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FSU LAW FOCUS

July 31, 2026

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FSU Law Alumni Association Board Takeover

Welcome from FSU Law's **Alumni Association Board**!

At least once a year, we have the privilege of "taking over" the FSU Law Focus Newsletter and speaking directly to you, our FSU Law Community, about the work we are doing together to strengthen our community.

As the Alumni Association's President for the 2026-27 term, I feel it is my responsibility to introduce myself formally. I'm Alex Fumagali, a Shareholder at Lawson Huck Gonzalez's Orlando and Miami offices. My practice area focuses on civil and commercial litigation, product liability, administrative law, jury trials, and binding arbitrations. I also serve as outside counsel for professional sports franchises and entertainment venues. I'm a proud first-generation Cuban-American and was raised within a close-knit Cuban community in Miami.

FSU Law has continued to do so much for me, even after graduating 14 years ago. The alumni community is always looking out for each other, and I was fortunate to meet my firm's Chairman – former Justice Alan Lawson – through my involvement with the FSU Law alumni board. That connection led me to my dream job. My family and I have never been happier!

I'm excited to have named four presidential appointees this year: Ben Odom ('04), Landus Anderson ('22), Eisele Ibarra ('21), and Alana Weatherstone ('13). These alumni have been excellent ambassadors of FSU Law since their graduation and are rising stars in their respective legal practices.

Our mission is to help promote and advance programs and initiatives of the College of Law. As a working board, we do so through the following board committees: Alumni Awards, Development, Alumni Outreach, Career Services, and Student Recruitment.

You can join us and be a part of advancing the next generation of law students, whether through giving back your time, resources, or advice. If this resonates with you, please reach out to **Becky Shepherd (rshepher@law.fsu.edu)**, our dedicated Executive Director of Alumni Outreach and Engagement, to learn how you can get involved. You may also connect with any of our **talented Board Members** to share ideas or explore opportunities that align with your interests.

We look forward to connecting with many of you at **Homecoming, November 20-22, 2026**! Until then, thank you for your continued support of FSU Law.

- Alex Fumagali ('12), Alumni Association President

Student Recruitment Committee

I went to FSU Law because I just needed something to do. Lost and entering my 30s, a career in law seemed like at least "a path." I picked FSU Law— Tallahassee in particular—because after growing up in Manhattan, it was the farthest thing from everything I had ever known, and what I had tried so far hadn't worked, so why not take a gamble?

I hit the jackpot. Going to FSU Law was the single most important decision I ever made, marrying my wife and getting my dog included, because I would never have been ready and in the position to do the latter without the former. Now, that is all vague, and on the border of trite, but what wasn't was my transformative three years in Tallahassee. To describe my experience in one word: welcoming.

I have always been an acquired taste and a little rough around the edges, so I was not expecting anybody to sample me, much less order seconds. But then I met Noel Davies ('12), who let me tag around with him when no one else would (and still does to this day). I met Chuck Abrams ('12), who showed me that friendliness was a virtue in these parts, unlike the weakness I had known it to be. I met Megan O'Connor ('12), the epitome of sweetness, who was the first to show appreciation for whatever I was putting out there. I met Max Dauerman ('12), who showed me that I wouldn't have to give up my love of "the Boss" and New York Jew mannerisms to fit in. I met Jason Rudderman ('12) and Alex Quimby ('12), who showed me that propriety was admirable and endearing. I met Lizzie Muller ('12) and Alex Haddad ('12), whose pluck showed me that Southern girls weren't all sedate, but also sassy and smart. I met Kendra McCan ('13), Ashley Hoffman ('13), and Lauren Vickroy ('11), who showed me that "the popular girl" could also be "the brilliant and benevolent" one. I met Katie Kelly ('12), who explained to me that cargo pants were a no-go, and introduced me to my now-close friends Vineyard Vines and Southern Charm. I met TJ Solomon ('11), my only roommate ever, who not only tolerated my quirks but found them as endearing as I found him and his ignorance of ingredients. I met Andrew Smith ('12), who showed me that being "the star quarterback-type" and "being nice and decent" were not mutually exclusive. And I met Molly Drake ('12), who showed me that wholesomeness and kindness were virtues to be emulated, not taken advantage of.

And I met so many more life-long friends, which vastly exceeded my initial goal of meeting one person who would tolerate me. Even if FSU Law did nothing for me academically, these friendships alone would have made my time there worth every second. But even more welcoming than the students were the faculty. The first thing that shocked me was how every professor's door was open to every student, not just those in the top 20, as is so common at other law schools. I know this because I was closer to the bottom 20 than the top, and every single professor always made time to invite me in, answer my questions, or just shoot the breeze—Professors Seidenfeld, Bridgeman, Bayern, Logan, and Kreiger especially. While many law schools are filled with accomplished professors who love the law, what is unique about FSU Law, as I have come to learn from chatting with my now-colleagues about their law school experience, is that FSU Law's professors also love teaching. They aren't just there to write law review articles and pad their résumés. They genuinely want students to understand the law so we can share that love of it, and they will give you an immense amount of their time to make that happen.

