Emerging from COVID

As I write, we just celebrated graduation—a ceremony that did not involve physical distancing, limited seating, or required masking. Hooding, handshakes, and hugging have returned, and we are surrounded by a sense of excitement and optimism for the future of our graduates.

This past year we have focused on emerging from COVID. When fall classes started, we had 1Ls who had never been on the law campus, many 2Ls who had never been on campus or whose campus experience had been limited, and even some 3Ls who had been remote for a year and a half. We worried that our positive, collaborative student culture might have disappeared forever, but thankfully, we were wrong. Instead, all three classes brought fresh energy to the campus, as though all were 1Ls. The vibrancy of the law campus this year has been incredible, with students not taking for granted any event or opportunity to engage with a visiting judge or prominent attorney, or to socialize with one another. The Student Bar Association and student organization leaders all worked hard to restore campus life and the camaraderie that makes FSU Law so very special.

The positive energy also appears in our classrooms, where our students truly appreciate the opportunity to learn and to engage in small group discussions, advocacy exercises, and more with their professors and with one another. Externships, clinics, and other professional skills courses provide added richness and more effective mentoring in person. Externships, clinics, and other professional skills courses provide added richness and more effective mentoring in person. What was once (in pre-pandemic times) normal, sometimes tedious, or occasionally frustrating is now satisfying, even exciting. In part, the energy on campus derives from the fact that we truly appreciate the normal, having had to settle for something fundamentally abnormal for too long. Normal now feels special in so many ways.

However, it is important to acknowledge that “normal” has changed here at FSU Law, permanently, and for the better. We have learned to use virtual programs, video recording, and other mechanisms to avoid forcing students to stay late on campus or to attend law school briefings at the convenience of administrators rather than them. Even many in-person events have a Zoom option for those who are not on campus but wish to join the conversation. Several of our advocacy team competitions were at least partially virtual this year, and our teams continued to excel in these spaces. These enhanced options provide flexibility and choice to students, who in return are more likely to embrace an opportunity and can navigate stressful times more effectively.

Hybrid options—including virtual and in-person educational opportunities—create an opportunity for us to reach more people, including alumni, employers, prospective students, adjunct faculty, and broader community constituents, than ever before. Consider, for example, the creation of our new Stoops Center of Law and Business, made possible by the generosity of alum Jeffrey Stoops (’84) and the Stoops Family Foundation. The new Center will offer virtual and hybrid professional and executive education programs, conferences, symposia, competitions, and more. These new educational opportunities will build on the strength of our online master’s degree in compliance, which now enrolls more students than our J.D. program. All of these new opportunities make it possible for business professionals outside Tallahassee, and even outside Florida, to take advantage of the exceptional training we provide and to join a conversation here at FSU Law about the future of business law and regulation in its many forms. Should you or your law firm wish to partner with us to provide non-degree educational programs for business professionals, please let me know.

As we navigate our new normal here at FSU Law, we find we are more effective, more collaborative, more flexible, and stronger in many ways due to the forced and extended, albeit temporary transition to virtual spaces. We hope that you too are emerging from COVID successfully and envisioning exciting paths forward for your workplaces and professional careers. We also hope to find an opportunity to engage with each and every one of you, virtually and in-person, soon.

Erin O’Hara O’Connor
Dean and McKenzie Professor
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Please send editorial contributions, including Class Notes submissions and changes of name and address to Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, College of Law, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601, email: rshepher@law.fsu.edu.
After more than four decades as a beloved professor at FSU Law, John W. & Ashley E. Frost Professor Nat Stern retired at the end of this academic year. When he interviewed to join the faculty in December 1980, Stern did not think he would end up in Tallahassee.

“ar to me, my coming to FSU was a happy irony because I considered my meeting with the school’s appointments committee my worst interview at the Association of American Law Schools annual recruitment conference,” recalled Stern. “I was surprised and thrilled when FSU invited me to interview on campus.”

Over the last 41 years, Stern’s contributions to the law school have been immeasurable, but they have been quantified in many ways. His popularity with students and creative teaching methods have earned him several teaching awards, he has led the Moot Court Team to numerous national championships and an eighth-place national ranking in 2021, and he has taught thousands of students, including hundreds of undergraduates during FSU Law’s Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. Stern also has contributed as a leader in faculty governance. He served a one-year term as associate dean for academic affairs and chaired the faculty appointments and curriculum committees several times. Stern also gave generously to the law school to create the Abraham...
and Rhea Stern Endowment, which funds two scholarships: the Abraham Stern Moot Court Scholarship benefits an outstanding Moot Court Team member, and the Abraham and Rhea Stern Scholarship is used to recruit a top student to the law school.

The bonds Stern formed with his students inside the classroom are undeniable. First-year students in his final Constitutional Law I class wrote a song for Stern to express their admiration and performed it during their final meeting on April 12, 2022. And when Stern's retirement was announced, former and current students by the dozens relayed their well wishes and shared fond memories of their esteemed professor. Many expressed their gratitude to Stern for positively influencing their lives and careers.

Stern found teaching extremely gratifying. “Being able to teach subjects that fascinate me to our talented, diverse, and enthusiastic students has been a highlight of my career. I’ve also thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many students individually outside the classroom. It’s been a bonus that a number of them have maintained contact with me as alumni.”

Some of Stern’s most treasured student interactions have been as Moot Court advisor, a role he acquired after Professor Bill VanDercreek stepped down in 1993. Stern enjoys his Moot Court activities so much that he plans to continue advising the team after he retires.

“I’ve always derived a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from working with the Team,” said Stern. “Practice panels in particular afford an opportunity for extended one-on-one engagement that’s rarely available in the classroom. It’s the closest thing to the British tutorial experience that I’ve had. Also, I’d like to continue to have regular involvement with the law school, and Moot Court strikes me as a logical vehicle for that.”

While at FSU Law, Stern also gained national recognition as an expert on constitutional law and the First Amendment. He became intrigued with the topics as an undergraduate student enrolled in a Courts, Judges, and Politics class at Brown University.

“The course included materials on constitutional law that excited my interest,” recalled Stern. “In law school, constitutional law was the subject about which I was most enthusiastic and for which I seemed to have the best feel.”

Stern’s love of teaching began when he was invited to lead two sections of the Courts, Judges, and Politics course while in his final semester at Harvard Law. “I found the experience exhilarating, and after starting practice, realized that teaching provided unique satisfaction.”

