business Review. He is also a member of the Trial Team, and his team placed second in the 2022 All-Star Bracket Challenge. Additionally, Holleman competed for the Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society in the 2022 Tulane Professional Basketball Negotiation Competition. Earlier this year, Holleman attended the 2023 Florida Bar Business Law Section Retreat in Naples, Florida, as a business law section scholar. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Holleman after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at msh21f@fsu.edu.

“I have participated in many challenging tasks during my time at FSU with the hope of learning new skills and preparing myself for the future. These valuable experiences and my work history will allow me to make an immediate impact at any law firm.”

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