

# FLORIDA STATE LAW

HONORING OUR MOOT COURT CHAMPIONS



## Moot Court Champions, Bill VanDercreek and the Job Market



### Honoring This Year's Moot Court Champions

The smiling faces on the cover of this issue are those of the wonderful student advocates on our Moot Court Team who have taken us to a year of unprecedented Moot Court victories. These students and their victories are impressive in many ways. They have brought home the gold in competitions covering a wide range of substantive areas, from corporate law to constitutional law. They have been victorious over teams from top schools that hailed from across the nation and around the world. They won first place in the Kaufman Memorial Securities Law Competition, held at Fordham Law School in New York City, the George Washington University Religious Freedom Competition, held in Washington, D.C., the Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Competition, held at Albany Law School in Albany, New York, and the Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition in Constitutional Law, held in Charleston, South Carolina. Last but by no means least, they won the Manfred Lachs International Space Law Moot Court Competition, held in Cape Town, South Africa, after beating Georgetown University for the right to represent North America.

Not pictured are the many coaches who have worked so hard to nurture the students to victory or the many faculty members who have critiqued briefs, judged practice rounds and otherwise taught and mentored the students. In particular, Moot Court Faculty Advisor Nat Stern must be mentioned. Nat spends endless hours with the Moot Court students, advising and inspiring them as an organization and as individuals. Make no mistake about it – it is under Nat's leadership that the Moot Court Team has risen to new heights. We are all in Nat's debt.

### Bill VanDercreek

So, too, shall we always be in the debt of Bill VanDercreek, who passed this February of cancer. The story in this issue tells some of the tale of many of the alums who are grateful former students of Bill's. Prominent among them are those who served on the Moot Court Team, which Bill founded. Wherever I have gone to visit alums over the years, the stories were always the same. Bill opened up his heart and his wallet

to encourage the students to train and to compete and gave them the money they needed to do so. The alumni stories always remind me of my own first taste of Bill's generosity when I first came to the law school as a young visiting professor. On numerous occasions, Bill and Kay opened their home to Jiji and me to welcome us to their family and friends, the law school and Tallahassee. Like so many alumni, I'll never forget Bill's kindness.

It is hard to believe that Bill retired almost 20 years ago, in 1993. Bill always kept the law school a part of his life. He and Nat Stern became close collaborators as the baton of Moot Court Team Faculty Advisor passed from Bill to Nat. Until the very end, Bill never missed an Annual Moot Court Banquet, where an award in his honor is always presented to an outstanding student. Bill also donated generously to help endow a professorship that now bears his name. Alumni came from around the nation to attend Bill's memorial service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee. Chuck Ehrhardt, Joe Jacobs and John Yetter did wonderful jobs celebrating Bill's life and thanking him for all of us.

### The Job Market

I conclude with another word of thanks and with a request. First, I thank all of you alums who have worked hard to bring clerking and other employment opportunities to our students. Thanks primarily to engaged and helpful alumni, recent graduates have been extremely successful in terms of job placement. Because only 10-15% of the jobs that new law graduates obtain are from on-campus interviewing, our success reflects that many of you are helping our students in a wide variety of ways, from serving as Placement Mentors to conducting videoconference interviews from remote locations to coming to campus to meet with the students. My simple request: please keep it coming. We cannot succeed as an institution without strong alumni involvement. If you have any questions about how you might get involved, please call me directly.

Sincerely,

**Don Weidner**

*Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor*

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# Moot Court Students Bring Home the Gold – A Record Five Times!

By Christi N. Morgan



Front row: (L-R) Alex Haddad, Tanya Cronau, James VanLandingham, Lynn Guery, Chelsea England and Whitney Brummett  
Back row: (L-R) Faculty Advisor Nat Stern, Brenden Soucy, Sara Huff, Elliott Smith, Amanda Gibson and Ashley DiNunzio

**W**hen Florida State's Moot Court Team began the spring competition season in February, students were still on cloud nine following the team's world championship in October 2011. The team didn't have to wait long to capture another first-place title to add to its long string of national championships.

The first pair of students to compete, Alexandra "Alex" Haddad ('12) and

Elliott Smith ('12), placed first in the Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition on February 4 in Charleston, South Carolina. Smith also brought home another prestigious honor when he was named Best Oralist for the competition's championship rounds.

"We went up against some really tough teams," said Smith. "In the fi-

nal round, we had a panel of seven distinguished judges. We argued for the Respondent. Alex skillfully set the tone as usual, and I argued last. The judges started out really 'hot.' Then about half way through, we were feeling pretty good about our chances. I found a rhythm in the argument, and it felt like the seas calmed."

Not to be outdone by their team-

**“Moot Court,” continued from page 2**

mates, the following weekend, Amanda Gibson ('12) and Sara Huff ('12) won the George Washington Religious Freedom Moot Court Competition at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

“We weren’t sure if we were supposed to yell and scream and hug, so we just politely smiled at each other and tried to be gracious,” said Huff about the announcement that Florida State had won. “It was later on in our hotel room that we did a little happy dance and got to celebrate.”

On February 25, the winning streak continued when Whitney Brummett ('12) and Chelsea England ('12) placed first in the Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Competition at Albany Law School in Albany, New York. And on March 25, Ashley DiNunzio ('12), Brenden Soucy ('13) and James VanLandingham ('13) won the team’s final major competition of the year. They placed first in the Kaufman Memorial Securities Law Moot Court Competition at Fordham Law School in New York, New York.

“We had an esteemed final round panel,” said DiNunzio about a judging panel that included Commissioner Troy A. Paredes, of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and judges from five United States Circuit Courts of Appeals, including Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, of the Ninth Circuit, and Judge Richard A. Posner, of the Seventh Circuit. “I think that they talked 75 percent of the time. It was difficult to get a word in, and when you got a word in, you had to make sure it was something that was prepared and that it was something they would un-



(L-R) Brenden Soucy ('13), James VanLandingham ('13) and Ashley DiNunzio ('12)

derstand because if not, you knew that they would jump all over you. It was one of the best experiences of my life and I wouldn’t change that for anything.”

Moot Court Team members give much of the credit for this year’s record five championships – the most won by the team in any year – to faculty advisor Nat Stern.

“Nat Stern is absolutely one of the reasons why we are so successful,” said Huff, who served as the team’s president this past year. “He is always thinking ahead and he really does care about us. We always joke that he never sleeps, but I don’t think he can. He is a renowned constitutional scholar, he teaches and he gives all this attention and dedication to the Moot Court Team. He sits on as many panels as he can and he will sit and talk to people about the constitutional issues in their problems at length; he’s always available.”

“Each step of the way, whenever you

have a question about anything Moot Court related, he is happy to answer it,” said DiNunzio about Stern. “He gives everyone his cell phone number, his house number, his e-mail.”

Always one to give recognition where it is due, Stern believes his talented students and a long list of others deserve kudos for the team’s accomplishments.

“Of course, the central reason for the Team’s success is the superb talent and unflagging dedication of its members,” said Stern. “Faculty, practitioners and judges also are absolutely crucial to the success of the Team. And the program benefits immensely from Dean Weidner’s unwavering support of the Team.

“Many of my colleagues over the years have been extremely generous with their time and expertise in serving as coaches, practice panelists, or both. The same holds true for local practitioners and judges. For example,

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“Moot Court,” continued from page 3



(L-R) Elliott Smith ('12) and Alex Haddad ('12)



(L-R) Chelsea England ('12) and Whitney Brummett ('12)



(L-R) Amanda Gibson ('12) and Sara Huff ('12)

Tallahassee attorney Arthur Stern (no relation) has an extraordinary record of coaching championship teams. I think it's also worth noting that Moot Court alumni have often been quite active in 'giving back' to the Team. Hal Mardenborough ('92), himself a Moot Court champion, has frequently coached teams and sat on practice panels. Likewise, Clay Adkinson ('06), also a Moot Court champion, has driven from DeFuniak Springs on numerous occasions to serve as a legendarily prepared practice judge. A number of our national championship teams have been coached by judges of the First DCA.”

This year, First DCA Judge James Wolf coached the winning team to victory in the Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition. In addition to Wolf, the coaches for this year's championship teams were: Tallahassee attorney Arthur Stern, III, who coached the world championship team and one national championship team; Professor Steve Johnson; Professor Kelli Alces and Professor Emeritus Barbara Banoff.

The team's method of competition preparation is tried and true. The sum-

mer before each competition season, Stern asks team members to communicate preferences for competitions and teammates.

“With this information as a starting point, I then confer with individual members to match them with congenial competitions and partners,” said Stern. “Once the teams are formed, I then approach colleagues, judges and practitioners to serve as coaches. Many of these, as you'd expect, have coached before. Judge Wolf of the First DCA plays a major role in this process. Not only is he a highly successful coach but he's also been instrumental in encouraging the involvement of his colleagues in the Moot Court program.”

Judge Wolf and his wife, JoLen Rawls Wolf, also support the team financially.

Once competition teams are assembled, paired with judges and assigned to competitions, students turn their attention to brief writing.

“Because our outstanding Legal Writing faculty members train our students in the fundamentals of oral and written appellate advocacy,” said Stern, “new members are able to hit the

ground running in their preparation for competition.”

“Professor Stern emphasizes submitting a high-quality brief,” said Smith. “Every year he has a kind of mini-course for the team on brief writing skills. This isn't something that a faculty sponsor has to do – but he is interested in encouraging us to work on the substance of our arguments – the intellectual and legal foundations of what you say, not only how you say it. The result is that Moot Court helps you become a better brief writer.”

“This year there was a commitment among team members to pay attention to their brief writing and to start early, to edit a lot and to work closely with their partner to make sure the entire brief fit together as one coherent piece because we do write it separately,” said Huff.

After their briefs are refined and submitted, students begin the oral argument phase of preparation.

“You are required to have eight oral argument practice panels,” explained Smith, who also was a legislative intern with the Florida House of Representatives during his 3L year. “You'll have

**“Moot Court,” continued from page 4**

three to four panelists on each one, who represent members of the Moot Court Team as well as lawyers, judges and professors. We’re really fortunate being in Tallahassee, where we have access to so many lawyers, judges and legal professionals. You come out of those eight panels very prepared for tough questions because you’ve had to respond to so many different perspectives on the case.”

“The way our program is structured is unlike any other school,” said Di-Nunzio. “If we didn’t have such great panelists asking us tough questions and pushing us on points of case law, we would not have been as successful at our competition.”

Perhaps another reason why the team has been so successful is that the students have a special bond.

“We operate as a team of 30, even though we compete in teams of two or three,” said Huff. “Even while you are getting ready for your competition, you are sitting on other teammates’ panels for their competition. We enjoy each other’s company; it just seems to work out that way. I think the personality that is most suited for moot court tends to be an outgoing, social, friendly, smart personality, so we have a team of 30 people who actually like each other and who enjoy spending time together. A lot of my best girlfriends are on the team and we are all going to travel together after graduation.”

According to Huff, that camaraderie is especially helpful when the team is preparing for tryouts, which it was doing at the time she was interviewed for this article.

“It’s going to be three straight days of bonding time,” joked Huff about the intensity of the tryout process. “We

really do enjoy it. We enjoy seeing the 1Ls and the new talent. It is a very fun time for our team.”

Stern commends students for their efforts during the annual tryouts. “The Team deserves enormous credit for the energy and professionalism with which it approaches the selection of new members. The tryouts entail painstaking review of a large number of student briefs and careful assessment of an even larger number of oral arguments. The Team’s extraordinary record of success in competition attests to how seriously and capably it conducts this process.”

“We are laying the foundation for the future success of the Moot Court Team,” said Smith about tryouts. “I remember going through tryouts. The team grills you for three days straight. All of the things that help us win – substance of the argument, strong brief writing and cultivating that comfortable, but formal tone for oral arguments – they all start in tryouts.”

Smith, who credits the team with getting him out of his comfort zone, had to be pushed by his Legal Writing professor to audition for the team. “I was hardly comfortable talking in class when I first came to law school. Moot Court gets you comfortable standing on your feet and communicating clearly to people who, to put it simply, might not be buying what you are selling at first.”

“I think that all of our graduating members are able to say that they are better writers and better oral advocates than they were before they started the team,” said Huff. “And I think that is our greatest asset and probably one of the greatest gifts that we give to students professionally.” ■

## Additional 2012 Accolades

### Best Oralist Award Winners:

Matt Daley ('12), Pepperdine Entertainment Law Competition

Brett Miller ('12), William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Invitational Moot Court Competition

Elliott Smith ('12), Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition

Trevor Smith ('13), Pace Environmental Law Competition

### Best Brief Award Winners:

Molly Drake ('12) and Tara Price ('12), J. Braxton Craven Memorial Constitutional Law Competition

Nick Horton ('13) and Seth Welner ('12), George Washington National Security Law Competition

Ashley Hoffman ('13) and Kendra McCann ('13), Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, North American region

# Tammy de Soto Cicchetti: Creativity Runs in the Family

By Christi N. Morgan



PHOTOGRAPH BY DINA IVORY PHOTOGRAPHY

Cicchetti with some of the portrait proofs painted by her grandfather.

If working as a classically trained musician was a lucrative profession, Tammy de Soto Cicchetti probably would never have become an attorney. The granddaughter of a former personal pianist for Cuba’s Fulgencio Batista, Cicchetti started playing music at age 4. Before her teen years were finished, she had learned how to play 14 different instruments.

Cicchetti was so accomplished that during her senior year of high school, she was selected for a spot on a renowned Congressional Symphony.

“The United States Senate had developed a goodwill program for Europe and they chose two high school graduates from each state to form a symphony to travel through Europe for a three-month period and I was selected to represent Florida,” said Cicchetti. “I graduated from high school and packed my bags and went to Europe. We played in every city imaginable and in every country imaginable – two concerts a night. We played a concert for the wealthy, aristocratic royalty and then we performed a concert for everyone else. During the last week of the tour, we played with the London Symphony and I had an opportunity to conduct the London Symphony for one entire piece.”

When Cicchetti returned home and conveyed to her father that she wanted to pursue music for her career, he convinced her to take another path.

“I said, ‘Dad, I had the most amazing



**“Cicchetti,” continued from page 6**

time and I am so passionate about this and I absolutely love it.’ And he said, ‘Let me make sure I understand this, you found something about which you are very, very passionate and that you really, really enjoy that makes you no money whatsoever.’ And I said, ‘Yes, sir.’ He said, ‘Honey, that is a hobby.’”

Luckily for Cicchetti’s clients, she withdrew from Julliard, enrolled at Florida State University as an undergraduate and set her sights on earning a law degree from Florida State.

Since graduating from law school in 1991, Cicchetti has built a strong reputation in the area of insurance litigation. Her work in the area began on the insurance defense side and she had her first successful jury trial at the age of 24. As her practice grew, she also began to represent plaintiffs.

“I represent insurance companies, I represent people who are insured by insurance companies and I represent people who are suing insurance companies or insureds of insurance companies – I work both sides of the insurance claims business,” said Cicchetti, who opened The Cicchetti Law Firm when she was 29 years old. “One of the roles that I have is in maneuvering claims through the insurance process. I’m either representing someone who has been injured and is suing the person they believe responsible or I represent the people that are being sued. I also represent the insurance companies when they are being sued for coverage or bad faith or contractual claims with regard to the policy of insurance.”

During the last several years, Cicchetti frequently is being retained as an expert witness, based on her extensive

insurance defense experience.

“I’m retained by both sides. My policy is, if I am reviewing a claim, I’m reviewing it objectively and my opinion will be what it is, regardless of who is footing the bill. Credibility is important.”

Cicchetti credits members of the supportive Tallahassee legal community with helping her grow as a lawyer. From mentors to former partners to judges to attorneys on the other side of the courtroom, Cicchetti has tried to learn as much as possible from others within the legal profession.

“You go to school on what other very capable trial lawyers do,” said Cicchetti, “either co-counseling with you or when they are opposing you. I have very, very good lawyers up against me all the time and there is always something to learn. The law allows for such creativity and such strategy. The longer you do it, the more creative I think you get about how you approach different problems and strategies.”

Being creative suits Cicchetti. Her grandmother also was an accomplished pianist and her father is a successful architect. In addition to playing the piano, Cicchetti’s grandfather was a highly sought-after oil portrait painter. His clients included Elizabeth Taylor, Clark Gable, Lucille Ball, European royal families and famous ballerinas.

“He had several studios and his publicist in Miami Beach introduced him to Mae West and she became very fond of my grandfather and she asked him to do her portrait,” said Cicchetti. “She loved the portrait so much, so she threw this big Hollywood party for the unveiling. He signed a number of clients that night

and it became the rage.” The walls of Cicchetti’s firm are lined with many of the portrait proofs, which were signed by their famous subjects as approval for the official portraits to be painted.

Other decorations in Cicchetti’s law office reveal her dedication to her co-workers, profession and country. There are photos of her staff at chili cook-offs, letters of appointment to prestigious national Republican Party groups and a Judicial Nominating Commission and flags displayed in honor of a key employee who will be deployed overseas at the beginning of June. His job will be held for him, during what is expected to be at least a year tour.