In addition to making a profound impact in the classroom, Stern has made significant contributions to legal scholarship during his career. He has published extensively in constitutional law and other areas. “Like most legal academics, I’ve been able to write on topics of my own choosing. I’ve appreciated the freedom to select subjects that I find engrossing and important, and to conduct research that hopefully has contributed to my teaching and ability to advise Moot Court competitors.”

As he steps away from the classroom, Stern plans to spend more time traveling with his favorite writing partner—his wife of 35 years, Karen Oehme. They plan to visit Washington, D.C. often, as their children live in the city. Their daughter, Sarah Stern, is a program manager for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and their son, Mark Stern, is a legal journalist covering the U.S. Supreme Court for Slate. During retirement, Stern also looks forward to catching up on reading, playing tennis, and devoting more time to watching sports.

“I take an inordinate interest in following sports,” said Stern. “Fortunately, Karen is extremely indulgent of my ongoing commentary during televised games and my sharing with her stories from sports that I consider entertaining or instructive.”

Reflecting on his time at FSU Law, Stern feels lucky to have counted as colleagues many wonderful professors. When he steps down from the full-time faculty, the people are what Stern will miss most.

“One of the best aspects of my career here has been being a member of a law school community that truly sees itself as such,” said Stern. “The extent to which our student culture prizes mutual support, the engagement and enthusiasm of our alumni, and the faculty’s shared vision of the law school’s mission—these are features of the school that I’ve heard visitors comment on for a long time. I’ll most miss the daily engagement with students and being an active part of the law school’s extraordinary faculty.”
Relationships mean everything to Ed Walborsky. At his firm, coworkers are friends, family comes first, and loyalty is the rule rather than the exception. At home, friends have become family.

The relationships Walborsky formed during law school have significantly impacted his life and career. For starters, his decision on where to hang a shingle after graduating from FSU Law in 1979 was the direct result of a friendship with a law school classmate.

“A good friend of mine, Terry Gross (’79), was going to Pensacola to work, and he invited me over to take a look at the area. I fell in love with the water and the beaches,” said Walborsky.

The Tallahassee native says he was hungry to learn when he opened his own firm, and he relied on relationships to strengthen his legal skills. He spent countless hours watching attorneys at the local courthouse, including three of Pensacola’s top litigators—Roy Kinsey ('72), Bob Kerrigan ('71), and Fred Levin.

“There were many extraordinary trial lawyers in Pensacola. I got to see what great lawyers do, and from not-so-great lawyers, I also learned what not to do,” said Walborsky. “A lot of inspiring people were willing to spend time to talk to me and teach me.”

Walborsky learned to be himself instead of emulating the style of others, the importance of preparation, to own the “bad” things in your case, to “think outside the box” and take big chances, and the importance of how you communicate with a jury.

One of the primary reasons Walborsky has enjoyed practicing in Pensacola and Panama City, where he has practiced for more than two decades, is the bonds he has formed with colleagues and others in the larger legal community.

“It’s the people who make work enjoyable. Whether it be the clerks or bailiffs at the courthouse, the judges, or the other lawyers, interactions with the people are priceless. It’s like a huge family.”

The firm Walborsky joined with Roy Kinsey and Ted Troxel about a year into his legal career was rooted in relationships. “There has always been a family feeling in the firm, everyone was treated as an equal. No matter what your position was, everyone was treated with
respect because it was a team effort. We always made sure our staff had health insurance and a retirement plan. We celebrated birthdays and important events. Everyone was treated as a professional. Everyone understood family comes first.”

Several employees have stayed with the firm now known as Walborsky Bradley & Fleming, PLLC, for multiple decades due to the firm’s close-knit, positive environment. While Walborsky continues to carry a full caseload, he has turned managing the firm over to Brent Bradley, his law partner of 20 years. Walborsky is grateful to know the firm will continue as a family affair under Bradley’s leadership.

Walborsky relishes practicing law but admits trial work has always been difficult for him. Nevertheless, he has earned a reputation as one of the best. He likes to take “odd cases that speak to me,” cases that other lawyers may not want because they might be difficult. He exclusively represents accident victims, settling on the practice area after clerking for an insurance defense firm as a law student.

While in law school and working for insurance companies, Walborsky gained an in-depth understanding of how they operated and decided he wanted to help those on the other side. “I always loved the story of David and Goliath,” he said. “Helping people who have to battle the odds and a big industry seemed like a good thing to do.”

Although his resume includes an extensive list of impressive trial wins, Walborsky’s proudest achievements are personal.

“But my friends allowed me to be a part of their respective families. They allowed me to have relationships with their children. I have known many of them since birth and through all their activities—school, plays, dances, sporting events—and all these beautiful children call me Uncle Ed. Now, they’ve grown up, and some of them even became lawyers. I have presided over a number of their weddings, which was quite an honor. They are now having their own children and they let me feel a part of their families. Hearing ‘Uncle Ed’ or ‘Uncle Eddie’ gives me great joy.”

Walborsky has seven godchildren, several whose parents are also FSU Law alumni, including Terry Gross’ son Rhett Gross, who graduated from FSU Law in 2012; Dixon Bridgers’ (’76) daughter Leslie Manning; and David Dee’s (’79) daughters Lindsey and Madison Dee.

Because the College of Law played such an important role in Walborsky’s life, he has given back to the school generously.

“I felt lucky to be accepted to law school,” said Walborsky. “The law school gave me an opportunity to have a great life. I always felt grateful for that and felt a duty to give back.”

He created a professorship in honor of his father, FSU Professor of Chemistry Dr. Harry M. Walborsky, and was instrumental in raising funds for the chair that honors Dean Emeritus Don Weidner, who Walborsky says is like a brother. Walborsky also served as president of the FSU College of Law Alumni Association in 2004-05. During his presidency, Walborsky was honored to be part of a team that instituted two innovative fundraising initiatives—the Student Annual Fund Drive and the Annual Fund Drive Phonathon. The projects created a culture of philanthropy, and Walborsky says Florida State’s giving rate went from “abysmal” to third best in the nation among all state law schools in just a few years. He gives the credit for that final feat to FSU Law students, Becky Shepherd, and Weidner.

Walborsky proudly talks about the many FSU Law alumni he has worked with during his career, including his current law partners Robert Fleming (’05) and John Booth (’91), and firm attorney Nathan Kaplan (’13). But a law degree from FSU is not what Walborsky looks for in a colleague.

“Everyone that I work with must have two qualities. They need to be smarter than me, which isn’t difficult, and they must be individuals of high character. After that it doesn’t matter, because you should surround yourself with people who make you better. And the people I have been around have made me better.”

