



FSU LAW

Focus

January 26,
2024

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From the Dean

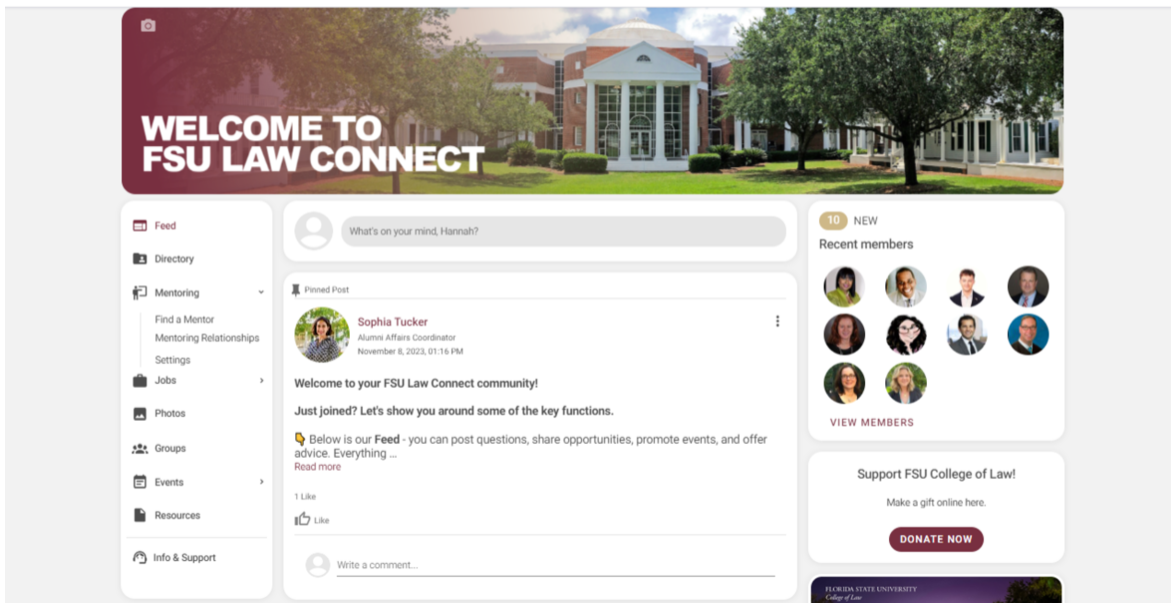
For the second consecutive year, an article by Fred Abbott, our Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, has been nominated for an Antitrust Writing Award, which honors the best antitrust writings by academics, lawyers, competition agencies, and students. The annual awards are organized by Concurrences and George Washington University. Professor Abbott's article, "Prosecuting Excessive Pricing of Pharmaceuticals under Competition Law:



Evolutionary Development," was one of 400 articles submitted in the academic category and is nominated in the subcategory of Unilateral Conduct. Voting is taking place now, and award winners will be announced in April. You can [read Professor Abbott's article and learn more](#) about the awards on the Antitrust Writing Awards website. Congratulations to Professor Abbott on his nomination! We are very proud to have such an accomplished, internationally respected scholar on our faculty.

Dean Erin O'Connor

Alumni Invited to Join FSU Law Connect



We are excited to announce the launch of [FSU Law Connect](#), a new digital engagement platform exclusively for the College of Law community. The platform allows alumni to make connections and maintain existing connections with other FSU Law community members and to keep informed about FSU Law news, activities, and events. Upon registering to join the platform, you will gain access to exclusive FSU Law Connect community features, which include the ability to post to a community feed, search directories, sign up for mentoring, and much more! Any questions about the platform can be directed to [Becky Shepherd](#) and [Sophia Tucker](#) in the Alumni Affairs & Development Office.

Alum Profile: Laura McDonald Dennis ('11)

Laura McDonald Dennis has joined FSU Law as a legal writing professor. She is teaching Professional Responsibility this semester and will begin teaching Legal Writing and Research during the fall 2024 semester. Dennis previously was senior counsel at Radey Law Firm, where she practiced primarily in the areas of administrative law, corporate litigation, and civil litigation. Her experience also includes serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Patricia C. Fawsett of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Dennis is engaged in the local legal community through her membership in Tallahassee Women Lawyers, for which she serves as treasurer, and the William H. Stafford Inn of Court. Dennis also has served as a coach for the



and the William H. Stafford Inn of Court. Dennis also has served as a coach for the

FSU Law Moot Court Team for the past two years. Dennis earned her bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University and graduated magna cum laude from FSU College of Law in 2011. During law school, Dennis served on the editorial board of the Florida State University Law Review.

“I am honored and excited to be joining the incredible faculty at FSU. Legal research and writing play pivotal roles in the legal profession, serving as the foundation for effective communication, analysis, and advocacy. I am eager to help cultivate these essential skills in the next generation of legal minds.”

Student Profile: 3L Tyler Koch

Desired Practice Location: Tampa

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Tax law

Tyler Koch is from Macomb, Michigan, and he completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and graduated summa cum laude. During the summer before his 3L year, Koch was a summer associate with Banker Lopez Gassler P.A. in Tampa, where he conducted legal research, drafted memoranda, and assisted with trial preparation for civil cases.

He also attended trials, oral arguments, depositions, and mediations, and he drafted motions, proposed orders, and cross-claims. He gained experience in a variety of practice areas, including insurance defense, product liability, construction, wrongful death, and professional malpractice litigation. From May 2022 to May 2023, Koch was a law clerk with the Orlando office of Banker Lopez Gassler P.A., where he was assigned to an attorney and tasked with managing service emails, reviewing the attorney's case management order deadlines, and drafting affidavits in high-volume insurance defense cases related to windshield glass litigation. Koch also attended depositions and case management conferences. From October 2019 through the end of his 1L year, Koch was a project coordinator with BI Worldwide, working as a self-



employed independent contractor coordinating events with companies such as John Deere, IBM, Coca-Cola, and Grainger. His work included providing creative input, client relations, and logistics coordination, and he submitted paperwork to clients' legal teams for feedback and approval. Additionally, Koch edited multiple commercials to be used by clients, oversaw the planning and implementation of virtual events, and procured music licenses for corporate and charitable events.

At FSU Law, Koch has served as a staff editor for the Florida State University Law Review during his 2L and 3L years. He has also assisted the FSU Law Moot Court Team twice as an assistant brief writer. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Koch after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at tjk21@fsu.edu.

“My non-traditional undergraduate experience and path to law school have given me the opportunity to work in multiple areas, including opera theater, corporate event planning, and as a law clerk with Banker Lopez Gassler. This has allowed me to work in highly collaborative teams that required thinking on my feet with considerable individual responsibility.”

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