Although her loyalties pull her in many different directions, Cicchetti maneuvers her schedule adeptly.

“I am a mom of two, my parents live here in town, I’ve been married 22 years, and I’ve got a busy firm to run,” said Cicchetti. “My calendar – it is still handwritten because I couldn’t possibly get it all into my iPhone – has one color for the kids and one color for personal household things and another color for the office and my cases and another color for things that I am doing to help my parents. In the middle of that, every now and then, is a stolen little lunch with one of my girlfriends, who are all in the same boat as I am with kids and busy schedules.”

As a woman with so many diverse talents, and much like a symphony conductor, Cicchetti appears to balance everything she touches with the kind of grace and beauty that make her unique story one worthy of a standing ovation. ■

# Clay B. Adkinson: Every Day in Court and Community

By Christi N. Morgan



**D**ecember 2005 graduate Clay B. Adkinson relishes the fact that he rarely has a boring day. Busy, diverse days are common when you are a partner at a growing, two-man law firm that handles a wide variety of criminal law and family law cases, and counts numerous governmental entities as clients as well. Each day is different, including activities that range from taking depositions and attending government meetings to drafting pleadings and appearing in court. Adkinson, who

practices at the Adkinson Law Firm in DeFuniak Springs, knew even during law school that he wanted a varied law practice.

“Going into law school, I felt like I wanted to have as much of a broad-based approach to law as I could – we do a lot of criminal law, family law, real estate, civil litigation, probate, wills and trusts,” said Adkinson, who also handles appellate cases for his clients. “As it is now, I’m in court virtually every day and usually multiple times a day in

various cases. That appealed to me – the opportunity to work with clients and be in court. What I felt like gave me the best opportunity to do that was a broad-based approach to the law in terms of what my practice areas would be.”

Adkinson credits joining his father’s firm with allowing him to quickly practice in a wide array of areas. It also has afforded him many opportunities he would not have otherwise experienced.

“Five months into practicing law, we were hired on a second degree murder case, and I was absolutely more involved with the case than as a mere research associate. I was co-counsel during all phases and worked on the case from start to finish,” said Adkinson, who appeared in court the day after he was sworn in as a member of The Florida Bar. “I love the amount of time that I actually get to spend in court. I value the interaction with people more than anything else. I like to be able to interact with clients, other attorneys, judges and jurors. The diversity of my practice allows me to do that frequently and on many different issues.”

One of the most valuable aspects of practicing with his father is being able to learn from his experience and insight.

“We eat lunch together almost every day, we talk about cases and constantly bounce ideas off of each other,” said Adkinson, who refers to his father as the finest attorney he knows. “I’ve greatly enjoyed that aspect of the practice and

**“Adkinson,” continued from page 8**

know that I am very fortunate. Having somebody you can turn to for advice, run questions and ideas by, and test legal argument with is incredibly helpful.”

Although criminal cases comprise the majority of his case load, public sector clients are an important component of Adkinson’s practice. The firm represents Walton County’s two largest cities – the City of DeFuniak Springs and the City of Freeport, as well as the Walton County Tourist Development Council, the Walton County Economic Development Alliance and the Walton County Board of County Commissioners.

Representing these entities is important to Adkinson, because it is one of the ways that he can work to support and improve Walton County. This endeavor is especially important to Adkinson, and his wife, Lauren, a fellow graduate of Florida State University, because they are raising a daughter, 3-year-old Isabella, in DeFuniak Springs. The Adkinsons also enjoy spending time in South Walton, the coastal area of Walton County, in the spring and summer months, and being close to the beach is one benefit Adkinson uses to encourage others to visit the area in which he grew up.

“Tourism is our biggest industry, so being involved in that, understanding how to promote and market South Walton, and how to separate ourselves from the other tourist destinations in Florida is important,” said Adkinson about his work with the Tourist Development Council. “Similarly with the Economic Development Alliance – how do we grow this area, how do we get people here, how do we get business here? – are questions that have to be addressed. While those are parts of my

**“I love the amount of time that I actually get to spend in court. I value the interaction with people more than anything else. I like to be able to interact with clients, other attorneys, judges and jurors. The diversity of my practice allows me to do that frequently and on many different issues.”**

law practice, both are also critical for helping my community.”

As a member of the law school community, Adkinson built upon his love for the courtroom by joining Florida State’s Moot Court Team. In 2005, he was part of the team that won the Dominick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Moot Court Competition. At that competition, he was also named Best Advocate, and followed that award by winning Best Oralist at the National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition later the same year. He remains engaged with the team, keeping in contact with faculty advisor Nat Stern and traveling to Tallahassee two or three times a year to serve on practice panels.

“I look at Moot Court as the most realistic law practice experience you can get in law school. You have to be able to research; to understand and analyze the facts and the law; and you have to be able to write and argue effectively and persuasively,” said Adkinson. “I love the opportunity to be able to come back and assist because I think it gives the students a great opportunity to see what they can do, and it’s a very different side of law school than a classroom setting.”

While Adkinson’s love for the courtroom can be attributed to watching his father practice and then being involved in Moot Court, Adkinson’s mother also was influential on her son’s professional

choices and comfort speaking to others.

“My mother was a school board member from the time I was in first grade until I graduated high school, and also was involved with the state school board association,” said Adkinson. “Seeing her involvement in that, I learned a lot from her, especially about the government and political world. Not to mention the exposure to public speaking that gave me. Being around it from an early age, I was always comfortable with public speaking, and that is a critical part of successful law practice.”

Throughout his life, family has always impacted Adkinson’s decisions.

“I was fortunate; I grew up with a lot of family around me. The family experience I came from, and my wife and daughter now, are what have shaped who I am, and how I practice law. Doing what I can to provide the best future for my daughter, and to give her every opportunity to succeed, is what matters the most to me,” said Adkinson. ■

# Christi Adams: The Pauline Revere of Dodd-Frank

By Christi N. Morgan



**A**s a national expert on Dodd-Frank’s consumer protection laws and the Truth in Lending Act, Christi Adams (’01) practices cutting-edge corporate law. The lone female partner in Foley & Lardner’s Orlando office spends her days counseling clients on Dodd-Frank and defending many of the nation’s largest financial institutions against consumer claims in federal court.

“There are never two days that are the same, ever,” said Adams, who clerked for Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Wells during her 3L year. “Although I am dealing with the same laws, how they apply in every situation is going to be different. In my mind, you can appear a lot smarter than you are just by knowing the law, because not a lot of people know it.”

Although Adams downplays the intricacies of her Dodd-Frank knowledge, it is obvious that she has mastered the nuances of the act Congress passed in 2010.

Recently, she spent two years traveling the United States to conduct arbitrations on behalf of one of the largest consumer banks in the world. At issue was the definition of a finance charge. To others outside of her business, that might not seem like an extremely important issue when you are looking at it for one consumer case, but to Adams’ clients, it could have an enormous impact.

**“If a bank is not in compliance, they have to change their policies for their millions of clients,” said Adams. “It becomes a huge issue for them.”**

“If a bank is not in compliance, they have to change their policies for their millions of clients,” said Adams. “It becomes a huge issue for them.”

Those who knew Adams as a young undergraduate student at Florida State might be surprised that she is a second-year partner at a national law firm. Her dream at the time was to work for the State Department’s Middle Eastern desk. To that end, she majored in political science, with a specialization in Middle Eastern relations. It wasn’t until a professor suggested she earn a law degree that Adams decided to apply to law school. Once she was enrolled at Florida State Law, Adams fell in love with courses such as Mergers & Acquisitions and Business Associations.

Adams’ extremely technical business law work suits her well. In addition to thriving in her business-related law courses, Adams worked her way through college as a tax and audit accountant for the Florida Department of Transportation.

“Interestingly enough, I audited and managed the joint participation agreements, which is when the Florida Department of Transportation was in an agreement with a city, county or the federal government on a project,” said Adams. “So when I came in and started working with the bank and we had participation agreement litigation, I immediately knew what participation agreements were and I knew how the accounting for participations worked. It’s been a big help, too, because I didn’t take accounting in college, I just learned on the job at DoT. It’s very beneficial now that I am a bank lawyer and all I do is deal with numbers. In fraud cases, I

**“I’ve always joked that I will have to wait until I’m in a financial position to retire to go for my final career goal in life, which is to become a federal district court judge, because federal court judges are way underpaid.”**

can spot fraudulent patterns in transactions pretty quickly.”

During law school, Adams naturally gravitated toward other students who had work experience.

Her close-knit study group still vacations together one or two times per year.

“This weekend, it’s our first trip for this year and we’re all going up to Steinhatchee,” said Adams in February. “Eleven years later we’re still meeting every year. We have a lot of fun.”

“I love to travel. I love going places I’ve never been before, so last year I went to Alaska for a week,” said Adams. “My favorite place in the whole world is North Carolina, because that is where my grandparents were from and where I spent all of my summers as a kid.”

In addition to traveling with and without her law school cohorts, Adams also spends much of her time away from the office socializing at political events. Her active involvement in Orlando’s Republican community even led to her relationship with her fiancé, Jeff Lawson, who currently is running for the Florida House of Representatives.

“Prior to dating him, I was general counsel for the Florida Federation of Young Republicans, so I attended numerous events on the weekends, and was able to meet people from all around the state.”

Like many of the people whose political events she attends, Adams hopes one day to be a public servant. She won’t

be campaigning, though.

“I’ve always joked that I will have to wait until I’m in a financial position to retire to go for my final career goal in life, which is to become a federal district court judge, because federal court judges are way underpaid,” said Adams. “When I look out maybe 15 years from now, that’s something I would like to do.” ■

# Legendary Professor Bill VanDercreek Passes Away



Bill VanDercreek

On February 20, Professor Emeritus Bill VanDercreek passed away in Tallahassee. When funeral services were held for the man referred to by a

former colleague as one who “shook life for all it was worth,” many Florida State Law graduates paid their respects.

“One of the striking things about his funeral,” said Emeritus Professor Chuck Ehrhardt, who spoke at the February 27 event, “was so many alums were here, not only from the state but around the country. In those early days, the litigators were very, very successful. Most of them were involved with Bill.”

“He was extremely generous of his time and treasure with the students and faculty,” said Emeritus Professor Joe Jacobs, who taught with VanDercreek for more than 25 years at the law school.

“He was just a wonderful man who left a very large footprint.”

VanDercreek visited the law school in 1968, its third year of existence. “We were all young faculty. Bill was an experienced, well-respected member of the Southern Methodist University faculty. Everybody was delighted that he would come for a visit and even more pleased that he would agree to stay permanently. He was a national expert in civil procedure and federal jurisdiction. But probably the most important thing that he brought with him was his love for moot court.”

Perhaps VanDercreek’s most lasting legacy on the law school was his creation and cultivation of the Moot Court Team. He established the team upon his arrival at the law school and served as the team’s adviser until his retirement in 1993. He gave lavishly of his time and personal resources to forge and sustain a tradition of excellence in appellate advocacy.

“Bill is the main reason that our school

can point to a record of extraordinary success in Moot Court competition,” said Professor Nat Stern, the current Moot Court Team advisor. “It’s amazing to me that while the law school was just beginning its third year of existence when Bill arrived, he was able to immediately launch a program that was competitive at the national level. The numerous championships of recent years can be traced directly to the culture of excellence that Bill created and sustained.

“He not only devoted countless hours to guiding our Moot Court teams, but also provided a great deal of financial support to the program. Whether it was hosting a crab claw party at his home or chipping in for travel expenses during a period when the law school lacked the resources that later became available, Bill was happy to give abundantly to the Team.”

Even after his retirement, VanDercreek’s leadership, guidance, generosity and enthusiasm continued to inspire members of the team. In recognition

## Alumni Remember VanDercreek

Upon learning of VanDercreek’s passing, numerous alumni shared memories of their beloved professor with the law school. Here are some of those messages.

*“What a loss!!! Professor Bill VanDercreek was fantastic!!!! I participated in the Comparative Policy Studies Program for Yugoslav American Studies – which Bill invited us to the program. As a student, I participated in the 1986 program with Judges, lawyers and law students – it was a great and rewarding experience on comparative law and constitutional law, and gaining a deeper understanding of the political and business communities. I have stated, on numerous occasion, that it was one of the best international programs in which I have participated. I always think of my time in Yugoslavia (pre-war) and remember so many of the people we met in Dubrovnik and Belgrade. Bill made it possible and I will always be grateful.*

— Amelia Rea Maguire ('87)

**“VanDercreek,” continued from page 12**

of his unparalleled contributions, the William VanDercreek Award is given annually to a Moot Court Team member for exemplary service to the team.

VanDercreek’s generosity extended beyond the Moot Court Team. In 2004, he gave \$50,000 to the law school. VanDercreek’s gift, in combination with gifts from alumni including Ken Connor ('72) and John Frost ('69), established the William & Catherine VanDercreek Professorship.

One reason why VanDercreek was probably so passionate about moot court is because he was an excellent advocate. His list of high-profile clients included Jack Ruby and treasure hunter Mel Fisher. And he continued to represent clients in the years before he passed away.

In addition to leading the Moot Court Team, VanDercreek also facilitated the law school’s Summer Program in Law at Oxford, in England, and the Comparative Policy Studies Program for Yugoslav American Studies, in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

“Bill was the law school representative for many years,” said Emeritus Professor John F. Yetter about the Yugoslavia program. “He developed a very close and friendly relationship



**Photo of 1978 Supreme Court Seminar students during a gourmet dinner held at VanDercreek’s home. Pictured from top to bottom, left to right are: Elizabeth J. Daniels ('79), Eduard J. de Guardiola ('78), The Honorable Stevan T. Northcutt ('78), unidentified male, unidentified female, Betty Anne (Palmer) Beavers ('78), John M. Conway ('78), Karen (Kinkennon) Specie ('78), F. James Manuel, Jr. ('78), Mary Lou Rajchel ('78) and Teresa J. Sopp ('78) (seated on floor)**

with quite a few very significant Yugoslavian scholars who participated in that program. It was a very successful program. The Florida State students who participated got a lot out of it. The classes themselves were educational, but also to see the life in Yugoslavia at that time was very interesting and different.”

“Everyone who went over there, they

learned a lot and they had a very, very good time,” said Jacobs.

VanDercreek’s passion for life extended outside of work. A loyal football fan, VanDercreek spent many fall Saturdays tailgating and numerous Sunday afternoons surrounded by friends in his basement recreation room.

*See “VanDercreek,” continued on page 45*

*“What a great man. I still remember fondly, his Recent Supreme Court Seminar where he fed the lucky few students in our group with interesting discussion and then the finest steak and stone crabs. He was always someone you could turn to and laugh with. He made the dry subject of Civil Procedure enjoyable with his tales of courtroom battles with the big guns of the time. There will never be another Professor VanDercreek.”*

— Charlotte Danciu ('80)

*“Thank you for informing us of the passing of a legend. All of us that served on Moot Court and all of us who were fortunate enough to take his classes will truly miss Professor VanDercreek. He also taught us that those who are blessed with much must give to help those in need and support our alma mater. We shall see him again in ‘the undiscovered country.’”*

— Matt Carter ('88)

*“He was a real gentleman and on his worst day, way smarter than the average bear.”*

— Tom Kirwin ('79)

# Tallahassee Attorneys Double Endowment for Scholarships



Tommy Warren and Kathy Villacorta

Florida State University College of Law alumni Tommy Warren, a 1974 graduate and prominent Tallahassee civil rights attorney, and his wife Kathy Villacorta, a 1977 graduate, have made an additional \$100,000 cash gift to the law school. The gift will expand and bolster the existing Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship, which the couple established in 2004 with a \$100,000 gift. The original gift was eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida, providing an additional \$50,000 for the permanent endowment. In recognition of the additional gift, the Admissions Office in the

law school's new Advocacy Center is named the Calvin Patterson Admissions Office. The Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship pays tribute to the university's first African-American football player, who Warren became close friends with while playing football and rooming together at Florida State. The scholarship will be used in general to enrich the law school and to provide internships and scholarships to College of Law students who have demonstrated a significant interest in and commitment to protecting and furthering the civil rights of women, African-Americans, and the LGBT community, including, but not limited to, in the areas of employment, health, voting, education, or housing and who are committed to a career in those fields.

"My friendship with Calvin had a profound impact on who I am personally and what I have done professionally,"

said Warren. "It is our hope that this scholarship will ensure that there are competent and committed attorneys willing to provide representation in all of the areas identified in the expanded endowed scholarship. We also hope the expansion of the Patterson Scholarship will encourage other law school alums to support these goals by contributing to the scholarship."

"We are all extremely grateful to Tommy and Kathy for their generosity and for their vision of a law school and legal system that serve all our citizens," said Dean Don Weidner.

Warren practices in Tallahassee, Florida, specializing in class action fair employment law.