Away from the office, Walborsky also surrounds himself with people who make him better. One of the most important among them is Claire Nuckles, Walborsky’s life partner of more than 11 years. “She is supportive, kind, patient, and strong,” said Walborsky. “She tethers me to the world and keeps me grounded. I am grateful to have her in my life.”
Advancing the Greater Good Through Research and Resilience

By Christi N. Morgan

As an undergraduate student, Karen Oehme knew she wanted to work for a “greater good.” Oehme quickly made that aspiration a reality after graduating from law school in 1987, when she joined Legal Services of North Florida. She then cemented her commitment to public service by taking a job at the Second Judicial Circuit’s Guardian ad Litem Program. Now in her 25th year, and 15th as director, at FSU’s Institute for Family Violence Studies, Oehme has made the greater good a lifelong commitment. Through research and collaboration with academics and students, Oehme also has maintained a focus on many of the topics that piqued her interest in law school, including family law, mental health, domestic violence, and psychiatry.

When Oehme joined the Institute for Family Violence Studies in 1998, where she ran the Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation Program, research and scholarship were not on her agenda. However, she soon recognized a compelling need for research in the field.

“In the area of family law, there were some gaps in the literature, and as a lawyer, I could easily identify what those gaps were,” Oehme explained. “I realized we needed to do research and to be contributing to the knowledge base.”

Since then, Oehme has published extensively and was named an FSU Distinguished University Scholar in 2011. She works with four writing and research teams in different areas: criminal justice, trauma and resilience, successful co-parenting after divorce, and the work of first responders in relation to human trafficking and domestic violence.

“I believe in working with multidisciplinary teams of people,” said Oehme. “Our teams include people from all around the country in different disciplines. I really love to talk to, plan with, learn from, and listen to other researchers.”

Oehme’s professional and personal lives intersect through her scholarly collaboration with husband Nat Stern, who recently retired as FSU Law’s John W. & Ashley E. Frost professor. “He’s a great sounding board,” said Oehme, who calls Stern her soul mate and north star. “He has to listen to all my crazy ideas, and I bring him in on a lot of research. We talk about the law and policy a lot.” The couple has endowed a scholarship at the College of Social Work.

Currently, a large part of Oehme’s work is the FSU Student Resilience Project, which is an online, self-help portal and campus campaign that provides students and others with world-class resources to help them deal with stress and trauma. It includes information for students on a wide variety of topics, including alcohol use, depression, mindfulness, and navigating the first year of college. The campus-wide initiative is the product of collaboration among 12 different university units and...
involves the highest levels of university leadership. In 2019, the project won the prestigious John L. Blackburn Award for Solutions to Campus Problems from the American Association of University Administrators. Anyone with an FSU ID can access the resources at Strong.FSU.edu.

The FSU Student Resilience Project “acknowledges that students may need a little bit of extra help and that they may have a tremendous number of stressors in their lives, and it teaches them new coping and stress management skills,” Oehme said. “It really normalizes help-seeking and connects students to the resources on our campus. FSU is a very resource-rich institution, and we have a lot of wonderful resources for our students, but there are a lot of students who do not know about them.”

One unique aspect of the Student Resilience Project is that the message is crafted and delivered by students. And one of Oehme’s greatest professional joys is working closely with students on this and many other projects.

“I work with students across campus—students in social work, law students, federal work-study students, and students from other colleges who are interested in these issues,” said Oehme. “They want to find out if their eventual work in the community can be informed by the things we know about trauma and resilience. At the end of the day, they keep everything we’re doing fresh and relevant. These students guide us in the design and the implementation of our projects because they are on the cutting edge, they are totally fearless with technology, and they accept everyone. The most exciting thing about my job is that I get to mentor these talented, enthusiastic students, and I learn much more from them than they probably learn from me.”

As chair of the steering committee for the Academic Resilience Consortium (ARC), Oehme also works with academics and student support staff from around North America to communicate with other campuses about the resiliency tools students need as the world changes. She is excited about FSU hosting an ARC resilience conference in October, at the university’s Turnbull Conference Center (academicresilience.org).

Another primary focus of Oehme’s recent work has been creating multidisciplinary professional development courses on trauma and human trafficking. The courses are the result of a realization that everyone—not just students—can benefit from trauma-informed training.

“I started working with the Office of the State Courts Administrator on trainings for judges, and then we began working with the Center for Academic and Professional Development, and now we have a portfolio of professional development courses online,” Oehme explained. “For the past five years we’ve been doing a tremendous amount of work on the issue of trauma, how trauma affects people throughout their lifespan, and how a realization of that should affect policy and law.”

The professional development courses have broad application and are helpful for anyone who works with victims of trauma, including lawyers and judges. Oehme noted that in addition to gaining skills to help their clients, legal professionals enrolled in the courses can earn professional certifications and continuing education credits.

Because her research and scholarship apply broadly, Oehme speaks around the world about trauma and resilience, giving her another important way to spread the word for the greater good.

“The great message of resilience, across populations, is that it gives people hope,” Oehme said. “There is always hope for healing. That is my favorite message. We’ve learned the brain has this incredible capacity to heal, and there are things we can do to help heal our brains and to be healthier. I love that message of resilience because this is a time when people really need hope. People need to be reminded, ‘it’s going to get better.’”
Though he has enjoyed many successes, A. Lawton Langford values what he has learned from his setbacks far more than his achievements. As an entrepreneur, mistakes have been key to his progress.

“What you don’t see on my resume are all the failures,” said Langford, who earned his J.D. and an MBA from Florida State University in 1982. “I’ve been involved in 14 or 15 start-ups, and all but two of those fell short of my expectations. But, I don’t define those ventures’ failures as failing, I define failure as not picking yourself up to keep going. You’ve got to be willing to fail to succeed.”

Langford recently retired as chairman and CEO of Municipal Code Corporation (Municode) after selling the flourishing legal publishing company in August 2021. He joined the family business upon graduating from the law and business schools, starting in grounds maintenance and working his way up through every position at the company.

Langford says his law degree helped him tremendously in the business world, where his primary career objective was to be a good leader. For that reason, Langford is proud the leadership team he built at Municode remains in place although he is no longer there.

“I centered my career around leadership—people are motivated by leadership, not management,” said Langford, who credits many exceptional
mentors with teaching him how to lead. “My leadership style was to give people an opportunity to succeed or fail—sometimes when they’re younger than many think is reasonable. At one time in our company, we had four people in key positions who were under 30. And that was a great team. They pulled us forward into the future. My style was to hire great people, even if they were young, give them real authority, and get out of their way.”