That is the common thread throughout all these people—they all want you to succeed. Coming from the cutthroat competitiveness of New York City, this took me a while to adjust to and accept. But everyone—EVERYONE—my classmates, the professors, the administration (with special recognition to Dean B)— wanted me and everyone else to succeed. This is not normal. Many law schools share that same cutthroat competitiveness. But not FSU Law. Everyone was there to help. My classmates didn't hide books; they shared notes and outlines. The top three in our class were not rivals, but dear friends. And this was not just my experience, but of so many of my classmates and also alumni I have met over the years. FSU Law is different in the best way possible, thanks to Deans Weidner and O'Connor for being such outstanding keepers of the flame.

And we want to keep it that way. That is why a position on the Alumni Board Student Recruitment Committee is such a coveted spot, and why what we do is so important. Any law school can mold people into lawyers—even great lawyers. But what FSU Law does uniquely well is mold great people who also become great lawyers. And our job on the committee is to help keep it that way by recruiting students who not only meet FSU Law's elite academic standards, but also share our values.

- David Varet ('12), Chair, Student Recruitment Committee

Alumni Outreach Committee

The FSU College of Law Alumni Association's Outreach Committee is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the law school to connect beyond Tallahassee.

This summer, the committee hosted the FSU Law Students & Alumni Summer Networking Event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. More than 60 incoming students, current students, alumni, faculty, and friends attended the event, making it an incredible evening of connection and community.

The event included a special welcome for members of the incoming Class of 2029 and gave them an opportunity to meet the alumni and members of the FSU Law community who will support them throughout law school and beyond. **Associate Dean of Admissions Jessica Dworkin** also joined us to welcome our newest Seminoles and connect with attendees.

Events like this allow incoming and current students to experience firsthand what makes FSU Law so special: a community that genuinely shows up for one another. They also provide alumni with opportunities to reconnect, expand their professional networks, and remain actively involved with the College of Law.

We are excited to continue building upon this momentum with regional alumni events planned for Orlando in March, Atlanta in April, and Jacksonville in May of 2027. Additional information, including dates, locations, and registration details, will be shared closer to each event.

We are also seeking alumni who may be interested in hosting, sponsoring, or helping coordinate an upcoming regional event. Alumni can assist by identifying potential venues, connecting us with local sponsors, or helping us encourage other Seminoles in their communities to attend. Please reach out to me at **lauren@venustaslaw.com** or **Becky Shepherd** if you would like to participate in event arrangements and coordination.

Our goal is to host events like these more frequently across the state and beyond. By creating spaces for alumni, students, and future lawyers to build meaningful relationships, we can continue strengthening the FSU Law community for generations to come. GO NOLES!!

– Lauren Angulo Ward ('17), Chair, Alumni Outreach Committee

Calendar of Events

Career Services Office (CSO) Fall Interviews: 6 Sessions (Virtual or In-Person):

- First Fall Interview Session: September 15-18, 2026 & More Dates

CSO First Fall OCI Employer Registration Deadline: August 17, 2026
Click here for more information and registration dates.

First Day of Fall Classes: August 24, 2026

Workers' Compensation Alumni Breakfast (Orlando, FL): August 25, 2026

CSO Practice Area Career Fair: September 29, 2026

CSO Meet the Firms: October 21, 2026

Homecoming: November 20-22, 2026

- (First 2026-27 BOD Meeting): November 20, 2026
- (Homecoming Reception & 60-Year Anniversary Celebration): November 20, 2026
- (Herbert Wertheim College of Business and College of Law Alumni & Friends Tailgate): November 21, 2026
- (Class of 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, 2016 Reunions): November 20-22, 2026

Fall Graduation: December 11, 2026

Alumni Association Board of Directors

We're proud to announce the 2026-27 FSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. These dedicated alumni are passionate about advancing and supporting FSU Law.

Join us in thanking them for their service—and don't hesitate to reach out and get involved.

2026-27 Executive Committee

President - Alexander J. Fumagali ('12)
Lawson Huck Gonzalez
Orlando

Immediate Past President - Tara R. Price ('12)
Shutts & Bowen
Tallahassee

President Elect - Ginger L. Boyd ('00)
Nelson Mullins Broad and Cassel
Tallahassee

Secretary - Roger J. Haughey, II ('97)
Sivyer Barlow Watson & Haughey, P.A.
Tampa

Click here to see the full list, including Directors, Presidential Appointees, Emeritus Members, and Judicial Appointees.

FSU Law Alumni News

THE FLORIDA BAR 50-YEAR MEMBER LIST

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We are proud to share the list of **The Florida Bar 50-Year Member honorees**. We celebrate and honor the incredible dedication and service of these distinguished members of our legal community. Congratulations to all!

FSU College of Law has produced a **60-Year Commemorative Coin** to recognize participation in supporting the law school during its 60th year anniversary.

Alumni can earn a 60-Year Commemorative Coin by donating $250+ ***AND*** joining and engaging on FSU Law Connect ***or*** attending an in-person alumni event. These actions must be taken **between January 1 and December 31, 2026,** to be eligible for the coin.

Find Details on Eligibility Requirements for FSU Law's 60-Year Coin.

If you haven't already, please join **FSU Law Connect** to engage with other alumni and students directly through our exclusive social platform.

Feel free to also follow the FSU College of Law social media accounts, where we share general updates on student achievements, faculty mentions in the media, and more.

ABOUT US | OUR FACULTY | ALUMNI

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