**The Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship pays tribute to the university's first African-American football player, who Warren became close friends with while playing football and rooming together at Florida State.**



## Stearns Puts New Advocacy Center to Highest Possible Use



Eugene E. Stearns

Class of 1972 graduate Eugene E. “Gene” Stearns understands how important it is for senior lawyers to continue to stay abreast of opportunities in a rapidly changing world. A frequent lecturer on technology in the courtroom, Stearns advances a theme that most practicing courtroom lawyers understand: young lawyers are comfortable with technology but uncomfortable

in the courtroom; experienced lawyers are comfortable in the courtroom but uncomfortable with technology. The result, he says, is the growth of outside vendors who provide courtroom technology but at a cost that precludes use in most cases. That conundrum can be solved, Stearns says, if law students leave law school with the right skills that will make expensive vendors unnecessary.

During the spring of the last two years, Stearns has returned to the College of Law to teach Advanced Trial Practice, a course that focuses on higher-level trial preparation and advocacy skills relating to the law, tactics, methods and ethics of civil litigation, with particular emphasis on teaching technology-savvy law students skills that will provide them a huge advantage.

“Many years ago, I had the benefit of a partner who dragged

me kicking and screaming into the modern age,” Stearns said. “The result has been pioneering work in our firm on the in-house use of technology to present complex issues to juries and judges. Because we do it all in-house, we are able to use these tools in virtually every matter at a fraction of the cost charged by the outside services. Most importantly, because we use it all the time, it is a comfortable extension of our advocacy. What I have attempted to do in teaching trial advocacy is to help my students develop those same skills that will give them a huge advantage, both in the job market and in the courtroom.”

Stearns’ message fits perfectly with the state-of-the-art technology at the Advocacy Center.

Using the Advocacy Center’s courtrooms, complete with high-definition displays, audio and speech reinforcement, recording, web-casting and video-conferencing capabilities, Stearns was able to show students in a hands-on atmosphere precisely what he does in court.

During 40 years of private practice, Stearns has successfully tried and argued on appeal some of the most significant cases in Florida and in the federal courts. He is the father of two Florida State College of Law alumni (Jennifer Stearns Buttrick ’94 and Andrew E. Stearns ’03)).

Stearns is Chairman of Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson and practices in their Miami office.

## Top Firm Names More Florida State Partners

Alston & Bird LLP is taking notice of the talent Florida State’s College of Law produces. The firm, with clients across the nation and around the world, announced in November 2011 that three Florida State law graduates are now partners. Jeffrey A. Cooper (’03), Brian P. Miller (’02) and Daniel C. Norris (’04) represent 13.6% of the firm’s newest partners. Florida State’s three alumni make up the largest number of new partners from a single school. All three work in the Atlanta office of Alston & Bird, where they are 21.4% of the new Atlanta-based Alston & Bird partners. Florida State law alumni R. Mark Williamson (’91) and Todd S. McClelland (’98) are also Alston & Bird partners.

“Mark Williamson has been working for twenty years to increase the Florida State presence at Alston & Bird,” said Dean Don Weidner. “I’d say the results have been nothing short of spectacular.”

# Alumni Gather with Students in Orlando and Tampa



Jennifer Dixon

With a primary goal of providing students and alumni with the tools and skills needed to launch successful job searches that will lead to fulfilling careers,

the Placement Office at Florida State's College of Law has an important task. Thankfully, they have some help.

This help comes in the form of alumni, such as Jennifer Dixon ('04), of counsel to the firm Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. in Orlando.

Dixon, who currently serves as secretary/treasurer and also chair of the Placement Committee of the College of Law Alumni Board of Directors, hosted an event in January at her Orlando firm. The informal gathering was an opportunity for students to engage with placement mentors, who make themselves available to answer questions about job search strategies, networking and breaking into markets, whether in regard to practice areas or location.

"It's no secret that the legal job mar-

ket has contracted significantly in the last five years, and a key factor in getting hired these days is making meaningful connections (not just 'networking,' as the term is commonly understood) with other professionals," said Dixon.

The idea to hold informal gatherings in various geographic areas has been a success so far. At the event Dixon hosted, placement mentors went from table to table to talk with groups of students. The mentors were able to meet students and form the meaningful connection Dixon suggests is necessary in the legal field. Many of these connections, Dixon adds, have flourished after the event because the placement mentors have reunited with the students at other law events.

"As an alumnus of Florida State Law, and a beneficiary of the support and generosity of the alumni before me, I feel it is my duty to give back to the law school, especially to its students," said Dixon.

A few months later, in Tampa, another networking event took place. This "meet-and-greet" brought together students enjoying their spring break in Tampa with placement mentors from the area. For Director of the Placement

Office Elmer Ignacio, the informal characteristic of these events is vital.

"Having an informal event so participants can meet in person is key," said Ignacio. "The law students and attorneys have the College of Law as a common bond, and getting them together in one place is the perfect opportunity for law students to develop personal connections with attorneys."

If you are interested in becoming a placement mentor, please contact the Placement Office at 850.644.4495.

**"As an alumnus of Florida State Law, and a beneficiary of the support and generosity of the alumni before me, I feel it is my duty to give back to the law school, especially to its students," said Dixon.**

# Lisa Bench Nieuwveld: A Rising Star in International Arbitration



Lisa Bench Nieuwveld

When Lisa Bench Nieuwveld decided she wanted more professional flexibility, she convinced two fellow 2005 Florida State Law graduates to open a firm in New York City. Nieuwveld, Courtney Cooper and Jaspreet Singh opened Bench Cooper Singh LLP in 2010. From the city that never sleeps, Nieuwveld was perfectly positioned to represent her international business clients.

“It is an international boutique firm that has clients all over the world,” said Nieuwveld. “I’m doing international arbitration as well as international commercial agreements. Most often, I am working on international arbitration, so that is a type of dispute resolution where I am typically acting as counsel before a tribunal instead of a court. It is a dispute resolution situation, just more complex because it’s involving multiple laws.

“I love arbitration. I love coming up with arguments and pleadings, I think because it is more complex. There are so many laws involved and cultural sensitivities and I enjoy that, being from an international background it just seems to fit nicely,” said Nieuwveld, who lived in Saudi Arabia as an expatriate child until she was 12.

Nieuwveld and her husband Mat-

**“I love arbitration. I love coming up with arguments and pleadings, I think because it is more complex. There are so many laws involved and cultural sensitivities and I enjoy that, being from an international background it just seems to fit nicely.”**

thijs, who is a senior associate at the largest Dutch law firm, have moved many times in recent years. The couple met when Matthijs was studying abroad at Florida State. When Nieuwveld decided to spend a semester at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, the pair’s relationship blossomed into more than friendship. Within a year of meeting, the couple was married. They now have a four-year-old daughter, Hannah, and a three-year-old son, Christian.

During the summer of 2011, Matthijs was unexpectedly relocated from his firm’s New York office to the Rotterdam office. Returning to Europe has been fortuitous for Nieuwveld’s career.

“My first boss ever, who trained me in international arbitration, approached me when he found out I came back,” said Nieuwveld, who previously practiced in the Netherlands and earned an LL.M. from Erasmus University. “He offered me the opportunity to join his firm as counsel, via Bench Cooper Singh.” The firm, Conway and Partners, is ranked 100 by *Global Arbitration Review*.

Nieuwveld’s list of recent accomplishments also includes receiving her first arbitrator appointment in January and serving as a permanent contributor

to the Kluwer Arbitration Blog – the major publisher in her field.

This spring, Nieuwveld returned to the United States to teach International Arbitration at the College of Law.

“I’m very much enjoying it,” said Nieuwveld during the course. “It’s been an excellent group of students.”

As Nieuwveld’s practice flourishes, her goal is to remain involved in the classroom. “Not to leave practice,” she said, “but to continue to be involved in teaching.”

Luckily for students, Nieuwveld is scheduled to teach again at Florida State next spring.

# HOMECOMING 2011

Approximately 300 people participated in this year's homecoming activities. The reunion party for all alumni, hosted by Sean Pittman ('94) and his wife Audra, took place on Friday, November 18, at their Tallahassee home. Pittman's firm, the Pittman Law Group, sponsored the event.

The following day, alumni and their families were invited to the Law Alumni Tailgate Party on the law school green, which immediately preceded the Florida State University versus University of Virginia football game.



**LEFT**  
The Honorable Erroll H. Powell ('79) and G.C. Murray ('12) smile during Saturday's Law Alumni Tailgate Party.

**ABOVE**  
Hosts Sean Pittman ('94) and Audra Pittman (left) stand next to Margaret "Peggy" Rolando ('78), who received the Distinguished Alum Award during Friday's Homecoming event. The award recognizes a graduate who is distinguished professionally and who has rendered outstanding service to the community as well as to the College of Law. Next to Rolando stands Benjamin Crump ('95) and his mother, Helen McArthur, and Dean Don Weidner. Crump received the Alumni Association Service Award, which recognizes a graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the College of Law over an extended period of time. Not pictured is Steven G. Gey, who received the Class of '66 Award posthumously. This award recognizes a non-Florida State law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the law school and the community.



**TOP**  
Alumni and guests gathered at the Pittman home on November 18 during the 2011 Homecoming weekend.

**ABOVE**  
A group of alumni and friends gather at the Alumni Tailgate Party.

**RIGHT**  
Keyes, the son of alums Woody Rodriguez ('95) and the Honorable Heather Pinder Rodriguez ('98), plays catch at the tailgate party.

## Ken Lawson: Helping Florida Businesses



Ken Lawson

Leading 1,500 employees at 11 offices throughout Florida is no small task, but it's one that Kenneth E. "Ken" Lawson ('91) relishes as Secretary of the state's Department of Business & Professional Regulation. Lawson was appointed to the post by Governor Rick Scott on May 2, 2011.

"My job is to ensure that we can license people very quickly and regulate them fairly," said Lawson. "We license multiple professions

and businesses; the goal is to ensure that people can get licensed as soon as possible so they can create their own business and help the economy. We are here to serve and we want to help them fulfill their dreams.

"It's been a great opportunity that the governor's given me."

Previously, Lawson served in the United States Marine Corps, Judge Advocate General's Division, as a federal prosecutor, as assistant secretary of enforcement for the U.S. Department of the Treasury and as assistant chief counsel for field operations with the Transportation Security Administration. More recently, Lawson was a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton on an anti-corruption project in Jakarta, Indonesia, and then vice president for compliance at nFinanSe, Inc. in Tampa.

Now that he is back in Tallahassee, Lawson has made time to reconnect with old friends and classmates and to connect with law students at Florida State. He talked to students at a 'Networking Nosh' during the fall 2011 semester and also spoke with Black Law Students Association members this spring.

"We have an internship program here. We have a number of Florida State law students working as clerks," said Lawson. "As alums, it is our responsibility to provide plenty of opportunities and also mentoring to law students so they understand the current marketplace and give them opportunities to grow."

Lawson relieves the stress of his hectic schedule by practicing akido, a Japanese martial art he started when living in Indonesia, running and lifting weights in his spare time. And every Wednesday, he makes time to visit a Tallahassee comic book store.

"I've been collecting comic books since I was five years old," said Lawson. "Right now, I'm a Batman kind of guy."

## Gifts Name Advocacy Center Rooms

During the past several months, numerous alumni and friends of the law school have given generously to the College of Law. The law school is acknowledging gifts for any purpose with named rooms in the Advocacy Center.

Phil ('75) and Rita Blank led the way with a \$250,000 gift for scholarships that was acknowledged by the school when it named the former First DCA's conference room. An anonymous donor pledged \$150,000 to create the Middle Road Foundation Endowment for Excellence. In connection with the gift, three conference rooms in the law school's Advocacy Center are named for professors: Curtis Bridgeman, Larry Krieger and Wayne Logan. Tommy Warren ('74) and Kathy Villacorta ('77) expanded an existing endowment with a gift of \$100,000, which names the Calvin Patterson Admissions Office. A \$100,000 gift from Fred Karlinsky ('92) names the Karlinsky Family Student Lounge. David Ramba ('95) made a \$50,000 pledge to the law school, naming the David E. Ramba Registrar's Office. In recognition of \$25,000 gifts made by Daniel F. O'Shea ('89), James ('73) and Anne Corrigan, Stephen ('80) and Susan Ecenia, Bruce ('93) and Wendy Wiener ('93) and Edwin Walborsky ('79), faculty offices have been named in the new building. A \$25,000 gift from Victoria L. Weber ('78) and David L. Powell ('87) named the Wade L. Hopping Journal Office.

"The new building, which is fully paid for, simply gives us an additional way to say thank you to our donors," said Dean Don Weidner.

For other naming opportunities, contact Dean Weidner at [dweidner@law.fsu.edu](mailto:dweidner@law.fsu.edu) or 850.644.3071 or Associate Dean for Development Mark Pankey at [mpankey@law.fsu.edu](mailto:mpankey@law.fsu.edu), 850.644.5160 or 850.294.1193.

## Equels Knighted!



Class of 1980 member Sir Thomas Equels recently became a Knight of the Papal Order of St. Gregory Great – an honor ordered by Pope Benedict XVI. In October, Equels received the official papal decree – a papal bull issued by Pope Benedict XVI on sheepskin and written in Latin. His knighting ceremony took place in Orlando on March 12, where Bishop John Noonan installed Equels as a knight with a sword. The honor was conferred upon Equels for his service to the Roman Catholic Church and his community.

“This is a one-in-a-million type honor and is part of a very ancient tradition,” said Equels. “In the world, there are not many knights of the Palatine State. There is an ethical super-structure to the knighthood and it’s one of the

classic orders of chivalry. I’ve tried to focus on the spiritual part and recommit myself to making the next decade of my life even more meaningful in terms of my ability to help others, help our community, help our profession to move forward in a way that manifests concepts of social justice. A just society is a righteous society.”

Equels, who is the president and managing director of Equels Law Firm, has been involved in church-related service since the early 1980s. He filed a successful lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of Haitian immigrants who were being detained in South Florida and denied access to religious services. His clients’ first service pursuant to the settlement was the 1981 Christmas Mass. He has served on

several church-related councils, boards and committees, and is chairman of the Real Estate Commission for the Diocese of Orlando.

An amateur artist, Equels also paints religious-themed art and several of his paintings are in churches throughout Florida. Equels and his wife, Lady Laura Fabar-Equels, have established an endowment at the law school focused on social justice.

His daughter, Mary Helena Equels, graduated from the College of Law this spring.

**“This is a one-in-a-million type honor and is part of a very ancient tradition,” said Equels. “In the world, there are not many knights of the Palatine State.”**

## Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston Named Chief Justice



Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston ('87) was elected unanimously to serve as Florida's 55th Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, starting July 1, 2012. Polston, who will serve a two-year term, is the first Florida State Law alum to be selected as Chief Justice of the state's highest court.

"I am deeply honored by my colleagues' vote," said Polston in a press release. "And I commit myself to be a faithful steward of this public trust, recognizing that I am a servant to the people of Florida, to the constitution, and to the laws of the land."

Polston served as a judge of the First District Court of Appeal from January 2001 until October 2008, when he left to join the Supreme Court. He received his law degree with high honors in December of 1986 and also earned his bachelor's degree from Florida State.

With his wife Deborah Ehler Polston, he has been a vocal advocate for children's causes, especially in promoting the adoption of children from the foster care system. He and his wife raised four children of their own before adopting a sibling set of six.

Polston also teaches at least two courses per year at the law school.

## Alumni Key Players in High-Profile Murder Case

Florida State University College of Law alumni have been well-represented in the national media this year regarding the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin. The case has attracted media from around the United States and attorneys on both sides of the case have ties to the law school.

Benjamin Crump ('95), Daryl Parks ('95) and Jasmine Rand ('09) are all representing the family of the late Trayvon Martin. The three attorneys practice with the Tallahassee firm Parks & Crump.

George Zimmerman, the man who openly admitted to shooting Martin while maintaining that he acted in self-defense, is represented by defense attorney Mark O'Mara ('82). O'Mara, of the O'Mara Law Group, is based out of Orlando, Florida.

Alisia M. Adamson ('08) is the attorney for the family of a 13-year-old witness. She practices in the Orlando office of Hylton, Adamson, Watson & Moore.

Florida Senator Chris Smith ('95) formed an independent task force to evaluate Florida's provocative "Stand Your Ground" law. The law, simply stated, allows a person to meet force with force if they reasonably believe they are in danger of being killed or seriously harmed.

"We're thrilled that our alums are involved in all aspects of this important case," said Dean Don Weidner.

Florida State's involved alumni have been featured and interviewed by an enormous number of national media outlets, including, but not limited to, *CNN*, *The Huffington Post*, *Fox News* and *National Public Radio*.





# Matthew Kelly: Our Man in Shanghai



Matthew Kelly

When rising 3L Matthew Kelly spent his fall 2011 semester studying abroad in China, he was the first-ever American to study at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade's (SIFT) law school. Kelly's background made him an excellent fit for such an honor. As an undergraduate, he had studied Chinese and Business, he had already been to China three times, he holds a master's degree in International Business, he took a trade simulation class co-taught by SIFT professors at Florida State and he is pursuing the International Law Certificate.