Langford believes that understanding and appreciating the impact of technology also aided in his success. He studied emerging technologies through an executive education program at Singularity University in 2012, which influenced many of the decisions he made at Municode. “Not being afraid of technology was a characteristic of my career,” said Langford. “There were three times in my tenure at Municode when I thought the business was going to be wiped out by technology. One was when the internet was created. After Florida State University, we were second in the area to connect to the internet—we came up with the idea of posting our local government code ordinances online as a searchable database. At that time, it was one of the richest sites in terms of content. Everybody else was creating websites of links. By embracing the idea that the internet was going to be disruptive to the publishing industry, we took advantage of it.”

Since stepping away from the publishing company, he has been able to spend more time with his wife, Beth Langford. The couple met at a wedding in 1982, when he was in his final year of law school and she was an undergradu-
FSU Law presented alumni Alan Abramowitz (’89) and Judge Steve Leifman (’87) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award in October 2021. The award recognizes Florida State University College of Law graduates who have dedicated their careers to public service and who have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, humility and professionalism, as well as the highest regard for ethics. The following Q&As provide details about Abramowitz’s and Leifman’s careers and commitment to public service. By Hannah Akin

Q&A with Exemplary Public Service Career Award Winner Alan Abramowitz (’89)

Alan Abramowitz is the current chief executive officer of The Arc of Florida, a non-profit in Tallahassee that supports community-based organizations which advocate for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining The Arc, Abramowitz led Florida’s Guardian ad Litem program for 10 years, heading the statewide program that relies on volunteers who get to know foster children and attend court hearings to speak on their behalf. He has also held executive positions at the Florida Department of Children and Families and The Florida Bar, worked as an assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, served as a JAG officer in the Army Reserves and National Guard, and volunteered with the Peace Corps. Most of his career has been spent serving not only the public, but also children who often have no voice.

What did receiving the 2021 Exemplary Public Service Career Award mean to you?
I am honored that the law school recognizes the value of public service. The award is especially meaningful because my law school career at FSU gave me the tools and education to serve vulnerable children and adults.

For people who don’t know, can you please describe your public service work?
My public service is focused on ensuring that those who are vulnerable have a voice. Whether it be a youth in foster care, a victim of domestic violence, or a person with an intellectual disability, my advocacy is always about telling true stories that impact strategic decisions. Listening to those you serve is always the key. Much of my public service entails listening and helping tell those stories that inform public policy.

What sparked your passion for public service work?
I am fortunate to have parents who instilled in me the belief that public service is the highest calling.

What do you like most about your public service work?
I am always inspired by those I serve. Whether the person is in foster care, has a mental illness, disability, or other challenge, being able to help them reach their potential gives me an amazing feeling of satisfaction.

Why do you think it’s important for students and alumni to consider public service work?
Making a difference in the life of a child or helping someone who has obstacles live up to their potential is one definition of “legacy.” Even if you don’t make your career in public service, you can still make that difference doing pro bono work or donating to causes that help individuals.

What one thing do you wish people knew about your work?
Public service work is not easy. But there is a reward in knowing that providing opportunities and support to vulnerable people creates a foundation for them to reach their full potential.

What does being a public servant mean to you?
I know that the work I do with individuals and families has improved the quality of life of others.

What is your greatest career accomplishment?
Nothing is accomplished alone, but I am proud to have contributed to the drafting and adoption of Florida’s Normalcy Law. It ensures that caregivers can make
decisions as reasonable, prudent parents for children in their care. This allows foster children to participate in activities in which any other youth participate, such as sports, driving, and babysitting. The following year, Florida’s law was used as the model for new federal legislation.

Q&A with Exemplary Public Service Career Award Winner Judge Steve Leifman (’87)

Judge Steve Leifman has served as an associate administrative judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida since 1998. He has spent most of his judicial career working to divert people with serious mental illnesses who might otherwise end up in the criminal justice system into treatment. From 2007 to 2010 he served as special advisor on criminal justice and mental health for the Supreme Court of Florida and chair of the court’s Mental Health Subcommittee. He currently chairs the Florida Supreme Court’s Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts. In 2000, he started the Eleventh Circuit’s Criminal Mental Health Project.

**What did receiving the 2021 Exemplary Public Service Career Award mean to you?**

It was both an incredible honor and very humbling. What was most meaningful to me was the fact that it was an opportunity for other people to learn about the work we’re doing in Miami-Dade which hopefully will lead to other communities establishing similar diversion programs.

**For people who don’t know, can you please describe your public service work?**

Miami-Dade has a very high percentage of people with mental illnesses, and because we have an inadequate community mental health system, many people who otherwise would have received treatment in the community end up in the criminal justice system. In 2000, I started the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project. The goal was to set up a diversion system, so we could keep people who have serious mental illnesses from ever coming into the criminal justice system. We have a pre- and post-arrest diversion system. The pre-arrest system consists of a program called Crisis Intervention Team Policing, which teaches law enforcement officers how to identify someone in a mental health crisis, how to deescalate the situation, and where to take them, as opposed to arresting them. We also have a post-arrest system. If you get arrested on a misdemeanor or nonviolent felony, you are screened for a mental illness, and if you qualify for the program, we get you out of jail relatively quickly and put you in a treatment system. Once you begin to stabilize, we offer you a program, and if you accept, we do not rebook you. We find you housing, transportation, provide medication, and sign you up for benefits. We also assign you a peer specialist to help navigate the system and help you re-establish relationships. We have eight peer specialists, four of whom are graduates of the program. Peer specialists have lived experience with a serious mental illness and are in recovery. They do a remarkable job and are truly the “secret sauce” of our recipe.

**What one thing do you wish people knew about your work?**

This is a tragic, tragic situation—not just in Miami, but everywhere in the United States. We know that for many people who don’t have serious criminal backgrounds, but are just ill, even a day or two in jail will not only make them worse but will significantly increase recidivism rates. These illnesses are treatable. The more people that understand these are not illnesses of choice, but they’re organic illnesses just like any other disease, the better society will be. If communities would apply population health principles rather than a criminal model to this crisis, communities would improve their public safety, save critical tax dollars, and they would afford people with these illnesses an opportunity to have a life with hope and opportunity, something everyone deserves.

**Why do you think it’s important for students and alumni to consider public service work?**

The key to happiness is giving back. As lawyers we hold a certain status and privilege in society. As such, there comes a certain responsibility. You can be the most brilliant lawyer in the world, but if you want to be a great lawyer, you need to understand life. One of the ways to do that is to get out of your comfort zone and help the most vulnerable in our society.
Floridians

Professors Elected to American and European Law Institute

FSU Law Gary & Sallyn Pajcic Professor Avlana K. Eisenberg and Sheila M. McDevitt Professor Michael T. Morley were selected for membership in the American Law Institute (ALI). Election into ALI is an extremely prestigious honor, bestowed on the nation’s most prominent judges, lawyers, and law professors. The institute is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law. ALI members draft, discuss, revise, and publish Restatements of the Law, Model Codes, and Principles of Law that are influential in the courts and legislatures, as well as in legal scholarship and education.

