



FSU LAW

Focus

December 1,
2023

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From the Dean

Last month, FSU College of Law Professor and D’Alemberte Chair in Constitutional Law Alexander Tsisis (pictured) co-hosted the Fourteenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium in Chicago with Professor Barry Sullivan, of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Professor Tsisis developed the colloquium more than a decade ago to gather scholars who work on cutting-edge concepts on constitutional matters. The 2023 colloquium featured a keynote speech by Harvard Law School’s Vicki C. Jackson and more than 100 presentations by top legal scholars from around the world, including FSU Law Professors Jacob Eisler and Tsisis. Among the subjects presented and discussed this year were comparative constitutionalism, separation of powers, effective governance, free speech and responsibilities, sex discrimination and inequality, democratic erosion, judicial institutions, election law, hate speech, and fundamental rights. We are delighted that FSU will host the 2024 colloquium in Tallahassee.



Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Four Students Serving as Gubernatorial Fellows



Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Class XIX

We are excited to announce that the nine-member Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Class XIX includes four FSU Law students! As fellows, students receive advanced on-the-job training and a glimpse into the inner workings of government as they fulfill roles of critical responsibility, interact closely with the state's top leaders, and apply their skills and abilities in a rewarding environment. Congratulations to 3L Connor Salliotte (fourth from left), working at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission; 2L Nicole Finkel (second from left), working at the Florida Department of Management Services; 3L Cristen Chandler Mejia (far right), working at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; and 2L Michael Bartnick (fourth from right), working in the Executive Office of the Governor. These students are making FSU Law proud through their service and accomplishments.

Alum Profile: Marcelo Llorente ('01)

Marcelo Llorente is founding and managing partner at Marcelo Llorente, P.A., in Miami. He focuses on public finance, government, and public policy law, assisting clients with a wide variety of issues in the areas of government law and procurement, public-private partnerships, public finance, regulatory matters, emergency management, community relations, business development, and communications. He also advises companies seeking to navigate business opportunities at the local, state, and national levels. Llorente has been practicing law for over twenty-two years, the first ten of which were spent at Bryant Miller Olive. He also served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2002-2010. During his legislative service, Llorente held several leadership positions, including chairman of the Full Appropriations Council on General Government and Health Care. In 2019, he served on Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' Transition Team as a member of the Advisory Committee on Government Operations. He has also served in leadership roles for many Miami-area political campaigns. Llorente is a member of the Cuban American Bar Association and The Florida Bar's Section on Local Government, is a graduate of Leadership Florida (Class XXVII), serves on the board of directors of Easterseals of South Florida, and is on the Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs Dean's Advisory Council.



Student Profile: 3L Natalia Rivera-Pacheco

Desired Practice Location: Miami, Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Public interest; would like to practice criminal law or immigration law

Natalia Rivera-Pacheco is from Jacksonville, Florida, and she completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Florida, earning degrees in international studies and social work. During the summer before her 3L year, Rivera-Pacheco was a summer law clerk at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer P.A., in Miami, where she prepared deposition questions and summaries,



drafted motions, reviewed and summarized medical records, and participated in depositions and trials. In the fall of her 2L year, Rivera-Pacheco was a law clerk with the Florida Public Service Commission. In that role, she prepared legal memoranda, drafted orders and recommendations for the commission, and conducted legal research. Rivera-Pacheco participated as a student advocate in the Children's Advocacy Clinic at FSU Law during the summer before her 2L year. Her work included interviewing clients to better advocate on their behalf, drafting motions and questions for direct and cross examinations, and attending trials and judicial reviews.

At FSU Law, Rivera-Pacheco previously served as PR chair of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and as 1L representative for the Trafficking in America Task Force. Rivera-Pacheco is fluent in Spanish. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring her after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at nr20bv@fsu.edu.

“I am grateful for my time at FSU Law and believe my education combined with my experience has prepared me to become a caring and coherent lawyer. I look forward to using my skills to help others and make a difference!”

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