For Kelly, who hopes to eventually practice in Shanghai, SIFT's location, size and connections were assets.

"Since it is a smaller university, they are very well networked in the city of Shanghai. As far as business and getting into big law firms in Shanghai, they are very well connected," said Kelly about the school.

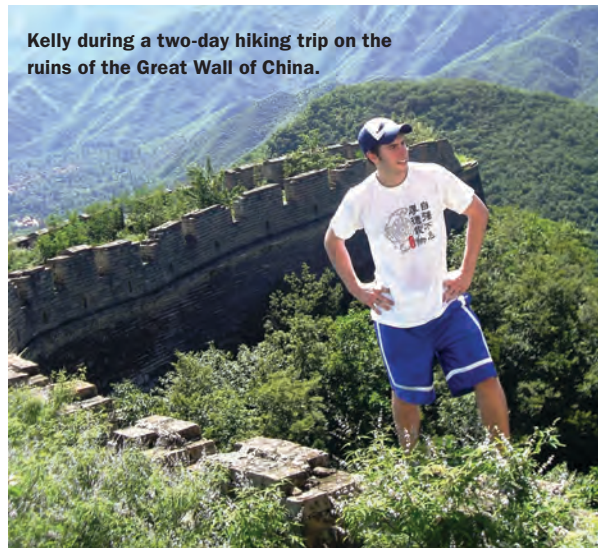
Kelly took four courses while at SIFT, two of which were taught in Chinese.

"I walked into the classroom with graduate level law students, and they were like, 'who is this kid,'" said Kelly about the first day in one of his Chinese classes, "because they had never in their careers had foreign students. It's not like our system, because you have to speak Chinese to be thrown into the classes. I started at about 40 percent comprehension and ended at about 80 percent comprehension. And whatever I missed in class, I would spend time with the professor one-on-one to cover what I had missed."

Kelly also interned at O'Melveny & Myers, a top law firm in China, and used the program as an opportunity to make connections with possible employers.

"I joined the American Chamber of Commerce, went to a lot of their membership events," said Kelly.

"What I am telling other students who are interested in practicing in China is, the semester abroad in Shanghai is a great chance to get in the city and do the networking. And then it is up to you



Kelly during a two-day hiking trip on the ruins of the Great Wall of China.

to really follow up with those contacts. There are so many ex-pat lawyers over there – it's their New York City."

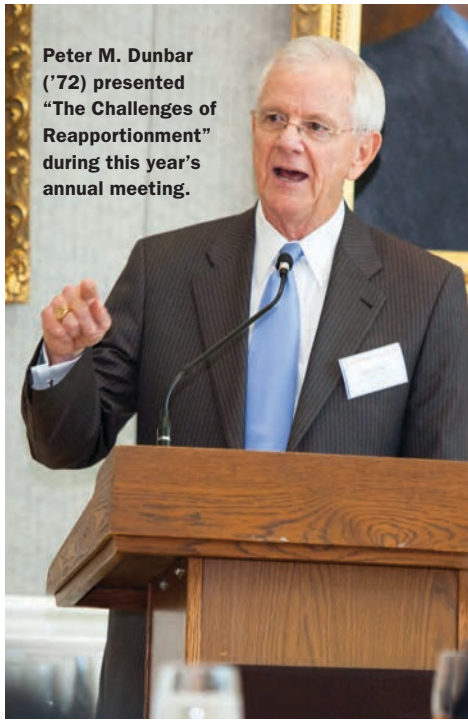
To further his goal of helping other like-minded students, Kelly plans to write a book.

"In my own research in trying to find books and systems for learning Chinese, I realized there weren't any for lawyers. There is 'Spanish for Lawyers,' but there aren't any for Chinese, so that is what I'm exploring now."

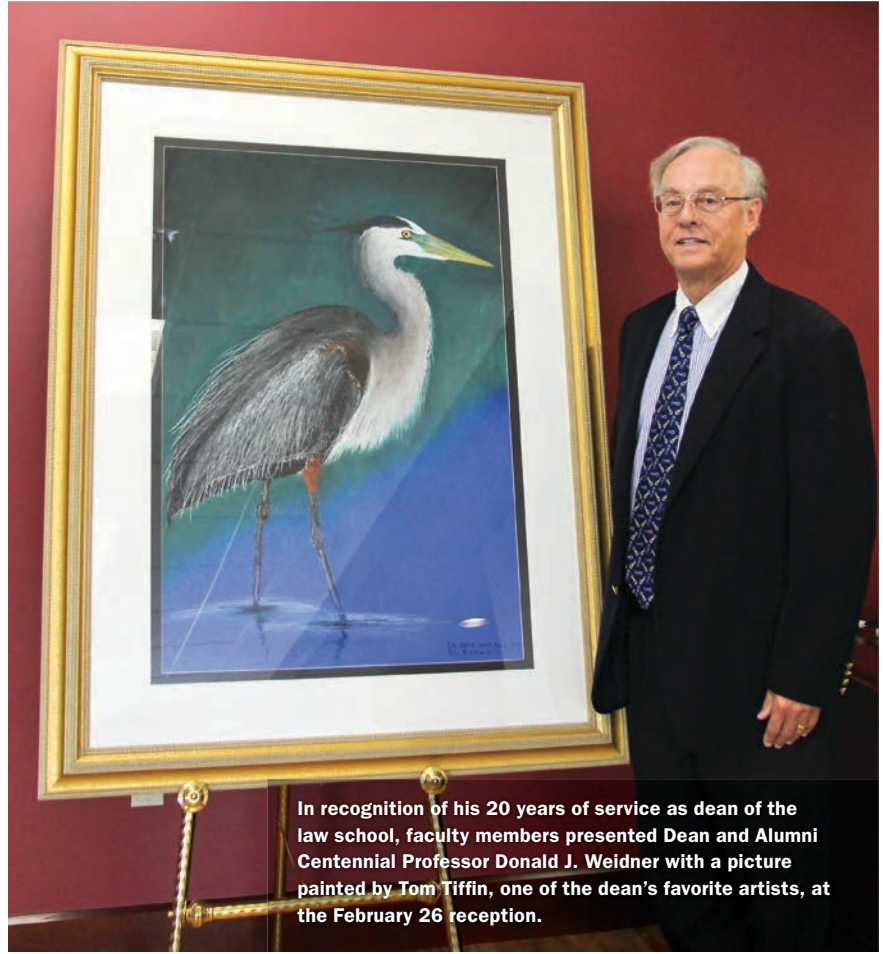
**"It's not like our system, because you have to speak Chinese to be thrown into the classes. I started at about 40 percent comprehension and ended at about 80 percent comprehension."**

# Annual Board of Visitors Meeting

The College of Law Board of Visitors met in Tallahassee on February 26-27. Members attended a reception on Sunday evening and met with students at the law school on Monday.



**Peter M. Dunbar ('72)** presented “The Challenges of Reapportionment” during this year’s annual meeting.



In recognition of his 20 years of service as dean of the law school, faculty members presented Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor Donald J. Weidner with a picture painted by Tom Tiffin, one of the dean’s favorite artists, at the February 26 reception.



**The Honorable Sally Kest ('73)** speaks with a student during a Mach Speed Mock Interview session.



**R. Mark Williamson ('91)** meets with current students.

# Harvard's Ogletree Visits Law School



**“The divide is greater than ever before between wealthy African-Americans and poor African-Americans.”**

Nationally known legal scholar Charles J. Ogletree, Harvard's Jesse Klimenko Professor of Law, visited the College of Law on February 8. From the moment he began addressing students and faculty members, Ogletree – who is called “Tree” by close friends – had the full house laughing and engaged. The professor gave a talk entitled, “Are We Post-Racial in the Age of Obama?” With areas of expertise including Race and the Law and Criminal Law, Ogletree discussed the issue of race in America.

Ogletree stated that even though we have a man of African descent in the White House, America is “more divided than we’ve ever been.”

“From the day [Obama] was elected until now, we still have one black man in the White House, but we have more than one million black men in prison,” Ogletree stated as evidence of the fact

that America is not post-racial. “The divide is greater than ever before between wealthy African-Americans and poor African-Americans.”

The professor's remarks included details from his latest book, *The Presumption of Guilt*. The novel analyzes the highly publicized 2009 arrest of Ogletree's colleague and friend, Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Because Ogletree also represented Gates, he provided little-known details of the case.

Following his remarks, Ogletree answered audience questions and signed copies of his book. While in Tallahassee, Ogletree also spoke to the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators.

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1969

**DAVID LUTHER WOODWARD** has served as chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (FL-AL TPO) since August 2009. The FL-AL TPO is a defined group of local officials that oversee the transportation planning process of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Florida, and the Lillian Portion of Baldwin County, Alabama.

## 1970



**TERRY PAUL COLE** is a shareholder and environmental and land use practice attorney at Gunster's Tallahassee office. Previously, he was with the law firm Oertel, Fernandez, Cole &

Bryant, P.A. for 25 years. He also has been designated as a "Leaders in their Field" by *Chambers USA*.



**JEROME M. NOVEY**, a board certified marital and family law lawyer and partner at Novey Law, has been selected for inclusion in the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in

the practice area of family law. Novey also was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve on the First Appellate District Judicial Nominating Commission.



**RICHARD H. SOLLNER**, a shareholder in the Tampa office of Trenam Kemker, has been named to the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of real estate law.

**A. JAMES SPALLA** has been appointed director of the Office of Right Way at the Florida Department of Transportation in Tallahassee. He was formerly with the Florida Senate and in private practice litigating and mediating transportation related eminent domain and right of way acquisition cases.

## 1971



**ROBERT G. KERRIGAN** taught torts to law students in the Ukraine, working with a program that recruits U.S. lawyers, judges and law professors and then matches them with law schools in Central Europe.

## 1972



**J. WAYNE HOGAN**, president of the Terrell Hogan law firm, returned to the classroom by teaching high school students as a participant in Florida's Justice Teaching Program. The program promotes an understanding of Florida's justice system and laws, develops critical thinking abilities and problem-solving skills, and demonstrates the effective interaction of the courts within the constitutional structure.

**DEL G. POTTER** has been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to Florida's Fifth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. He is a partner with the Mount Dora firm Potter Clement Lowry.

## 1973

**THOMAS F. ICARD, JR.**, a shareholder at the law firm Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg, PA, was a speaker at a continuing education seminar concerning Florida's construction lien laws. The seminar was held at the Hyatt Place Sarasota/Bradenton Airport and hosted by Lorman Educational Services.

**SENATOR JOHN EDWIN THRASHER** received the Vires Award from Florida State University during the fall meeting of the general faculty.

## 1974



**STANN W. GIVENS'** law firm, Givens Law Group, was awarded a Tier One ranking for family law firms by *U.S. News & World Report*. The firm has more than 100 years combined legal

experience and boasts two attorneys board certified in the area of marital and family law. He is founder of Givens Law Group and a past-president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Florida chapter. He also is listed in *Super Lawyers 2011* and *Best Lawyers in America 2012*.

**CHARLES F. MCCLAMMA** has retired from California's Office of the Attorney General.

## 1975

**BETTY J. STEFFENS** has retired. She began her 10-year career at Florida State University under President Bernie Sliger before going to work in the general counsel offices of governors Reubin Askew and Bob Graham.

President T.K. Wetherell brought Steffens back to the university as general counsel in 2003.

**1976**

**LONNIE N. GROOT**, of the law firm Stenstrom, McIntosh, Colbert, Whigham & Partlow, P.A., was appointed to the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties on September 21, 2011.

**THE HONORABLE LEWIS M. KILLIAN, JR.**, after 25 years of service with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida, announced his plans to retire from the federal bench on July 24, 2012. Killian served as an officer in the U.S. Army and then went on to start his law career as an attorney with Ervin, Varn, Jacobs, Odom, and Kitchen.

**JOLEN RAWLS WOLF**, former legal writing professor, has joined The Mills Firm. She can be reached at 203 N. Gadsden St., Ste. 1-A, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.765.0897 or [jwolf@mills-appeals.com](mailto:jwolf@mills-appeals.com).

**1977**



**THE HONORABLE JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ** finished a sprint triathlon third place in his age group and was featured in an Orlando blog on the importance of exercise and healthy eating.

**1978**

**ALAN E. TANNENBAUM** can now be reached at Tannenbaum Scro Hanewich & Alpert, P.L., 1990 Main St., Ste. 725, Sarasota, FL 34236.



**ROBERT A. COLE**, of Upchurch, Watson, White & Max in Jacksonville, just completed his one year presidency of the Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (FLABOTA). He

also was voted the FLABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2008 and has been recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer since 2007.

**ANTHONY LA RUSSA, JR.** retired as the manager of the St. Louis Cardinals three days after winning the 2011 World Series.



**BYRD F. MARSHALL, JR.** was recognized as one of *Best Lawyers' 2012* Lawyers of the Year.



**KAREN K. SPECIE** has been elected as a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, an organization of representatives from all federal judicial circuits. Specie, who was named to *Florida Super Lawyers* in bankruptcy for 2007-2011, also joined Akerman Senterfitt as of counsel, where she will continue her practice in bankruptcy creditor representation and commercial litigation from the firm's Jacksonville office. She also is an adjunct professor of law, teaching Bankruptcy and Secured Transactions at the University of Florida law school.

**ALICIA C. SMITH** has joined Mercer Government Human Services Consulting as a partner. She can be reached at 900 2nd St., N.E., Ste. 221, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202.204.9405 or [Alicia.c.smith@mercer.com](mailto:Alicia.c.smith@mercer.com).

**1979**



**PETER V. ANTONACCI** was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to the position of State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Palm Beach County.



**DAVID S. DEE** has been selected for inclusion in the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, which named Dee as the 2012 Lawyer of the Year in Tallahassee in the area of

environmental litigation. *Chambers USA* also recently included Dee in its 2012 directory of *America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He practices environmental, land use and administrative law at Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A.

**J. LANE MIDDLETON, III** was a guest judge at the Nova Southeastern Moot Court Society's Feinrider Competition.

**1980**

**CHARLOTTE H. DANCIU**, who practices family law, was appointed to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women by Attorney General Pam Bondi.



**BRUCE D. LAMB** has joined the Tampa office of Gunster as a shareholder. Lamb focuses his practice on business litigation, corporate law, government affairs and healthcare law. He also has been designated as a "Leaders in their Field" by *Chambers USA*.



**DONALD M. HINKLE** was named to the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Hinkle is a founding partner at the law firm of Hinkle & Foran in Tallahassee.

**MARK J. PATTERSON**, a shareholder at Waddey and Patterson, was recognized as the "Nashville *Best Lawyers* Litigation-Intellectual Property Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers*.



**STEFAN V. STEIN** was recognized by *Best Lawyers* on its list, 2012 Lawyers of the Year. He has annually been included on the list since 2006.



**DAVID A. YON** was named to the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of insurance law. Yon is a shareholder of Radey Thomas Yon & Clark, P.A. in Tallahassee.

## 1981

**ROBERT B. BEITLER** is now the general counsel to the Inspector General of Palm Beach County.

**MARJORIE STARNES-BILOTTI** was appointed to the district board of trustees of Edison State College by Governor Rick Scott.



**JOHN S. FAGAN**, (above right) of First Coast Accident Lawyers in Orange Park, was sworn in as Clay County Bar President.



**THOMAS M. JENKS** joined the Jacksonville office of Gunster as a shareholder. He can be reached at 225 Water St., Ste. 1750, Jacksonville, FL 32202, 904.350.7195 or [tjenks@gunster.com](mailto:tjenks@gunster.com).

**LAWRENCE A. KELLOGG** filed a class action suit against one of John Paulson's large hedge funds in February and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* about the case and his involvement.

**JOHN W. LEWIS** received his fifth certification by The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education in civil trial law.

## 1982

**JOHN W. LITTLE, III** has joined Gunster as a shareholder. He can be reached at 777 S. Flagler Dr., Ste. 500 East, West Palm Beach, FL, 33401 or 561.650.0701.

**THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. PANSE** was appointed to the Palm Beach County Court by Governor Rick Scott.

## 1983

**C. JOHN CHRISTENSEN** can now be reached at the law offices of Katzman, Garfinkel & Berger, 300 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751, 407.539.3900 or [jchristensen@kgblawfirm.com](mailto:jchristensen@kgblawfirm.com).

**SANDRA E. FEINZIG** is in Afghanistan working with the International Development Law Organization, opening specialized violence against women units in six provinces.

**RICHARD D. TRITSCHLER** is now serving as general counsel of Florida's Office of Early Learning.

## 1984

**RANDALL W. HANNA** has been named chancellor of the Florida College System. He previously was managing shareholder of Bryant Miller Olive and has served on several higher education boards.



**JOSHUA A. WHITMAN** was elected 2012 national treasurer of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a partner and shareholder of the Jacksonville firm Milton, Leach, Whitman, D'Andrea & Eslinger, P.A.