In addition to Morley and Eisenberg, Florida State’s American Law Institute members include Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Shawn Bayern, Steven M. Goldstein Professor Wayne Logan, Dean and McKenzie Professor Erin O’Connor, and Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Don Weidner.

Additionally, Shawn Bayern was selected for membership in the European Law Institute (ELI). Like ALI, ELI is a highly selective law-reform group. It aims to initiate, conduct, and facilitate research, to make recommendations, and to provide practical guidance in the field of European legal development. The professors’ selection for ALI and ELI membership is a result of their important contributions to the legal profession and legal scholarship.

Trial Team Wins National Civil Rights Competition

The Florida State University College of Law Trial Team won first place in the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. National Civil Rights Competition. The competition took place virtually October 15-17, 2021, and was hosted by University of California, Davis School of Law. The competition problem involved litigation of Eighth Amendment claims of cruel and unusual punishment arising from the arrest and detention of homeless citizens interned indefinitely pursuant to a governor’s executive order enhancing the punishment for vagrancy.

Twenty-two law school teams from around the country participated in the competition, including Harvard University, which FSU Law defeated in the final round of competition. Other schools competing were Emory University, Fordham University, New York University, University of Texas, and William & Mary.

Winning team members were third-year law students Rachel Akram, Zuriel Denmark, Kalie Maniglia, and Shaina Ruth. In addition to winning the competition, Akram was named best overall advocate, and Ruth won best cross-examination honors. FSU Law alumni Samuel Gilot (’16) and Louis Jean-Baptiste (’16) coached the team to victory.
Federal Judges Visit FSU Law

On Monday, September 20, 2021, FSU Law hosted Judge Adalberto Jordan, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. The judge attended several meetings with FSU Law students. He spoke to Professor Wayne Logan’s Criminal Procedure – Police class and Professor Nat Stern’s Constitutional Law II class, and made remarks during a luncheon with members of law school journals and the Moot Court Team. Judge Jordan also attended a special reception with students from the Cuban American Bar Association and Hispanic Law Students Association, and members of the Federal Bar Association. In addition, he met with professors serving on FSU Law’s Clerkship Committee. During the luncheon with students, Judge Jordan answered student questions about being the first Cuban-American to be a judge for the Eleventh Circuit, the differences in serving on the district and appellate courts, his favorite experiences on the federal bench, how he handles cases that may conflict with his personal views, qualities of a good advocate, and classes students should take if they want to obtain a federal judicial clerkship.

Judge Jordan was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit by President Barack Obama in 2012. Prior to that, he had served as a United States district court judge for the Southern District of Florida since 1999. Before becoming a federal judge, Judge Jordan was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, where he served as chief of the Appellate Division and counsel on legal policy.

On March 30, 2022, the Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, a senior judge of the United States Court for the Southern District of Florida, visited FSU Law. Judge Seitz attended Professor Chuck Ehrhardt’s Evidence and Professor Wayne Logan’s Criminal Procedure: Adjudication classes. She also spoke to students on the journals and Moot Court Team over lunch, had tea with Women’s Law Symposium students and local alumni, and attended the Florida State University Law Review banquet. Judge Seitz also met with faculty members of the Judicial Clerkship Committee. During the lunch and tea sessions, Judge Seitz made inspirational remarks to students. She discussed the importance of being grateful and positive, overcoming obstacles, embracing opportunities, building relationships, finding role models, and balancing work and life. She also talked about the increase in the number of women in the profession, and about her experiences as The Florida Bar’s first female president.

Judge Seitz was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton, confirmed, and commissioned in 1998, and she took senior status in 2012. Before joining the United States Court for the Southern District of Florida, she served as director of the Office of Legal Counsel for the Office of National Drug Control Policy; practiced for more than 20 years at Steel, Hector & Davis, LLP, where she was the first woman lawyer hired by the firm; was an adjunct professor at the University of Miami; and was the first female law clerk for Judge Charles Richey of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.
FSU Law Students Serve as Gubernatorial and Legislative Fellows

Seven FSU Law students were selected for the 2021-2022 class of 12 Gubernatorial Fellows. As fellows, these students were immersed in key areas of state government. They received advanced on-the-job training and a glimpse into the inner workings of government as they fulfilled roles of critical responsibility and interacted closely with the state’s top leaders. No other law school was represented in the 2021-2022 class of fellows. FSU Law fellows were Julia Canady (3rd from left), a graduate student in our Juris Master Program placed in the Executive Office of the Governor – Office of Policy and Budget; Shannon Duncanson (3rd from right), a 3L who served at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration; Alberto Garcia Marrero (4th from left), a 2L placed at the Florida Division of Emergency Management; Zachary Loyed (2nd from left), a 2L who worked at the Executive Office of the Governor; Elizabeth Pearce (6th from right), a 3L placed at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation; Benjamin Robinson (2nd from right), a 3L placed at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

Moot Court Team Wins National Title

For the second year in a row, the Florida State University College of Law Moot Court Team won first place in the UCLA School of Law Cybersecurity Moot Court Competition, which took place virtually on March 12. Twenty-two law school teams participated in the 2022 competition, including teams from the University of California, Berkeley; Georgetown University; George Washington University; and Emory University. Florida State competed against New York University in the final round. Judges for the final round were the Honorable Wesley Hsu, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in California; Tracy Wilkison, acting United States attorney for the Central District of California; and Garett Gorlitsky, a former deputy attorney general for California. Winning team members were 3Ls Jackson “Jack” Boudet and Nicholas “Niko” Athanas. The team was coached to victory by FSU Law alumni Michael Kaney (‘18) and Ben Taylor (‘19). In addition to winning the national competition, the team won the Best Brief Award.

“We are so proud of our student advocates and thankful for the efforts of their coaches,” said Dean Erin O’Connor. “This national win is especially impressive because of the competition’s format, in which the twenty-two participating teams were directly cut down to two finalists without any intervening knockout rounds.”
Florida State University College of Law’s Black Law Students Association (FSU BLSA) won first place in the national 2022 Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition. The competition took place virtually March 17-18, and FSU BLSA was undefeated throughout the event. Sixteen law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from the University of Maryland and Texas A&M University, which FSU BLSA beat in the final round. Winning team members were 3L Judelande Jeune, 2L Kayla Neal, 3L Nyah Tennell, and 2L Khamisi Thorpe. The team was coached by Florida State law alumna C. Erica White ('01). In addition to winning the national championship, Thorpe was named the competition’s Best Advocate for the Prosecution, and Tennell was honored as Best Advocate for the Defense.

