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From the Dean

We are delighted to announce that Ambassador David Scheffer will present our 2024 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights during the spring semester.

Please plan to join us Thursday, February 29, at 4 p.m., when Ambassador Scheffer will present "The Future of International Criminal Justice" at FSU Law. Ambassador Scheffer was the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues (1997-2001) and was instrumental in the



creation of five international or hybrid criminal tribunals, including leading the U.S. delegation to the U.N. talks creating the International Criminal Court. You can [learn more about him and the 2024 lecture on our website](#). In addition, you can find a recording of the 2023 lecture, featuring Former General Counsel of the U.S. Navy Alberto J. Mora, and download a copy of his remarks. You can also [request a printed copy of the 2023 remarks online](#). Registration for the 2024 lecture will be available in the new year, but please save the date now so you can join us for what promises to be a riveting event.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

New Judicial Network for Alumni



Alumna Judge Wendy Berger ('93), of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, spoke to FSU Law students during the spring 2023 semester.

FSU Law is creating a judicial network for FSU Law judges to connect with each other and to allow other law school alumni, students, faculty members, and administrators to connect with our graduates on the bench. We aim to ensure that “honorable” alumni are recognized as such, so all alumni who currently or previously served as judges are encouraged to join the network. To join, please send your full name (last, middle, first), court affiliation and title, and business contact information (physical address, e-mail address, phone number) to alumni@law.fsu.edu. If you would like to volunteer to serve as an ambassador for the group, please include that information in your email submission. We also invite you to submit class notes, photos, or other information about your achievements that may be used in various law school publications.

Alum Profile: Jeanne N. Curtin ('01)

Jeanne Curtin is the policy chief for the Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee with the Florida House of Representatives and is also the attorney for the Select Committee on Hurricane Resiliency & Response. She serves as chair of the National Board of Directors of the Florida State University Alumni Association, for which she has

served in several other leadership roles. Curtin previously was CEO and founder of Curtin Consulting Group, director of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs' Livable Florida initiative, deputy general counsel at the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, and assistant dean for development at FSU Law. Curtin remains extremely engaged with the College of Law; she currently serves on the Board of Visitors, has coached Moot Court teams, and, with her College of Law alumnus husband, established a scholarship to recruit top students to the law school. In October 2023, Curtin was inducted into the FSU Alumni Association Circle of Gold in recognition of her service and achievements. In addition to her law degree, Curtin earned a bachelor's degree and an MBA from Florida State University.



“Serving as the water policy chief and my work with the Select Committee at the Florida House is fascinating! Ensuring safe, clean, sufficient water for generations of Floridians, as well as continually improving our response to and recovery from hurricanes, tend to be areas where people come together. Serving as chair of the National Board of Directors of the FSU Alumni Association is such an honor and so much fun. My fellow directors are incredibly talented and committed to FSU; it is the best board on which I have ever served.”

Student Profile: 3L Abby Merrill

Desired Practice Location: Texas, specifically in

Dallas/Fort Worth or Austin

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Commercial litigation in the area of energy law (specifically oil and gas law), intellectual property law, or real estate law



Abby Merrill, from Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, earned her bachelor's degree in political science with a pre-professional legal studies concentration and minors in criminal justice and philosophy from Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Merrill graduated summa cum laude and earned departmental honors in political science. In January 2022, Merrill began working for Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., and has worked for the firm as a law clerk and twice as a summer associate. She currently works remotely as a law clerk for the firm. Her responsibilities in both roles have included drafting interrogatories, answers to complaints, and a wide variety of motions. She has also analyzed construction contracts and home owners' association declarations for breach of contract and indemnity issues. Merrill has conducted legal research on various types of law, including insurance defense, personal injury, insurance, construction, contracts, premises liability, negligent security, admiralty law, and general negligence, and she has attended hearings, depositions, mediations, and arbitrations. She has prepared letters and written documents to insurance adjusters on findings and assisted with litigation defense strategies. During the spring semester of her 2L year, Merrill was a legal extern with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida, where she conducted legal research; observed criminal trials and criminal motion hearings; drafted responses to motions to suppress, prosecution memoranda, and memoranda of law; and revised appellate briefs.

At FSU Law, Merrill is a member and social media chair of the Moot Court Team. She competed in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition in March 2023, and will compete in the Frank A. Schreck Gaming Law Moot Court Competition in March 2024. She is also a staff editor for the Florida State University Law Review and the Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law. She served as internal vice president of the Trafficking in America Task Force during her 2L year, is a current member of the Federalist Society, and formerly was a pupil of The First District Appellate American Inn of Court. Merrill was also formerly a student advisory board member for the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. Merrill is a law student member of the Dallas Bar Association and Texas Bar Association. As an undergraduate student, she was a four-year NCAA Division I athlete on her university's field hockey team. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Merrill after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at adm20cc@fsu.edu.

“As a first-generation college and law student, I am

grateful for my enriching experiences at FSU Law, where I've been challenged and equipped with practical experience in litigation and invaluable opportunities in oral advocacy. These experiences have significantly shaped my legal aspirations, and I am enthusiastic about applying the acquired skills and knowledge in my future legal career.”

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