## 1985

**TIMOTHY JAMES MCCAUSLAND** has been appointed to the Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Rick Scott. He has been the attorney for the City of Lakeland since 1992.

**BRIAN S. MCHUGH**, a shareholder of Greenspoon Marder, has been certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit court mediator to all judicial circuit courts throughout Florida. McHugh is a member of The Florida Bar Real Property Probate and Trust Law and Trial Lawyers sections.

## 1986



**JEFFREY P. BASSETT** concentrates on juvenile dependency and delinquency in private practice. When not in court, he spends his time on stage, having been cast in numerous community theatre lead roles, including Georg Von Trapp ("Sound of Music"), John Dolittle ("Doctor Dolittle") and Daddy Warbucks ("Annie").



**JAMES I. BRIGGS, JR.** received a two-year appointment to the Aviation Security Advisory Committee with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He currently is the vice-president of

legal affairs for the non-profit trade association Airports Council International - North America in Washington, D.C.

**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. LEAVELL, III** has retired as a district court judge in the 24th Judicial District of North Carolina.

**FRANCISCO J. SANCHEZ, JR.**, the U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary, spoke during the Florida Chamber of Commerce's annual International Days and was one of Florida State's spring commencement ceremony speakers.

## 1987

**M. KRISTEN ALLMAN** is of counsel in the Tampa office of Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP. She practices employment law, focusing

on wage and hour compliance and litigation, litigation prevention and defense and occupational safety and health.



**JUSTICE RICKY L. POLSTON** became the first Florida State law alum elected to serve as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. He begins his term as the 55th Chief Justice on July 1.

**STEVEN RANDALL WALKER** serves as general counsel to the National Association of Corporate Directors.

**1988**



**REVEREND MATTHEW M. CARTER, II** was appointed to the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System by Governor Rick Scott. Carter has been a senior staff director at the

Florida Senate since 2010.

**1989**



**COL. STEVEN PAUL HESTER** (above middle) was promoted to Colonel, United States Army Reserve, and assumed command of the 139th Legal Support Organization.



**MARK RAGUSA** has joined the law office of Gunster in Tampa as a shareholder. He practices in the areas of business litigation, corporate law and healthcare law. He can be reached at

813.222.6619 or mragusa@gunster.com.

**PHILIP J. SYPULA** is retiring from practicing civil and personal injury litigation at the law firm of Philip J. Sypula, P.A.

**1992**



**DONNA E. BLANTON** was recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of administrative/regulatory law and government relations practice.

Blanton is a shareholder at Radey Thomas Yon & Clark.



**CHARLES M. HARRIS, JR.** has been named managing shareholder of Trenam Kemker's St. Petersburg office. Harris is a member of the firm's commercial litigation practice group.

# SEND US YOUR NEWS

The most avidly read section of *Florida State Law* is "Class Action." The law school's more than 8,000 alumni want to know what their classmates have been doing – awards they have received, high-profile cases they have won, law firms or cities they have moved to, pro bono activities they have undertaken and more. Just as important: Did you get married? Have a baby? Write a novel? Run a marathon? Perform in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please send information to rshepher@law.fsu.edu or mail this form to:

**The Florida State University College of Law,  
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs,  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER/FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

PRACTICE AREA: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION FOR CLASS ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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## We Need Your Help

Please take a moment to log in to the law school Alumni Directory Web site, [www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html](http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html), and update your personal information. This is a great reference tool for classmates to get in touch with one another, to network and to refer business to fellow alumni.



**MARIANNE R. HOWANITZ**, personal injury attorney with Marianne Howanitz, P.A. in Ocala, received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from Marion County's Junior Achievement.



**FRED E. KARLINSKY**, a Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate shareholder, accompanied Florida Governor Rick Scott on a weeklong foreign trade mission trip to Israel.

**MARY F. WHITNEY** is now with the Louisiana Judiciary. She can be reached at the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, 400 Royal St., Ste. 1190, New Orleans, LA 70130, 504.310.2550 or [mwhitney@lajao.org](mailto:mwhitney@lajao.org).

**DANIEL TE YOUNG** has been named general counsel for the Underground Contractors Association of Florida. He is a shareholder of Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A., in the firm's Fort Lauderdale office.

### 1993

**LAVERNE LEWIS GASKINS** has been appointed to serve on the Georgia Code Revision Commission. She is an attorney for Valdosta State University in Georgia.

### 1994

**MARC W. DUNBAR** was profiled by *The Tallahassee Democrat*. The legal career and personal life of Dunbar, whose work recently focused on bringing gambling to Gadsden County, was shared. He is a shareholder at Pennington Moore Wilkinson Bell & Dunbar in Tallahassee.

**JUAN C. MARTINEZ** has been recognized as one of *South Florida Legal Guide's* 2012 Top Lawyers. He practices commercial and real estate litigation in GrayRobinson's Miami office. He can be reached at 1221 Brickell Ave., Ste. 1600, Miami, FL 33131, 305.416.6880 or [juan.martinez@gray-robinson.com](mailto:juan.martinez@gray-robinson.com).

**TRAVIS L. MILLER** is president of Radey Thomas Yon & Clark, P.A., which was named by *Florida Trend* magazine one of the "Best Companies to Work for in Florida" for 2011. The firm was one of only three Tallahassee-based businesses listed.

### 1995

**WILLIAM H. STAFFORD, III** is assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Health. He can be reached at 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, FL 32399, 850.245.4640 or [William\\_stafford@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:William_stafford@doh.state.fl.us).

**STEVEN B. WHITTINGTON** is the Clay County Bar Association Vice President. He practices at Whittington & Culbert in Green Cove Springs, FL.



**THE HONORABLE PHYLLIS R. WILLIAMS** was appointed as a magistrate judge. She can be reached at 404.378.1665 or [prw@phylliswilliamspc.com](mailto:prw@phylliswilliamspc.com).

### 1996

**FELICIA S. THOMAS** has published her debut novel, *80 Proof Lives*. The book received the President's Award from the Florida Publishers Association, Inc.



**GREGORY M. CHABON** has been named to the 2012 list of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is a corporate and securities attorney in the Greensboro, N.C., office of Womble Carlyle

Sandridge & Rice, PLLC.



**JASON A. MCGRATH**, of McGrath and Spielberger, PLLC, was the featured speaker at a recent continuing legal education presentation for the Mecklenburg County Bar in Charlotte, N.C. The CLE was entitled "Establishing and Maintaining a Virtual Law Practice" and was a follow-up to the virtual law aspect of the firm's practice being mentioned in the American Bar Association's *Law Practice Management* magazine.

### 1997



**CONAL F. DOYLE** has received the 2011 Public Justice Achievement Award and been named a finalist for the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) 2011 Consumer Attorney of the Year

Award and the Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles (CAALA) 2011 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for his work on *Castaneda v. State of California*. He also has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2012 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation.

**ELIZABETH E. THOMAS** has moved from Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC's Ridgeland, MS, office to their Gulfport, MS, office. She can be reached at 601.985.4546 or [Elizabeth.thomas@butlersnow.com](mailto:Elizabeth.thomas@butlersnow.com).



**1998**

**G. TODD COTTRILL** joined the Jacksonville office of Gunster as a shareholder. He can be reached at 225 Water St., Ste. 1750, Jacksonville, FL 32202, 904.350.7408 or tcottrill@gunster.com.

**CAROLYN A. EGAN** has been named interim general counsel for Florida State University. She has served as associate general counsel for the past four years. In that role, she has been the university's lead attorney on a number of issues, particularly those pertaining to labor relations and employment law.

**THE HONORABLE HEATHER PINDER RODRIGUEZ** has been appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. She previously was senior counsel for Holland & Knight's national Construction Industry Practice Group.

**JOSEPH J. WARD** is an adjunct professor at Saint Leo University. He also works for the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

**1999**

**ANTHONY C. ALFONSO** has been elected chair of the Broward Branch of U.S. Green Building Council, South Florida Chapter. He is senior counsel in Holland & Knight's Fort Lauderdale office.



**EARNEST A. DELOACH, JR.** published an article entitled "Seven Tricky Contract Terms and

What They Really Mean" in the winter 2011 edition of *Seminole Magazine*. DeLoach also served as a panelist on U.S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown's Church Foreclosure Prevention Seminar. He also was featured as one of the "25 Young Attorneys on the Rise" in *RYSE* magazine. His firm, Young DeLoach PLLC, was named the 2011 New Emerging Business of the Year by the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida.



**MAJOR JOHN L. KIEL, JR.** serves as the deputy staff judge advocate of the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command located in Grafenwoehr, Germany. He manages the day-to-day legal operations of the United States Army throughout Bavaria.

**KENNETH D. PRATT** is now the vice president of governmental affairs for the Florida Bankers Association. He can be reached at 1001 Thomasville Rd., Ste. 201, Tallahassee, FL 32303, 850.224.2265 or kpratt@floridabankers.com.

**LERON E. ROGERS** joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP as a partner in its entertainment and commercial litigation practice groups. He will help lead the firm's entertainment and intellectual property practice in its Atlanta office.

**2000**

**ROBIN D. BLACK** is now in-house staff counsel for CNA Insurance.

**RICHARD L. BARRY** is now a shareholder of GrayRobinson, P.A. in Orlando.

**KYLE S. FISCHER** joined Day Crowley, LLC and focuses on representing military soldiers in matters involving criminal defense, personal injury and veteran's claims.

**2001**

**REPRESENTATIVE MARCELO LLORENTE** has joined LSN Partners, a full-service national government affairs and strategic business development firm, as an equity partner. He is based in the Miami Beach office and concentrates on private sector business development.

**ERIC D. MOLINA** has been selected by the *Gulf Coast Business Review* as one of 40 business people under the age of 40 who represent the next generation of leaders on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

**ROBERT S. SWAINE** has been appointed to the Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission by Florida Governor Rick Scott.



**J. CAMERON THURBER**, counsel to the inspector general and chief investigator for the Federal Election Commission, received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Inspector General Communication at the 2011 Council of Counsels to the Inspector General annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at 999 E St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20463, 202.694.1316 or jthurber@fec.gov.

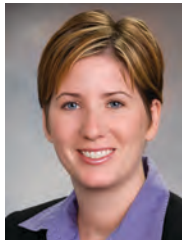
**2002**

**CARLOS E. MOORE**, who practices in Grenada, MS, has been certified as a member of The Million Dollar Advocates Forum, one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the United States.

**ELIZABETH M. VAN DEN BERG** has been admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. She practices in the areas of personal injury and accidents, wrongful death, wills and estates, real estate insurance, guardianships and construction law at Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A.

**2003**

**ROBERT L. ROGERS, III**, and his wife **KARA DECKER ROGERS ('04)**, celebrated the birth of their first child, Clair Elizabeth, on December 9, 2011. He is an associate in Holland & Knight's Orlando office, practicing complex commercial litigation, and was named a Rising Star by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine in 2011. She is an employee relations manager at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.



**AMANDA KEENER BARRITT**, a condominium and real estate law practitioner at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., has been appointed as the public relations officer for the Lee County Association for Women Lawyers.



**QUINN A. HENDERSON** is now a partner at Adams and Reese LLP in St. Petersburg.

**THE HONORABLE STEVEN C. HENDERSON**, of Port Orange, was appointed to the Volusia County Court by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

**BRIAN D. HUDSON** has been appointed to Florida's Fifth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Rick Scott. He practices in the Lake Sumter Landing office of McLin Burnsed.



**MICHAEL L. WIENER** has been named partner in Holland & Knight's Lakeland office.

**2004**



**MARK L. BONFANTI** recently joined the Labor and Employment Practice at Gunster's Tallahassee office. He specializes in labor relations for private and public employers, including collective bargaining, union organizing campaigns and union avoidance training.



**BRANDON G. CATHEY** is now a shareholder of Swope, Rodante P.A., a civil trial litigation firm which focuses on catastrophic injury and insurance bad faith. He

can be reached at 1234 5th Ave. E., Tampa, FL 33605, 813.273.0017 or brandonc@swopelaw.com.



**SARAH R. HAMILTON** has joined Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP as an associate in the firm's Business & Finance Practice Group. She is located in the firm's Indianapolis office. She

focuses her practice on corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity, corporate finance and commercial lending.



**SYLVIA Y. SIMMONS** won the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program's Executive Director Award for her extraordinary efforts to help abused and neglected children. She has been an attorney

with the program in the Fifth Judicial Circuit for approximately seven years.

**DANIEL C. NORRIS** has been named a partner in the Atlanta office of Alston & Bird LLP's Litigation and Trial Practice Group. He can be reached at 1201 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30309, 404.881.7826, or daniel.norris@alston.com.

**TRACY N. RECORD** opened The Record Law Firm, LLC, a firm dedicated to criminal defense. She can be reached at 119 E. Georgia St., Ste. 10, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.322.7652 or recordlaw@gmail.com.

**KARA DECKER ROGERS** and her husband **ROBERT L. ROGERS, III ('03)**, celebrated the birth of their first child, Clair Elizabeth, on December 9, 2011. She is an employee relations manager at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. He is an associate in Holland & Knight's Orlando office, practicing complex commercial litigation, and was named a Rising Star by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine in 2011.



**STACI M. REWIS** is now an associate at the Jacksonville office of Gunster. She can be reached at 225 Water St., Ste. 1750, Jacksonville, FL 32202, 904.350.7414 or srewis@gunster.com.



**BRENT T. ZIMMERMAN** has been named a partner in the Jacksonville-based Bachara Construction Law Group. He can be reached at 904.562.1068 or bzimmerman@bacharagroup.com.

**2005**



**LISA BENCH NIEUWVELD** has been appointed as counsel for Conway & Partners in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It is ranked in the top 100 international arbitration firms by *Global*

*Arbitration Review*. This appointment comes through her position as a partner at Bench Cooper Singh LLP in New York City.



**AMANDA L. BROCK**, who practices environmental and land use law at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., has been appointed to serve on the City of Fort Myers Brownfields Advisory

Board. This board is important to the city's goal to turn around abandoned or under-used real property.

**CAMERON M. KENNEDY** joined Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. He can be reached at 517 Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32301 or 850.224.7600.

**MATTHEW D. LIEBENHAUT** has opened the Law Office of Matt Liebenhaut, PLLC. The practice is focused on representing the elderly and disabled in a variety of matters. Additionally, he will continue to represent individuals and businesses in various

administrative and litigation matters. He can be reached at 1210 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.270.6977 or matt@liebenhautlaw.com

**C. KHAI PATTERSON** has opened Patterson Lewy, LLC. The firm focuses on children and young adults' issues including education, school discipline, child care, adoption, custody and child support. She also will continue to practice appeals. She can be reached at 1020 E. Lafayette St., Ste. 209, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.402.9015 or Khai@legalcare4kids.com.

**2006**

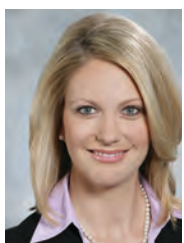
**SAQIB ISHAQ** is now a senior associate at GrayRobinson, P.A. in Orlando.

**JOHN M. LOCKWOOD** has opened John M. Lockwood & Associates. He can be reached at 200 W. College Ave., Ste. 307, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.694.2978 or john@lockwoodlawfirm.com.



**WILLIAM G. LAZENBY**, who practices corporate and banking law, commercial litigation and bankruptcy law, has been named partner at Englander Fischer, located in St. Petersburg.

**JOHN M. MARTINEZ** has been appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott as an Orange County Commissioner. He is the son of **SENATOR MEL R. MARTINEZ ('73)**.



**MELANIE SHOEMAKER GRIFFIN** was elected president-elect-designate of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. She will be sworn in as president-elect of the division at the Annual Convention

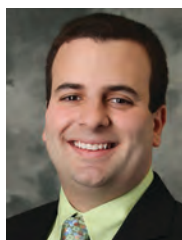
this summer, and as president at the Annual Convention in 2013. She can be reached at 800 N. Magnolia Ave., Ste. 1500, Orlando, FL 32803, 407.841.1200 or Mgriffin@deanmead.com.



**SARAH LINDQUIST PAPE** has been named shareholder at Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe, Attorneys at Law. She can be reached at 315 E. Robinson St., Ste. 600, Orlando, FL 32801, 407.425.7075 (ext. 114) or spape@zkslawfirm.com.

**2007**

**RICHARD A.C. ALTON** and **JASON R. STRUBLE** accepted an offer of publication from the *Michigan State University College of Law Journal of International Law*. The short title of their article is "The Legacy of Operation Allied Force." This is their second joint publication on international law and Struble's third publication all together.



**JAMES J. ARGENTO**, a prosecutor for the State Attorney's Office in the Fifth Judicial Circuit in Tavares, FL, was appointed to the City of Leesburg Charter Review Committee and was

reappointed to the City of Leesburg Planning Commission as a planning commissioner alternate.

**BARBARA J. LEACH** has opened Barbara Leach Law, PL. She can be reached at 2431 Aloma Ave., Ste. 124, Winter Park, FL 32792, 407.672.1252 or Barbara@bleachlaw.com.