“Congratulations to our BLSA student advocates on winning the national Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition,” said Dean Erin O’Connor. “These talented students are shining examples of our extremely impressive student body!”

FSU BLSA also won the regional Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition in February during the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association Convention, where the team was undefeated. Also during the regional convention, FSU BLSA won the Best Petitioner’s Brief Award in the regional Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition. Due to a scoring error, the team did not advance as far as they should have, but because of their excellent performance in the rounds in which they competed, they advanced to the related national competition. Moot court team members were 3L Nia Anan-Ankomah and 2L Olivia Ingram, and they were coached by alumni Janeia Ingram ('04), Aqueelah Mitchell ('17), and Matletha Bennette ('17).
Online Master’s Program Grows Substantially and Launches Cybersecurity Concentration

Since commencing fewer than five years ago, Florida State University College of Law’s Online Juris Master (J.M.) Program for non-lawyers has grown considerably. The program has also gained national recognition and is currently ranked the country’s second best among online master’s in legal studies programs. In the fall of 2017, during the program’s first semester, 42 students were enrolled in J.M. classes. During the spring 2022 semester, 588 students were enrolled in the program. In the same period, offerings have increased from four to about 50 courses. A total of 349 students have graduated from the program, including 93 this past spring semester.

Students enrolled in the J.M. Program gain an in-depth understanding of the law and regulations impacting heavily regulated industries. The career-focused curriculum was specially designed to prepare working professionals to better understand the compliance issues surrounding their work and effectively strategize for, identify, and understand potential legal and regulatory hazards. Students also gain an understanding of how to implement intelligent risk management programs and determine when legal counsel is needed.

The J.M. student body and faculty have extremely varied backgrounds and experiences. Students hail from 34 states and are citizens of 23 countries. Seventy-three percent of students identify as female and 48% identify as ethnically/racially diverse. More than two thirds of students are older than 30, and students range in age from 20-79. Sixty-six percent of students work full time while taking classes, and 2% of students are self-employed or work part time. About 20% of faculty members are ethnically/racially diverse, and 44% of professors over the last academic year identified as female. Faculty employers include law firms, international corporations, and state and federal government agencies.

Due to knowledge gained from the program’s innovative curriculum, many students and alumni report promotions and other career achievements after as early as one semester of J.M. coursework. Jobs held by recent graduates include:

- Business Analyst
- Business Operations Manager
- Chief Auditor
- Compliance Officer/Risk Officer
- Director/Executive Director
- Forensic Science Specialist
- Human Resource Specialist/Manager
- Owner/Broker
- President/Vice President
- Regulatory Consultant
- Senior Associate
- Senior Litigation Paralegal

“Jim McConnaughhay and I got involved with the Juris Master Program after Jim and the dean had a conversation about FSU starting the program,” said Steven Rissman (72), who practices law in the area of workers’ compensation and has given generously to the law school to support the program, among other things. “We were very interested in supporting a professional program that might lead qualified individuals into insurance-related careers. In fact, we know of several individuals who are risk managers for very substantial corporations that have gotten a Master’s in Business Administration and have commented that if FSU had a program like this when they were trying to advance their careers, then it would have been perfect for them. We see this program as a feeder for many companies hiring risk managers or insurance-efficient employees.”

In the fall of 2021, to address the marketplace and meet the demands of the growing student body, FSU Law launched a new J.M. concentration focused on cybersecurity. The Juris Master in Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Technology Risk Management enables working professionals and recent graduates to acquire legal skills to advance their careers.
**TOP NEWS**

**Trial Team Again Ranked #15 Nationally**

In 2021, the FSU Law Trial Team was ranked 15th best in the nation for the second consecutive year. Additionally, FSU was one of only four public law schools ranked in the top 20. The 2021 Trial Competition Performance Rankings by the Fordham University School of Law Brendan Moore Trial Advocacy Center evaluate law school trial teams based on their results in national and select regional competitions. This remarkable achievement came after team members won first place in the 2020 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition; were finalists in the 2020 In Vino Veritas National Mock Trial Competition and the 2021 National Trial Competition Regionals; and were semifinalists in the 2020 Hofstra Medical-Legal Competition, the 2020 Summit Cup Competition, and the 2021 American Association for Justice Regional Competition. During the 2020-2021 competition season, several trial team members also were recognized at competitions with individual awards, including Best Advocate and Outstanding Advocate honors. The Trial Team’s success would not have been possible without the dedication of team advisor Tor Friedman (’05), the team’s skilled coaches, and the countless other alumni and faculty members who help the Trial Team prepare for competitions.

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**With the addition of the cybersecurity concentration, students now have five concentrations from which to choose when enrolling in the online master’s program:**

1. **Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Technology Risk Management**
2. **Employment Law and HR Risk Management**
3. **Legal Risk Management, Contracting, and Compliance**
4. **Health Care Regulation**
5. **Financial Regulation and Compliance**

Program administrators continue to monitor emerging trends in regulated industries and to develop innovative courses. FSU Law J.D. alumni interested in teaching or becoming involved in the program in other ways may contact William & Catherine VanDercreek Professor and Associate Dean for Juris Master Programs Manuel A. Utset, Jr., at mutset@law.fsu.edu. To learn more about the Online J.M. Program, visit law.fsu.edu/jmonline.

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in industries where cybersecurity, privacy, and technology risk management are critical to sustainable and resilient operations.

Students in the concentration gain a solid foundation in U.S. and foreign laws and regulations governing cybersecurity, privacy, intellectual property, data science, and artificial intelligence. They also learn about pertinent contract law issues, including basic contract law, intellectual property licensing law, government and defense contracting, and legal and risk management issues relevant to managing portfolios of contracts.
FSU LAW IN PHOTOS

FLORIDA STATE LAW
FEATURED ALUMNI

BENJAMIN L. CRUMP (’95) was named one of TIME’s 100 Most Influential People of 2021.

SHENIKA “NIK” HARRIS (’04) is now the director of strategic outreach and engagement for the Human Rights Campaign.

DAVID BOYER (’11) has retired after serving 33 years in the United States Army. Boyer is the managing attorney at the National Disability Rights Network.

THOMAS “TOM” CLOUD (’79) received the 2021 Paul S. Buchman Award from the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association for his contributions to the field of municipal law. Cloud is a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Orlando.