**CARRIE M. LEONTITSIS** and **FRANCIS S. LEONTITSIS** were married on October 22, 2011.

They both practice in Charlotte County, Florida. She works at Olmsted & Wilson, P.A. and he works

for Mary A. Byrski, P.A. They both concentrate in the areas of probate and trust administration, guardianship and estate planning.

**ERIC W. DEMING** is now with Morgan & Morgan in the Orlando office located at 20 N. Orange Ave., Ste. 400, Orlando, FL 32801. He can also be reached at 407.420.1414.

**MATTHEW R. NAPARSTEK** is now with Methe & Rockenbach, P.A. He can be reached at 1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Ste. 400, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, 561.727.3600 or mnaparstek@flacivillaw.com.

**2008**



**ANDREW J. COLLINSON** has joined the law firm of Trenam Kemker as an associate at the St. Petersburg office. He practices in the area of commercial litigation.



**BENJAMIN J. GIBSON** was elected to The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors representing the Tallahassee area. He will be sworn in at the Annual Convention this summer.

**WILLIAM P. KEITH** joined Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne as a litigation associate. He can be reached at 3043 4th Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619.209.3000 or keith@dsmwlaw.com.

**RACHEL E. NORDBY** was appointed deputy solicitor general at Florida's Office of the Solicitor General.

**ALAN C. NASH** was elected vice president of the Fort Lauderdale Community Development Corporation. He also was chosen for inclusion on *Super Lawyers' 2012 Florida Rising Star* list, reserved for lawyers who have shown excellence in practice, who are either 40 years old or younger or in practice for ten years or fewer.

**ZACHARY W. PROCTER** joined The Ryczek Firm in Lawrenceville, GA. He specializes in DUI defense, mediation and arbitration.

**HENRY A. STILES, IV** joined the Tampa office of Shutts & Bowen, LLP, as an associate. He can be reached at 4301 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Ste. 300, Tampa, FL 33607, 813.229.8900 or hstiles@shutts.com.

**2009**



**ROBERT A. MCGLYNN** has joined Kaye & Bender P.L., a full service commercial law firm concentrating on the representation of community associations, as an associate. He

specializes in collections and lien foreclosures.

**JOHN DORRIS** is now a bankruptcy associate at Latham, Shuker, Eden & Beaudine in Orlando.



**HOWIE FOX** is now senior assistant general counsel in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Civil Enforcement Section, Office of General Counsel. He also was a guest

speaker in the spring 2012 Environmental Law class.



**JONATHAN M. SYKES** has joined the central Florida office of Burr & Forman LLP as a member of the firm's Financial Services Litigation practice group.

**JAMES R. DOUGLASS, III** is an associate in the Tampa office of Fisher & Phillips LLP, a national labor and employment firm.



**SHANE T. COSTELLO** and **JESSICA D. GOODWIN** were married on Nov. 5, 2011. Florida State Law alums **MICHELLE L. CONNELLY** and **PATRICK V. DOUGLAS** were members of the wedding party. The couple

currently resides in Tampa. He is an associate with Butler Pappas, LLP and she is an associate with Ogden & Sullivan, P.A.

**MATTHEW A. ZOLNOR** is now assistant general counsel at MSC Care Management.

**2010**

**GREGORY BLACK** is a lobbyist for Metz, Husband & Daughton law firm. He can be reached at 215 S. Monroe St., Ste. 505, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.205.9000 or Greg.black@metzlaw.com.



**TERIN M. BARBAS CREMER** is on the board of directors for the Second Harvest of the Big Bend and was appointed to the Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame Board. She is assistant general counsel at the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities.



**NICHOLAS DYAL** is now an associate in the Jacksonville office of Gunster. He can be reached at 225 Water St., Ste. 1750, Jacksonville, FL 32202, 904.350.7195 or ndyal@gunster.com.

**SHAYNA A. FREYMAN**, an associate in the Fort Lauderdale office of GrayRobinson, P.A., was recently selected to serve on the Ghost Light Society's Steering Committee, which strives to inspire members to promote and celebrate the performing arts.



**NICHOLE C. MILTON** is an assistant district attorney with Fulton County. She and her husband, Rodney - a planner with the City of Atlanta - are the happy parents of Ellis, 1 year, and Kennedy, 2 years.

**JACQUELYN REDMOND** married Patrick Redmond in January. She also passed the Massachusetts and Florida Bar exams and joined Dhar Law, LLP as an associate. She can be reached at Two Atlantic Ave., 4th Fl., Boston, MA 02110, 617.880.6155 or Jacquelyn@dharlawllp.com.

**T. JASON RILEY** has accepted an offer for a federal clerkship with Administrative Law Judge Thomas P. McCarthy of the Federal Mine Safety & Health Review Commission. He can be reached at 601 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Ste. 9500, Washington, DC 20001, 202.233.4003 or jriley@fmshrc.gov.

**2011**

**JAY J. ATHEY** has joined the Pensacola office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith.

**TIMOTHY B. BAKER** is a junior partner at Data Targeting, a Florida consulting firm. He is a former spokesman for Florida Senate President Mike Haridopolos' U.S. Senate campaign and the past campaign manager for Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto.

**WHEELER H. BRYANT** was hired as an associate at the law firm of McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A., in their Pensacola office. He can be reached at 316 S. Baylen St., Ste. 500, Pensacola, FL 32502, 850.434.7122 or wbryant@mcconnaughay.com.

**TESSA R. DAVIS** is pursuing her LL.M. in Taxation at New York University and received honorable mention in the Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship's 2011 Writing Competition for a paper, "Reproducing Value," she wrote during her 3L year at Florida State.

**KRISTA A. DOLAN** passed the New York Bar exam.

**ERIC S. GIUNTA** wrote an exclusive article, "A Legal Analysis: Trayvon Martin Tragedy Has Nothing To Do with 'Stand Your Ground,'" for the *Sunshine State News*.



**CHRISTIN F. GONZALEZ** recently joined Novey Law as an associate. Novey Law is a boutique law firm in Tallahassee that provides legal services in the areas of marital and family law

and has been ranked as one of the 2011-2012 Best Law Firms by *U.S. News & World Report*.

**GABRIEL M. HARTSELL** has joined the Pensacola office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith.

**JAESON W. HOMOLA** joined the Tallahassee firm Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig & Brooks as an associate.

**ZACHARY R. KOBRIN** won the Honorable Mention award in the 2011 Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition with his paper, "Sustainable Procurement is Smart Procurement: A Primer for Local Governments to Successfully Implement Sustainable Procurement Policies."

**ROBERT J. MURPHY** joined the Tampa office of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. as an associate. He can be reached at 813.264.9310 or Robert.murphy@csklegal.com.

**STEFANI C. NORRIN** joined the law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. as an associate in the Tort & Insurance Litigation division.

**JOSEPH J. ONORATI** joined Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. as an associate in the litigation department.

**AUDREY K. RIERSON** has joined the Tampa office of Carlton Fields as an associate.

**ANNE MARIE D. ROSSI** has joined Frost Van den Boom & Smith, P.A. She can be reached at 395 S. Central Ave., Bartow, FL 33830, 863.578.5948 or arossi@fvslaw.com.

**ALAN F. SOMERSTEIN** is an associate at the Fort Lauderdale office of Greenspoon Marder, where he focuses on commercial and residential real estate transactional matters, including the preparation of contracts, lease agreements and loan documents.

## Annual Fund

Please help us reach our goal of 28 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by **June 30** to: Florida State College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, Fla. 32306-1601.

You can also give online at:

[http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/annual\\_fund.html](http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/annual_fund.html).

If you have any questions about giving to this year's Annual Fund, contact Becky Shepherd at 850.644.0231 or [rshepher@law.fsu.edu](mailto:rshepher@law.fsu.edu).

Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and Florida State Law!



Use your web-enabled smart phone to scan this tag that will allow you to make a donation online.

**KRISTEN L. WENGER** has joined the Jacksonville office of Fowler White Boggs as an associate. She can be reached at 50 N. Laura St., Ste. 2800, Jacksonville, FL 32202 or 904.598.3100.

**SEAN WHITE** is an analyst with the Florida Senate Judiciary Committee. He can be reached at 850.487.5924 or [white.sean@fsenate.gov](mailto:white.sean@fsenate.gov).

### In Memoriam

**NORMAN L. PAXTON, JR. ('72)**, a Fort Pierce advocate for pro bono service, passed away in October 2011 at the age of 63. He received the 2012 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 19th circuit posthumously.

**JERRY R. SPINKS ('72)**, a passionate advocate for historic preservation who had been instrumental in the Jacksonville Historical Society's effort to buy and renovate Old St. Luke's Hospital into a premier research and exhibition center, passed away in October 2011 at the age of 73.

# Patent Conference a Success



Frederick Abbott

A conference on the interaction of emerging market patent law with the international patent system took place April 13-15, 2012, on the law school's campus.

The conference, entitled "Emerging Markets and the World Patent Order: Rules for an Altered Landscape," was co-organized by Florida State's Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Frederick Abbott, Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property Carlos Correa and Professor in the Regulatory Institutions Network at the Australian National University Peter Drahos.

The meeting brought together a group of the world's leading experts in patent law and policy to reflect on the implications of the changing international patent environment from a social, economic and political perspective.

For Abbott, the conference was a success by creating awareness of trends in intellectual property affecting the emerging markets.

"Students at FSU College of Law are graduating into a highly integrated global economy, with American businesses relying on exports and investment abroad for success, and with American lawyers frequently representing foreign-based clients in the United States," said Abbott. "There are few areas of business policy that are receiv-



**"Students at FSU College of Law are graduating into a highly integrated global economy, with American businesses relying on exports and investment abroad for success, and with American lawyers frequently representing foreign-based clients in the United States."**

ing more attention than finding ways to generate innovation, and protecting it. This meeting, convened to study trends in intellectual property affecting the emerging markets - including Brazil, China, India and South Africa - creates awareness among law firms, government policymakers and businesses that FSU students are exposed

to the critical legal and business trends affecting them."

Approximately 20 participants from Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, Germany, India, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the three day conference in Tallahassee.

"The conference reinforces that FSU College of Law is a center of excellence that is keeping pace with our fast-changing business environment," said Abbott.

## Professor Hirsch Appointed to Florida Historical Commission



Adam J. Hirsch

Florida State University College of Law Professor Adam J. Hirsch has been appointed to the Florida Historical Commission by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Hirsch's term began February 16, 2012, and will end December 31, 2014.

Hirsch is the William & Catherine VanDerCreek Professor at the law school and a courtesy professor at Florida State's history department. He is a leading authority on wills and trusts and is an Academic Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Hirsch holds a J.D. and a Ph.D. in History from Yale University, where his doctoral dissertation received the George Washington Egleston Prize for the best dissertation in American history.

"I have long had an interest in the legal history of Florida and I now hope to make whatever contribution I can to the broader effort to support historical study and preservation within our state," said Hirsch. "I am honored and pleased to receive this appointment."

The 11-member Florida Historical Commission was established by the 2001 Florida Legislature to enhance public participation and involvement in the preservation and protection of the state's historic and archaeological sites and properties.

## Article Written by Professor Utset to be Focus of University of Virginia Symposium Issue of Journal



Manuel A. Utset, Jr.

The scholarship of the faculty at Florida State University is being noticed not only within the Florida State community, but also nationally.

Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor Manuel A. Utset, Jr. presented his article, "Corporate Actors, Corporate Crimes, and Time-Inconsistent Preferences," at the University of Virginia School of Law on March 29.

During his presentation, Professor Utset provided a new explanation for why corporations and their managers are often under-deterred by criminal sanctions. The explanation is based on his more general theory of time-inconsistent criminal misconduct that he has developed in a series of articles. Utset also discussed how lawmakers should go about designing criminal sanctions if they want to effectively deter corporate actors.

Brandon L. Garrett, the Roy L. and Rosamond Woodruff Morgan Professor of Law at the University of Virginia's law school, provided a response to Utset's presentation.

Additionally, Utset's article is the center-piece of a forthcoming symposium issue of *The Virginia Journal of Criminal Law*.

"Enron, Worldcom, Bernie Madoff and the recent financial crisis all involved long-term, repeated misconduct by corporate managers," said Utset. "How do managers decide whether or not to embark on a path of misconduct? What is the best way of deterring them? The article that is the subject of this symposium issue explains this sort of repeated misconduct as a product of self-control problems. There is little reason to think that managers who smoke or eat too much or repeatedly procrastinate starting an exercise regime would exhibit perfect self-control when they reach the workplace."

The symposium issue will include papers commenting on and extending Utset's arguments written by faculty at the University of Minnesota School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Michigan State University College of Law and the University of Utah College of Law.

# FACULTY NOTES

**Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of *Florida State Law*.**

## Frederick M. Abbott

EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR

**Reports:** *Report on Trends in Local Production of Medicines and Related Technology Transfer for Developing Countries*, World Health Organization (December 2011) (193 pp.); *Intellectual Property and Public Health: Meeting the Challenge of Sustainability*, *Global Health Programme*, Working Paper No. 7/2011 (November 15, 2011). **Presentations:** *Trends in local production of medical products in developing countries: integrating public health and industrial development* (Geneva, Local Production for Access to Medicines, Stakeholder Meeting, World Health Organization, February 2012); *Trends in Local Production of Medicines and Related Technology Transfer* (Brussels, seminar on local production and access to medical products, World Health Organization and European Parliament Working Group on innovation, access to medicines and poverty related diseases, European Parliament, December 2011); *Property and Public Health: Meeting the Challenge of Sustainability* (Geneva, 5th High-Level Symposium on Global Health Diplomacy, 10 Years after the Doha Declaration: The future agenda at the interface of Public Health, Innovation and Trade: An

outlook on the next 10 years, November 2011); *Legal Rules and Political Realities* (Geneva, Médecins Sans Frontières' Access Campaign, Revising TRIPS for Public Health: Can TRIPS be reformed to meet public health needs?, Le Club Suisse de la Presse, Geneva, November 2011). **Appointment:** Appointed Rapporteur, Expert Working Group on Public Health and Intellectual Property for the World Intellectual Property Organization Framework for Designing National Intellectual Property Strategies for Development (March 2012).

## Wendi Adelson

VISITING CLINICAL PROFESSOR

**Book:** THIS IS OUR STORY (2011). **Presentation:** Portions of her book, THIS IS OUR STORY (New York City, Featured Speaker at Cambridge in America, Food for Thought Lunch, February 2012). **Recognition:** Burning Spear, Inc., Guardian of the Flame award recipient.

## Kelli A. Alces

LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS

PROFESSOR

**Article:** *Beyond the Board of Directors*, 46 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 783 (2011). **Presentations:** *Strengthening Investment in Public Corporations Through the Uncorporation* (Seattle University Law School, Adolf A. Berle, Jr. Center on Corporations, Law and Society Symposium, "Berle III," January 2012); *Beyond the Board of Directors* (Emory University

School of Law Faculty Colloquium, November 2011).

## Shawn J. Bayern

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**Article:** *False Efficiency and Missed Opportunities in Law and Economics*, 86 TUL. L. REV. 135 (2011). **Presentations:** *Against Certainty* (University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty Workshop Series, March 2012); *Remarks on the Life Work of Professor Melvin Eisenberg* (San Diego, California, 7th Annual International Contracts Conference Panel, March 2012).

## Robin Kundis Craig

ATTORNEYS' TITLE PROFESSOR

**Book:** BERKSHIRE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SUSTAINABILITY, VOL. 5: ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (2011) (editor with John Copeland Nagle, Bruce Pardy, Oswald Schmitz & William Smith). **Articles:** *Agencies Interpreting Courts Interpreting Statutes: The Chevron Conundrum of a Divided Supreme Court*, 61 EMORY L. J. 1 (2011); *Climate Change and the Puget Sound: Building the Legal Framework for Adaptation*, 2 CLIMATE LAW 299 (2011) (with Robert L. Glicksman, Catherine O'Neill, Yee Huang, William L. Andreen, Victor Byers Flatt, William Funk, Dale D. Goble, Alice Kaswan & Robert R.M. Verchick); *Legal Remedies for Marine Oil Spills and Long-Term Ecological Resilience: A Match Made in Hell*, 2011 BYU L. REV.



1863 (2011). **Presentations:** *Climate Change Adaptation, the Clean Water Act, and Energy: An Application of Principled Flexibility* (George Washington University School of Law, The Clean Water Act at 40, March 2012); *Ocean Governance in the 21st Century: Structure and Challenges* (University of Utah, Silent Spring at 50: The Legacy of Rachel Carson, 17th Annual Symposium of the Wallace Stegner Center, March 2012); *Climate Change and the Oceans: Protecting Special Places in an Era of Change* (University of Utah Seminar, Global Change & Ecosystem Center, March 2012); *CERCLA's Concept of Federalism* (Southwestern Law Review CERCLA Symposium, November 2011); *Regional Governance of Electricity Transmission* (University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Inaugural Carver Colloquium: Energy Transmission and Governance, Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, October 2011); *Defining Riparian Rights as "Property" through Takings Litigation: Is There a Property Right to Environmental Quality?* (Lewis & Clark Fall Symposium: 21st Century Water Law, October 2011). **Recognition:** Articles written by Craig were cited in the opinions for *Bock v. University of Tennessee Medical Group, Inc.* and *State Automobile Mutual Insurance Co. v. Flexdar, Inc.* in March.