ALEXANDRA E. AKRE (’16) is now a shareholder at Ausley McMullen in Tallahassee. Akre focuses her practice on a variety of litigation and appellate matters involving administrative law, constitutional law, education, healthcare, and employment law.

MELANIE GRIFFIN (’06) began serving as secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation on January 1, after being appointed to the position by Governor Ron DeSantis in late December. As secretary, Griffin leads Florida’s regulation of more than 1.4 million licensees across more than 30 fields of industry.

EARNEST DELOACH, JR. (’99), vice president—legal and compliance for the Southeast Division of Balfour Beatty Construction in Orlando, has been named co-lead of both the company’s DEI Task Force and its African American employee affinity group, NOBLE. DeLoach has also been a speaker on various panels, including the 2021 Texas Bar Association Construction Law Conference, “Building Diversity and Demolishing Implicit Bias in the Construction Industry,” and the Association of Corporate Counsel’s “Disrupting the Silence - A Conversation about Asian Hate and Bias.” For his work, DeLoach was named a 2021 Orlando Business Journal “Diversity in Business” awardee.

ALAN C. “A.C.” NASH (’07) has been appointed to the board of directors of the Broward County Chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society. Nash is a shareholder in the Fort Lauderdale office of Marshall Dennehey.

JONATHAN “JON” MCGOWAN (’21) authored an article for the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy Per Curiam titled “Medical Marijuana Permits and Concealed Weapons Permits: When One Right Impacts Another.”

TARA R. PRICE (’10) is now a partner at the Tallahassee office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, and is also a member of the firm’s Appellate Practice Group. Price focuses her practice on administrative, commercial, constitutional, and appellate litigation.
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DAVID POWELL ('84) authored Ninety Miles and a Lifetime Away: Memories of Early Cuban Exiles (University of Florida Press), which was published March 1. Based on 54 extensive interviews, the book preserves rare accounts of those who fled Cuba between 1959 and the early 1970s. Longtime CBS 60 Minutes correspondent Steve Kroft called the book “a beautifully imagined, carefully researched, and masterfully edited oral history.” Powell is retired from Hopping Green & Sams and lives in Tallahassee.

SANDRA UPEGUI ('99) is now general counsel of the Public Library of Science, a nonprofit, open access publisher empowering researchers to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication.

AMELIA A. SAVAGE ('06) has joined the Tallahassee office of Stearns Weaver Miller as a shareholder. She focuses primarily on environmental and natural resources law, with experience in mining operations, single-family docks, energy facilities, wetland mitigation banks, large scale developments, water supply matters, and more.

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JORDANE WONG ('21) is an associate at the Tallahassee office of Dean Mead, practicing in the areas of litigation and administrative law, particularly within the Department of Agriculture.

NATASHA DORSEY ('12) is now president of the board of Florida Lawyers Assistance (FLA). As president, she helps FLA in its mission to support the mental health of Florida’s lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals. Dorsey, who resides in the Chicago area, is also immediate past president and a current at-large member of The Florida Bar’s Out-of-State Division.

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MICHAEL W. JACKSON (’88) was named the first Black president of the Alabama District Attorney’s Association for the 2021-2022 year.

ROBERT “BOB” SWAINE (‘01) is chair of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar. Swaine is a partner practicing out of the Sebring office of Swaine, Harris & Wohl, P.A.

STEPHEN K. VARNELL (’17) has joined the litigation team at the Tallahassee office of GrayRobinson. Varnell focuses his practice on general civil litigation in state and federal court, and represents clients at the trial and appellate court levels. He previously served as a law clerk to Judge Allen C. Winsor of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, for Justice Robert J. Luck of the Supreme Court of Florida, and for Judge Allen C. Winsor of the Florida First District Court of Appeal.

REMI ABIODUN (’21) received a 2021 Equal Justice Works Fellowship. She is working at the Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights, where she advocates for children in adult prisons serving life-without-parole sentences in Louisiana to improve prison conditions, ensure education and rehabilitation, and develop mitigation.

CLEMENTINE UWABERA (’14) joined Stafford Rosenbaum LLP as a senior associate attorney in 2020. Uwabera concentrates her practice in the areas of litigation and municipal law. Her experience includes insurance defense, products liability, prosecuting civil forfeiture cases, contracts and agreements, real estate disputes, and personal injury.

G.C. MURRAY II (’12) was selected as the 2021 Lynn B. Futch Most Productive Young Lawyer by The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. The award recognizes young lawyers who have worked diligently in Bar and law-related activities, and have maintained an excellent reputation for legal abilities and integrity.

CARLOS E. MOORE (’02) was installed as the 79th president of the National Bar Association in New Orleans on July 29, 2021.

ARE YOU GETTING FSU LAW EMAILS?

Do you receive our weekly digital newsletter and other emails from FSU Law? The law school has increased emails to alumni in recent years in an effort to share news with you more frequently and more cost effectively. Please be sure to add lawdean@law.fsu.edu and alumni@law.fsu.edu to your email contacts lists, which will protect against overzealous spam filters and allow you to receive emails from the law school. And if you need to update your contact information, including your email address, please send your preferred email address, phone number, and mailing address to alumni@law.fsu.edu.
JACK C. MCELROY ('89) was named Shutts & Bowen LLP’s firm-wide managing partner. McElroy is a commercial litigation partner in the firm’s Orlando office.

JEANNE CURTIN ('02) co-authored a book titled “Making the Metaverse,” which is an introduction to the promise and opportunity presented by the next version of the internet. The book presents the basics of what the metaverse is, what it might become, and why people and businesses should pay attention to this emerging billion-dollar market. Readers do not need to be technology experts to understand these building blocks of the metaverse or to participate in the developments the metaverse has in store.

JONATHAN GRABB ('08) is The Florida Bar’s new ethics counsel. Grabb previously was an assistant ethics counsel for eight years and practiced for five years in the general counsel’s office of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

J.M. NOTES

CASEY LAURIENZO (J.M., FALL '20) was a recipient of the National Association of Education Procurement 2021 Volunteer of the Year Award. She also is now director of contract operations with E&I Cooperative Services. In this position, Laurienzo is responsible for leveraging contracting best practices and ensuring the proper use of resources, resulting in timely, effective, and compliant contracting activity.

TIFFANY MCCASKILL (J.M., FALL ’20) recently joined the American Heart Association (AHA) as the state government relations director and will be working on behalf of AHA with the Florida Legislature and local community leaders to pass health policies that align with their mission of living longer, healthier lives.
GORDON DIETERLE (’91) was re-appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve another four-year term on the Fifteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, with the new term running through July 1, 2024. Dieterle was also sworn in as president of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association by the Honorable Louis Delgado on May 15, 2021.