### Joseph M. Dodge

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER  
ALHADEFF & SITTERSON PROFESSOR

**Book:** FEDERAL INCOME TAX: DOCTRINE, STRUCTURE, AND POLICY: TEXT, CASES, PROBLEMS (with J. Clifton Fleming, Jr. and Robert J. Peroni) (4th ed., Lexis-Nexis 2012). **Presentations:** *United States Senate, Finance Committee,*

*Academic and Finance Committee Staff Academic Roundtable concerning tax reform, sessions on individual income tax and transfer taxes* (Washington, D.C., Panelist, January 2012); *What Form Should a Wealth Transfer Tax Take?* (Washington, D.C., Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2012).

### Elwin J. Griffith

TALLAHASSEE ALUMNI PROFESSOR

**Article:** *The Meaning of Admission and the Effect of Waivers under the Immigration and Nationality Act*, 55 HOW. L.J. 1 (2011).

### Adam J. Hirsch

WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK  
PROFESSOR

**Article:** *The Code Breakers: How States Are Modifying the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act*, 46 REAL PROP. TR. & EST. L.J. 325 (2011). **Recognition:** Hirsch's article, *Freedom of Testation/Freedom of Contract*, 95 MINN. L. REV. 2180 (2011), was selected one of the top 10 "must read" articles of 2011 in estate and gift taxation, according to a column published at 134 TAX NOTES 1453 (March 12, 2012).

### Marshall Kapp

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND LAW

**Articles:** *Teaching Medical Students How to Reconcile Law and Ethics in Practice: A Faculty Development Model*, 21 ANNALS OF HEALTH LAW 271 (2012) (with Dennis Baker & Gregory Turner); *If We Can Force People to Purchase Health Insurance, Then Let's Force Them to Be Treated Too*, 38 AM. J.L. & MED. 397 (2012). **Book Review:** "The Law of Life and Death," by Elizabeth Price Foley, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 43-44, CARE MGMT. J. (2012).

**Book Review Essays:** *Medical Problems, Legal Responses*, review of "Poverty, Health and Law: Readings and Cases for Medical-Legal Partnership," by Elizabeth Tobin Tyler, Ellen Lawton, Kathleen Conroy, Megan Sandel & Barry Zuckerman, Bol. 40, No. 1, pp. 154-59, J.L. MED. & ETHICS (Spring 2012); *Legal and Ethical Approaches to Older Lives: Reconciling Rules and Relationships*, review of "Ethics, Aging, and Society: The Critical Turn," by Martha B. Holstein, Jennifer A. Parks & Mark A. Waymack and "Public Guardianship: In the Best Interests of Incapacitated People?" by Pamela B. Teaster, Winsor C. Schmidt, Jr., Erica F. Wood, Susan A. Lawrence & Marta S. Mendiondo (2012). **Presentations:** *Beyond Advance Directives: Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment* (Boston, Aging and Advance Care Planning Symposium at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society, November 2011); *If We Can Force People to Purchase Health Insurance, Then Let's Force Them to Be Treated Too* (Boston, "The American Right to Health: Constitutional, Statutory, and Contractual Healthcare in the United States" symposium sponsored by the *American Journal of Law & Medicine* and Boston University School of Law, January 2012); *Medical-Legal Literature 2011-12: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (New Orleans, Annual Meeting of the American College of Legal Medicine, February 2012).

### Wayne A. Logan

GARY & SALLYN PAJIC PROFESSOR

**Articles:** *Police Mistakes of Law*, 61 EMORY L.J. 69 (2011); "Mosaic Theory" and *Megan's Laws*, 2011 CARDOZO L.

REV. DE NOVO 95. **Presentations:** *Policing Identity* (University of Pittsburgh School of Law, March 2012); *Constitutional Cacophony: Federal Circuit Splits and the Fourth Amendment* (Vanderbilt Law School, March 2012); *The Racial Geography of Juvenile Sex Offender Registries* (Southern University Law Center, February 2012); *Policing Identity* (University of Miami School of Law, February 2012); *Warrantless Searches of Smartphones* (Tampa, Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures, December 2011); *Megan's Law as a Case Study in Political Stasis* (Boston, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, October 2011).

### Dan Markel

D'ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR

**Articles:** *Retributive Justice and the Demands of Democratic Citizenship*, 1 VA. J. CRIM. L. 1-133 (2012); *Making Punishment Safe for Democracy: A Reply to Professors Bowers, Cahill, and Duff*, 1 VA. J. CRIM. L. 205-263 (2012). **Presentations:** *Retributive Justice and the Demands of Democratic Citizenship* (Touro Law School, November 2011); *Retributive Justice and the Demands of Democratic Citizenship* (Washington, D.C., AALS Federalist Society Faculty Conference, January 2012). **Recognition:** *Retributive Justice and the Demands of Democratic Citizenship* was selected as one of the winners of the Federalist Society Young Scholars Competition.

### David L. Markell

STEVEN M. GOLDSTEIN PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

**Article:** *An Empirical Assessment of Climate Change in the Courts: A New Jurisprudence or Business as Usual?* (with J.B. Ruhl), 64 FLA. L. REV. 1 (2012).

**Recognition:** Continued to serve as a member of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation National Advisory Committee and participated in a number of its meetings.

### Jim Rossi

HARRY M. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR

**Articles:** *Agency Coordination in Shared Regulatory Space* (with Jody Freeman), 125 HARV. L. REV. 1131 (2012); *Clean Energy and the Price Preemption Ceiling*, 3 SAN DIEGO J. CLIMATE & ENERGY L. 247 (2011). **Presentation:** *Good For You / Bad For Us: Financial Barriers to Demand Reduction in Electric Power* (Vanderbilt Law Review Symposium on Supply and Demand in Energy, February 2012).

### Mark B. Seidenfeld

PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

**Article:** *Substituting Substantive for Procedural Review of Guidance Documents*, 90 TEXAS L. REV. 331 (2011).

**Presentations:** *The Irrelevance of Politics for Arbitrary and Capricious Review* (Loyola Law School Los Angeles Faculty Workshop, January 2012); *The Irrelevance of Politics for Arbitrary and Capricious Review* (Emory Law School Faculty Workshop, January 2012); *The Legal Implications of Supreme Court*

*Review of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (Tampa, National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting, November 2011).

### Mark Spottswood

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**Presentation:** *Evidence-Based Litigation Reform* (Florida International University, Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, February 2012).

### Fernando Teson

TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR

**Chapter:** *Targeted Killing in War and Peace: A Philosophical Analysis*, in TARGETED KILLINGS: LAW AND MORALITY IN AN ASYMMETRICAL WORLD (C. Finkelstein, J.D. Ohlin and A. Altman, editors) (Oxford University Press, 2012).

**Article:** *Why Free Trade is Required by Justice*, 29 SOCIAL PHIL. & POL. 126 (2012). **Presentations:** *The Duty to Apologize for Genocide* (Beirut, Lebanon, Invited Panelist, Conference on "The Armenian Genocide: From Acknowledgement to Reparations," Armenian Catholicosate, February 2012); *The Morality of Targeted Killing* (Oxford University, The Duty to Apologize for Genocide, Seminar Series, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, January 2012); *State Legitimacy and Permissible Diplomacy* (University of Arizona, December 2011).

### Franita Tolson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**Presentations:** *Partisan Gerrymandering and the Politics of Judicial Review* (Florida International University, Faculty Workshop, March 2012) (Prawfsfest!, Loyola Law School Los

Angeles, December 2011); *Reinventing Sovereignty: Federalism as a Constraint on the Voting Rights Act* (The Baldy Center for Law and Policy at the University of Buffalo School of Law, Major Developments in Redistricting, October 2011) (Loyola University Chicago School of Law Constitutional Law Colloquium, October 2011) (Wake Forest University School of Law, Southeastern Law Schools Junior/Senior Faculty Workshop, October 2011).

### Donald J. Weidner

DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL

PROFESSOR

**Article:** *Partners without Partners: The Legal Status of Single Person Partnerships*, (with Robert W. Hillman), XVII *FORDHAM J. CORP. & FIN. L.* 451 (2012)

**Presentations:** *Practical Legal Education: What Is It and How Much of It Do We Want*, (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, LSU Law School, Panelist, March 2012); *Thomasville Rotary Club Presentation* (Thomasville, Georgia, March 2012); **Recognition:** Appointed to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

### Hannah Wiseman

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**Article:** *Beyond Coastal Oil v. Garza: Nuisance and Trespass in Hydraulic Fracturing Litigation*, 57 *THE ADVOCATE (TEXAS)* 8 (Winter 2011). **Presentations:** *State Regulation of Shale Gas Development: Variation, Innovation, and Challenges* (Presentation to Congressional staff, Dr. Rob Jackson, Nicholas Chair of Global Environmental Change at the Nicholas School of the Environ-

ment, March 2012); *State and Local Regulation of Shale Oil and Gas Development: Adaptation, Experimentation, or Chaos?* (Northwestern University, Searle Center Conference on Federalism and Energy in the United States, Panelist, March 2012); *Natural Gas: Environmental Concerns, Regulatory Response, and Potential Supply Impacts* (University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Electric Power in a Carbon Constrained World, Panelist, February 2012); *The Legal and Socioeconomic Setting, Fracturing Regulation Applied* (Duke Nicholas School of the Environment, Hydrofracking Workshop, Panelist, January 2012); *Water and Clean Energy* (University of Florida Levin College of Law, Environmental Capstone Colloquium, January 2012).

## Faculty Media Hits

**Fred Abbott** was quoted November 24 in an *Intellectual Property Watch* article, “IP, Trade And Public Health Leaders Turn A Page In History Together.” He was mentioned November 22 in an *Intellectual Property Watch* article, “Doha+10: MSF Asks, What’s Next For TRIPS And Health?”

**Wendi Adelson** and her book, “*This Is Our Story*,” were highlighted February 1 in *The Florida Bar News* article, “Advocating for modern-day slaves inspires novels.” Her book also was featured November 8 in a *Tallahassee Democrat* article, “Law professor’s book spotlights the toll of human trafficking.”

**Kelli Alces** was quoted April 5 in a *Bloomberg Businessweek* article, “Buffets Rewards Managers Who Put Chain in Bankruptcy.” She was quoted December 2 in a *Thomson Reuters* article, “AMR creditors’ committee may be an eclectic mix.”

**Paolo Annino** was featured in an April 27 *WFSU* story, “Tallahassee’s best legal minds to be recognized.” He also was quoted March 14 in a *Sun Sentinel* article, “Lawsuit

claims state traps sick, disabled kids in nursing homes.”

**Shawn Bayern** was quoted December 5 in a *State Impact/Florida Public Radio* news story, “Florida Hazing Death Under FDLE Investigation.”

**Robin Craig** was quoted March 27 in a *Bloomberg BNA* article, “Water Quality Standards for Power Plants Should Adjust for Climate, Professor Says.” She was quoted March 14 in an *Associated Press* article, “Lawsuits against EPA target nutrients in US waters.” The story was picked up by several media outlets, including *The Huffington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Sacramento Bee*.

**Sandy D’Alemberte** was featured in an April 27 *WFSU* story, “Tallahassee’s best legal minds to be recognized.” He also was quoted on April 6 in an opinion piece in *The Palm Beach Post*, “Can an illegal immigrant be admitted to The Florida Bar?” and in an article in *The Palm Beach Post*, “Illegal status foils law school graduates in Florida.” He was quoted April 2 in a *New England Cable News* article,

“US representatives support Fla. immigrant lawyer.”

**Faye Jones** was quoted January 18 in a *WCTV* story, “Wikipedia Protests SOPA.”

**Marshall Kapp** was interviewed and featured by *WFSU-FM* radio in their “Perspectives” program on April 19. He was quoted March 6 in a *Sun Sentinel* article, “Florida doctors get law training to improve patient care.” He was featured November 21 in a *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* article, “Taking the time to get it right on end-of-life care wishes.”

**Jay Kesten** was quoted April 5 in an article by *The Washington Post*, “Between banks and venture capital, some start-ups look to a pay-as-you-go model.”

**Larry Krieger’s** research was featured February 1 in an *ABA Journal* article, “Speaking Up: Helping Law Students Break Through the Silence of Depression.”

**Wayne Logan** was quoted April 23 in an *ABC News* article, “Businesses Charge Hundreds to Remove Mug Shots Online.”

**Dan Markel** was quoted April 11 in *The New York Times* in

an article, “Severe Charge, With a Minimum Term of 25 Years.” He was mentioned February 22 in a *Slate* article, “Shame on You!” He also was featured February 16 in a *Slate* article, “Brotherly Love.” He was quoted November 15 in a *New York Times* blog, “Perry Proposes Overhaul of Washington.”

**Franita Tolson** wrote an opinion article, “Commentary: Affordable Care Act should survive if court follows precedent,” that was published March 23 in *The Palm Beach Post*. She was cited February 27 in a *RH Reality Check* article, “Is the Blunt Amendment Constitutional?” The article was picked up by the *Daily Kos*. She also was a guest on the television series “*Facing Florida*” on February 26. She was interviewed live January 31 on *WCTV-TV*, providing analysis on the Florida primary election results.

**Don Weidner** was featured December 2 in a *Tallahassee Democrat* article, “FSU dean appointed to national commission.”

**Hannah Wiseman** was quoted November 26 in a *Wall Street Journal* article, “Wind Fuels Fight in Oil Patch.”

# Business Faculty Offers New Business Law Certificate Program

The law school's newest certificate program graduated its first set of students during the spring 2012 commencement ceremony. Five students received the Business Law Certificate.

The sophistication and varied areas of expertise of the law school's business faculty allow for the certificate to exist. Faculty members previously practiced at top corporate law firms and are nationally regarded experts. The tax faculty is one of the nation's 15 most downloaded on the Social Science Research Network. The business faculty brings their experience and expertise into the classroom.

For example, Jeffrey Kahn, the Larson Professor, practiced tax law at the Chicago office of McDermott, Will & Emery. Also in Chicago, Loula Fuller and Dan Myers Professor Kelli Alces practiced with Gardner, Carton & Douglas. Assistant Professor Jay Kesten practiced corporate law in Boston with Cooley Godward Kronish LLP. Additionally, University Professor Steve Johnson practiced with Willkie Farr & Gallagher in New York City and the Internal Revenue Service. Their areas of research include tax, corporate governance and corporate finance.

The educational backgrounds of other law faculty members who teach business courses add to the stature of the business law program at Florida State. Many of the faculty members who teach business courses have obtained Ph.D.s or LL.M.s in addition to their

J.D. degrees, allowing for specialized course offerings.

The program allows students planning a career in business law and finance to receive specialized training in a set of core areas. Those areas include publicly traded corporations, closely-held business entities, corporate finance, law and economics and taxation. In addition to carrying additional requirements beyond those necessary for a juris doctor degree, completion of the program signals to potential employers that a graduate has advanced training. The

Certificate Program allows students to get a solid background in both law and business so they can make a smooth and quick transition into what is increasingly becoming a highly complex area of practice."

"The Business Law Certificate prepares students to add value as much as possible to firms with a highly sophisticated business law practice," said Dean Don Weidner. "Our emphasis on financial and economic sophistication helps them understand the world of the client."

**"The Business Law Certificate Program allows students to get a solid background in both law and business so they can make a smooth and quick transition into what is increasingly becoming a highly complex area of practice."**

certificate program was designed to allow students to craft a broad, well-diversified course of study.

Manuel A. Utset, Jr., the Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor, stresses the importance of specialized training for those interested in business law.

"Students who want to become effective business lawyers need to learn about economics, corporate finance, tax, securities laws, secured transactions, insurance and real estate finance, to name a few," said Utset, who previously practiced at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City. "The Business Law

# Florida State Black Law Students Association Named National Chapter of the Year – Again!



Michael Williams

For the third time since 2006, the Florida State University College of Law’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) has been named National Chapter of the Year by the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). As a 2011-2012 Regional Chapter of the Year for the Southern Region of NBLSA, Florida State competed for the national award against six other regional winners, including Harvard Law School, William & Mary Law School,

Indiana University Mauer School of Law, University of Texas School of Law, University of South Carolina School of Law and UCLA School of Law. BLSA President Michael Williams accepted the award March 10 at the NBLSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.

The National Chapter of the Year award is given to a chapter that has made a difference in its community and has improved the quality of its law school by enhancing social awareness and communal activism while representing NBLSA ideals. Chapters are evaluated on criteria including: community service events, voter rights programming, youth programming, college student programming, career development, social events and National Black Law Students Association participation.

The Florida State BLSA chapter held more than 30 events during the 2011-2012 academic year on topics ranging from election law to African-Americans in the legal profession. Chapter members also participated in community service activities, volunteering at the Second Harvest of the Big Bend, collecting food and clothing for local families and also collecting books for prisoners.

“We are thrilled that our Black Law Students Association was again recognized as National Chapter of the Year,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Congratulations and thanks go to the entire BLSA board and especially President Michael Williams for bringing this honor home to Florida State.”

# Students Win Regional ABA Dispute Resolution Competition

Two Florida State University College of Law students have won first place in the 2011 American Bar Association Regional Negotiation Competition. The competition was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 12-13. The students then competed in the national competition on February 3-4 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Winning team members were first-year students Jared Snyder, of Coral Springs, Florida, and William Thompson, of Jacksonville, Florida. They were coached by P. Gregory “Greg” Jones, who is special counsel at the Florida Department of Transportation.

“We are all so proud of Will and Jared, especially since Florida State was the only school with first-year law students participating in the competition” said Dean Don Weidner. “Special thanks go to the student competitors and to their coach.”

Twenty-eight teams representing 14 law schools competed in the event, which was open to schools from seven southeastern states and Puerto Rico. Florida State’s winning team beat Samford University in the first round, University of Miami in the second round and Emory University in the finals. Other schools competing included University of Florida, University of Georgia and University of North Carolina.



(L-R) William Thompson ('14) and Jared Snyder ('14)

# OTHER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



**Chevonne Christian (2L)** was a member of the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team that placed second in the Thurgood

Marshall Mock Trial National Competition in March. The team competed against nearly 100 teams from around the country.

**Belicha Desgraves (3L)** was a member of the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team that placed second in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition in March. The team competed against nearly 100 teams from around the country.

**Hayley Dewey (3L)** published a co-written article, “Long-term complication: Florida’s death certification process and long-term care,” in the *International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine*.

**Josiah Graham (1L)** was a member of the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team that placed second in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition in March. The team competed against nearly 100 teams from around the country.



**Keven Leveille (3L)** and **Jennito Simon (2L)** published a book, “Haitian As Human,” which aims to “humanize” Haiti and the Haitian experience.

**Kyesha Mapp (1L)** was a member of the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team that placed second in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition in March. The team competed against nearly 100 teams from around the country.

**Hannah Monroe (3L)** will clerk for The Honorable Robert Hinkle of the United States District Court Northern District of Florida after she graduates in 2012. She is one of five recent graduates who have landed federal clerkships this year.



**Samuel Steinberg (2L)** received the honorable mention award in the YLD/FLMIC 2012 Law Student Essay Contest, presented by the

Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar and Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company. The topic of the contest was ‘best practices for small firms and solo practitioners to manage risk associated with e-discovery.’ In addition to a cash award, his article will be published in the newsletter of the General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section of The Florida Bar.

“VanDercreek” continued from page 13

“He was a Dallas Cowboy fan and I’m a Pittsburgh Steeler fan,” said Yetter, “and we spent many a Sunday afternoon watching those teams. Those were great times and I really miss those.”

Football also dictated Thanksgiving schedules at the VanDercreek home.

“We spent a lot of holidays together, particularly Thanksgiving,” said Ehrhardt. “The big thing about Thanksgiving was when we were going to eat, because it couldn’t interfere with the Dallas Cowboys game on television.”

Friends of VanDercreek have fond memories of spending time with him and the family that he cherished. He was married to Catherine VanDercreek, with whom he had five children. One of his three grandchildren, Whitney Langston,

graduated from the law school in 2011.

“There are so many good memories I have of Bill,” said Yetter. “One is, after both of us had retired, we were at a hotel where games of chance are played – a very nice one in Mississippi – with our families. Bill and I were sitting at a card table playing cards with a group of younger executive types. Bill had on his blue silk suit, a silver tie, an immaculate white shirt and was sitting there passively with huge piles of chips. Bill got up to go do something and one of the younger men said to the other, ‘Who is that guy?’ And the other guy looked at him and said, ‘I’m not sure, but I think he is some kind of duke.’ From that time on, we referred to Bill as ‘The Duke.’

“Everywhere Bill went, he had a good time and if you were around him, you couldn’t help but have a good time.” ■

# SPRING 2012 GRADUATION

Nearly 270 graduates participated in the College of Law's spring commencement ceremony May 5 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. Participants included spring 2012 graduates, an LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers graduate, Rosnisay Keo, an LL.M. in Environmental Law graduate, M.B. Adelson, IV, and other students who either completed their degree requirements in December 2011 or plan to in December 2012.

Adelson graduated with his J.D. degree from Florida State in 1987 and was the first person to walk with the LL.M. in Environmental Law. Keo hails from Cambodia.

Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady was the commencement speaker. The ceremony was followed by a reception on the law school's green.



**LEFT**  
Graduate Genevieve Harper poses with her parents, Susan Dunlop and Rick Harper, after the ceremony.

**ABOVE**  
Students who share the last name "Smith" gather for a photo before the commencement ceremony. (L-R) Elliott Smith, Andrew Smith, Daniel Smith and Thomas Smith.

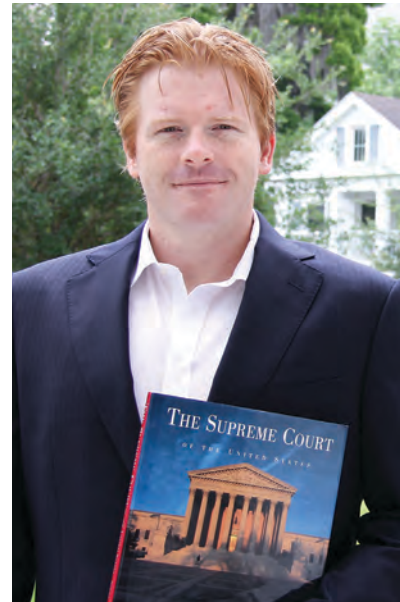




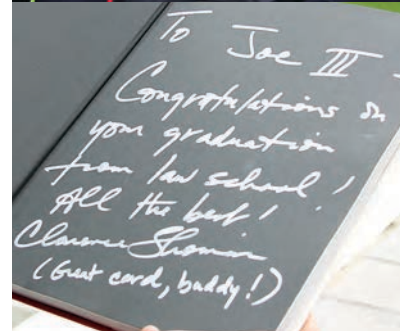
**ABOVE LEFT**  
Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady was the Spring 2012 commencement ceremony speaker.



**ABOVE MIDDLE**  
M.B. Adelson, IV talks with Rosnisay Keo on the law school's green after the ceremony. Adelson, who received his LL.M. in Environmental Law, and Keo, who graduated with her LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers, were the two LL.M. recipients to participate in this year's ceremony.



**RIGHT**  
Spring 2012 graduate Joe Pelter, III holds a book autographed by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Impressed by Justice Thomas' opinions and background, Pelter sent him a note along with his graduation announcement. Pelter also contacted Bobby Bowden and received a signed photo from the former Florida State football coach.



# Mock Trial: Year-End Review

The 2011-2012 Mock Trial team celebrated their successful year at a banquet on April 16 at the University Center Club in Tallahassee.

The team is made of multiple smaller competing groups that participated in eight competitions this academic year.

Students traveled around the state and nation to showcase their trial advocacy skills. Competition locations included San Antonio, Texas, Buffalo, New York, San Francisco, California and Chicago, Illinois. Within Florida, students traveled to Miami, Tampa, Orlando and Fort Lauderdale to compete.

At the Florida Justice Association E. Earle Zehmer Competition, first place winners were Raul Arispe ('12), Joey Chindamo ('13), Marshawn Griffin ('12) and Jennito Simon ('13). At that same competition, semi-finalists included William Bissell ('12), Michael Flegiel ('13), Stephanie Hayes ('12) and Lorraine Young ('12). Both teams were coached by Dana Brooks ('08), shareholder of Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig & Brooks, Joseph Brooks, of Brooks & Masterson and Matt Liebenhaut ('05), of the Law Office of Matt Liebenhaut.

Winning second place in the American Bar Association Labor & Employment Competition were Anna Crutcher ('12), Christopher Jurich ('12), Nicholas Paquette ('13) and Peter Tragos ('13). They were coached by Maria Santoro, managing partner in the Tallahassee office of George Hartz Lundeen, and College of Law Professor Ruth Stone.

Christian Bax ('12), Natasha Dorsey ('12), Nicholas Horton ('13) and Adrian Mood ('13) were quarter-finalists in the Buffalo-Niagara Annual Mock Trial Competition. Their coach was Richard Tanner, managing partner of the Tallahassee branch of deBeaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris & Neal and an adjunct professor at the law school.

Second place finishers at The Florida Bar Chester Bedell Competition were Marshawn Griffin ('12), Stephanie Hayes ('12), Keven Leveille ('12) and Ross Marshman ('12). The team was coached by Jessica Bowen ('08), who practices at Heath & Rasky, and Martin Powell ('09), of Meyer, Brooks, Demma and Blohm.

In the Lone Star Classic Competition, Brett Miller ('12) won the award for Best Cross Examination.



**TOP LEFT**  
**(L-R) Natasha Dorsey ('12), Adrian Mood ('13), Nicholas Horton ('13), Christian Bax ('12) and Coach Richard Tanner**



**ABOVE**  
(L-R) Peter Tragos ('13),  
Anna Crutcher ('12), Coach Ruth Stone,  
Coach Maria Santoro and  
Christopher Jurich ('12)

**TOP RIGHT**  
(L-R): Lorraine Young ('12), Marshawn Griffin ('12),  
Stephanie Hayes ('12), Coach Dana Brooks ('08),  
Michael Flegiel ('13), Joey Chindamo ('13) and  
Jennito Simon ('13)

**ABOVE**  
(L-R): Stephanie Hayes ('12),  
Coach Martin Powell ('09), Keven Leveille ('12),  
Sara Hassler ('13), Logan McEwen ('12),  
Ross Marshman ('12), Jennito Simon ('13),  
Marshawn Griffin ('12) and  
Christopher Jurich ('12)

## Eighty-eight Percent of Law Students Give to Annual Fund

When it comes to student philanthropy, Florida State University's College of Law has always been impressive. This year, however, students outdid themselves.

Setting the school's all-time record for percentage of student giving, the Student Annual Fund Drive, which was held Jan. 30 through Feb. 3, concluded with 88 percent of students making cash gifts.

The 1Ls led the way with the highest giving rate of 89 percent and the 2Ls had the largest per capita average gift amount (\$14.22) of the three classes. The 3Ls ended the fund drive with the largest total gift amount (\$3,370.49).

The weeklong event was the collaborative effort of on-campus student leaders, the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, faculty members and the administration.

Alexandra Haddad ('12), president of the Student Bar Association and an instrumental part of the drive's success, could not be happier with the results. She credits the high quality of life of the school's students as a major contributing factor to the impressive giving rate.

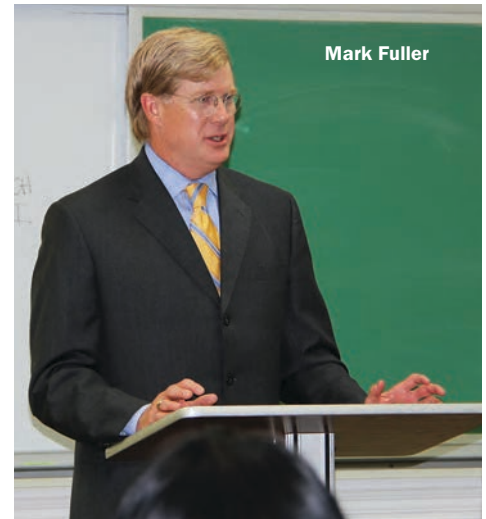
"Reaching such a high percentage rate of giving clearly shows that students at the law school are happy," said Haddad. "A lot of (students) have loan debts and pay tuition, yet we were still able to reach into our pockets and give back. To me, that's remarkable."

For Haddad, the Student Annual Fund Drive provides a chance for students to show their appreciation to the law school's faculty in a unique way.

"The faculty help shape our future through the quality of their expertise, so being able to say 'thank you' is an opportunity many students didn't want to miss," said Haddad.

"The Student Annual Fund Drive's success sends a powerful signal to all local, regional and national constituencies that something extraordinary and dynamic is taking place at the school," said Dean Don Weidner.

## Fuller Serves as Jurist In Residence



Judge Mark Fuller, of the Middle District of Alabama, visited the law school as a Jurist in Residence on Wednesday, April 11.

He met with law students, toured the law school, spoke with the faculty, visited a class and participated in a conversation/question and answer session with Trial Advocacy students.

Fuller received his B.S. degree from the University of Alabama and his J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law. He was an attorney in the private sector from 1985-1996, when he became Chief Assistant District Attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. He was then elected District Attorney of the 12th Circuit, where he served until his appointment as a federal judge.

# Florida State Celebrates its Environmental Law Distinguished Lecture 25th Anniversary Symposium



William H. Rodgers, Jr.



Alison Rieser



John D. Echeverria



Josh Eagle



Michael Allan Wolf



Richard McLaughlin

The law school held its Environmental Law Distinguished Lecture 25th Anniversary Symposium on March 14. The event, hosted by the Florida State College of Law and the Inter-American Seas Research Consortium, focused on the future of ocean and coastal law and policy.

The special program included two panels: an oceans panel and a coastal panel. The oceans panel explored emerging issues in national and international ocean policy while the coastal panel addressed strategies for making sea-level-rise adaptation “takings-proof.”

Oceans panelists included Josh Eagle, professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Alison Rieser, Dai Ho Chun Distinguished Professor at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and William H. Rodgers, Jr., Stimson Bullitt Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law.

Coastal panelists included John D. Echeverria, professor of law and acting director of the Environmental Law Center at Vermont Law School, Dr. Richard McLaughlin, who holds an endowed chair for marine policy and law at Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, and Michael Allan Wolf, the Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law at the University of Florida College of Law.

In addition to the symposium, the College of Law held the Spring 2012 Environmental Forum, “Making One’s Case with the Government: Practical Issues and Strategies,” on April 4. The law school co-sponsored the event with the Public Interest Committee of the Environmental and Land Use Law Section of The Florida Bar.

This forum featured distinguished panelists who have broad expertise in working in and with the government and representing different clients before it.



Spring 2012 Environmental Forum panelists are introduced to a packed room.

The event was moderated by Christopher T. Byrd, a senior assistant general counsel with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Public Lands Section. Panelists included Janet E. Bowman (’87), Director of Legislative Policy and Strategies for the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Charles Pattison, president of 1000 Friends of Florida, Mary Thomas (’05), assistant general counsel in the executive office of Governor Rick Scott, and Florida Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda.

# Law School Announces Administration Changes

*Several people have recently joined or been promoted within the law school administration.*



**David L. Markell**

Steven M. Goldstein Professor David L. Markell is the new Associate Dean for Environmental Programs. Markell joined the faculty in 2002 and served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the 2007-2008 academic year. He is an expert in environmental law and administrative law. He has published five books and numerous articles and book chapters, and is widely recognized for his scholarly work relating to climate change, enforcement, North American environmental law and policy, and the design of government decision-making procedures.



**David E. Landau**

Assistant Professor David E. Landau is now the Associate Dean for International Programs. He writes about comparative constitutional jurisprudence and civil procedure. Before joining the Florida State Law faculty, Landau was a Climenko Fellow and lecturer on law at Harvard Law School and a presidential scholar at Harvard University in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.



**Mark Seidenfeld**

Mark Seidenfeld, the Patricia A. Dore Professor of Administrative Law, will now serve as the Associate Dean for Research. Recognized as one of the country's leading scholars on federal administrative law, he is the author of influential publications on how administrative law doctrine relates to institutional behavior and agency accountability.



**Nicole Scialabba**

The Placement Office has a new addition to its staff, Assistant Director Nicole Scialabba. She obtained both her undergraduate and J.D. degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and is admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. While in law school, Scialabba was the Pro Bono program coordinator for her college's Placement Office, and after law school she served as a staff attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services Association in Pittsburgh. She relocated to Florida in 2010, and joins the College of Law from the Office of the State Courts Administrator.



**Elizabeth Boyette**

Elizabeth Boyette has been promoted to the Director of Academic Programs. She will oversee the administration of LL.M. degree programs in American Law (for foreign lawyers) and Environmental Law & Policy. She will also oversee certificate programs in Environmental Law, International Law and Business Law and will direct the foreign exchange program.

Several law and medical students spent spring break in Immokalee, Florida, assisting migrant farm workers with legal and medical needs. The "Alternative Spring Break" was part of the law school's newest clinic, the Medical-Legal Partnership, at the Public Interest Law Center. Pictured are the students, faculty members involved with the program and the pastor of the church that is in the background of the photo. The photo was taken before the group went on an airboat ride.



## CLOSING NOTES...

***Hispanic Business* magazine (2011) ranks Florida State the nation's 3rd best law school** for Hispanic students.

**The College of Law's extensive clinical externship program** has been referred to as a model for the nation. It includes judicial, criminal, civil, legal services, appellate and international placements.



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