CHRISTINE FORT (’10) was promoted to partner at Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC. Fort is resident in the firm’s Arizona office. She specializes in political committees, campaign finance and election law, lobbying and ethics compliance, and tax-exempt organizations.

NICHOLAS “NICK” CLEARY (’19) accepted a two-year clerkship with Justice Ricky Polston (’87) at the Florida Supreme Court. The clerkship began July 1, 2021.

LAUREN AGUILAR (’11) has joined Barnes and Thornburg LLP, which is the largest firm in Indiana and has offices around the country. Aguilar practices energy and utility law and is a trusted adviser to clients on state and federal regulatory issues and disputes involving electric, natural gas, water, alternative energy, and wastewater utilities, and she works closely with the implementing agencies.


ALLISON BEATTIE (’19) joined the Washington, D.C. office and healthcare practice of Bass, Berry & Sims, which is ranked the third largest healthcare law firm in the U.S. by the American Health Law Association (2020). Beattie was formerly assistant deputy general counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CECELIA BONIFAY (’84) was a recipient of the 2021 Inspire Award for FSU Women of Distinction. Bonifay has devoted more than 25 years to her community, holding several leadership positions at the Urban Land Institute and creating the Cecilia Bonifay Moot Court Endowed Scholarship at the College of Law.
VINETTE D. GODELIA (’92) has joined the Tampa office of Stearns Weaver Miller as a shareholder. She represents private and public sector clients before local, regional, and state agencies, courts, and elected bodies regarding land use and real estate development issues. She focuses her practice on the defense and negotiation of complex approvals under Florida’s growth management laws and local government regulations.

ERIKA J. BARGER (’13) is now corporate counsel for Brown & Brown, Inc., the fifth largest independent insurance brokerage in the nation, located in Daytona Beach. In July 2021, at the 153rd Elks Grand Lodge Convention of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Barger was also installed as the district deputy grand exalted ruler for the East Central District of Florida, where she will serve a one-year term.

MARIA FABRE (’92) was appointed for a third term to the Florida Statewide Judicial Nominating Commission for Judges of Compensation Claims. Fabre practices at The Law Offices of Charles H. Leo, P.A. in Orlando.

CLAYTON OSTEEN (’14) is now a shareholder at Ausley McMullen in Tallahassee. Osteen primarily focuses his practice in the areas of construction law, administrative law, licensing, and business litigation.

“Class Notes” are published exclusively online at law.fsu.edu/classnotes! You can browse notes by class year as often as you would like – notes will be published within a few weeks of when they are submitted. Photos will also be published with the notes if they are provided. We hope you enjoy the online notes, which allow us to share your news more quickly!

If you have anything that you would like to include in “Class Notes,” please submit a note using our online form at law.fsu.edu/alumni/submit-class-note. You can also share information by emailing rshepher@law.fsu.edu or mailing:

FSU College of Law, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601

IN MEMORIAM:

EMIL PRATESI (’72)
EDWARD “ED” HARVEY (’74)
PETER “PETE” B. HEEBNER (’74)
BRIAN BERKOWITZ (’83)
MARK ELLIOTT HOLCOMB (’85)
ROBERTA M. TRUMAN (’86)
MITCHELL J. RUBIN (’87)
DOROTHY “DOTTIE” LOUISE MILLER (’90)
JEFFREY FEULNER (’98)
JON HERNAN (’93)
For more information about options to support the law school through a wide variety of tax-deductible charitable giving methods, please contact: Hovik Arakelian, assistant dean of development, at 850.644.6357 or harakeli@law.fsu.edu.
THANKS TO OUR 2020-2021 DONORS

Gifts to Florida State University College of Law provide critical support for students, faculty, and academic programs. This Annual Report is one way of expressing our appreciation for all gifts received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Gifts received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 will be recognized in the 2023 issue of Florida State Law.

Thank you so much! We hope our progress over the years has shown that we are putting your contributed dollars to good use.

We strive to produce a complete and accurate report. Please call any errors or omissions to the attention of:

Becky Shepherd, executive director of alumni outreach and engagement
Florida State University College of Law
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
850.644.0231 / 800.788.7097
rshepher@law.fsu.edu
DEAN’S FUNDRAISING REPORT FOR 2020-2021

Dear Alumni and Friends:

2020-2021 was a year of both great challenge and great success for the law school. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the reputation of our outstanding students, faculty, and alumni continues to blossom. We continue to attract some of the strongest students, and have had consistently strong bar passage and placement rates.

Private fundraising makes a critical difference at the law school, helping us to attract and support the best students and faculty.

TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Putting annual giving and larger gifts together, we raised a cash total of $1,107,011 and unrealized new pledges in the amount of $326,800, for a grand total of $1,433,811.

ANNUAL GIVING FROM ALUMNI

In 2020-2021, 18.47% of our alumni made cash gifts to the law school. This level of participation places us within the nation’s top law schools in terms of alumni giving rate. This level of alumni contributions enriches the life of the school and sends a powerful signal about the enthusiasm our alumni have for the school.

GIVING FROM STUDENTS

This past year, 56.5% of our students participated in the Student Give Back Campaign. Our student enthusiasm and generosity bodes well for the future. They are blazing the trail for us all!

LARGER GIFTS

This past year, cash payments received totaled $595,200 towards $922,000 of Larger Gift commitments. The “Cash Gifts By Level” portion of this report includes only cash payments made during the fiscal year, even if they were but a portion of a larger gift. Under the heading of “Larger Gifts for 2020-2021,” we outline the larger gift commitments that we received in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Teaser: the 2021-2022 report is far more bright now that we have emerged from COVID-19 with more successful fundraising strategies. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to our many successes. We shall continue to do our best to pay great dividends on the dollars you have invested in our school.

Sincerely,

Erin O’Hara O’Connor, Dean
ENDOWED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
Our single greatest need from private giving is endowed scholarships. To continue to serve our mission of providing access to all, including those from families of modest means, we will need significantly more scholarships. Scholarships are awarded according to the intent of the donor and may be based on merit, need, or other factors. The endowed scholarship would be named after you or your designee.

Minimum gift needed to create an endowed scholarship: $50,000 (may be paid over time)

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS
According to a 2018 study of law faculty scholarly impact, our faculty is #1 in Florida and #29 nationally. Our faculty members are being recruited by some of the nation’s most prominent law schools. Endowed professorships and chairs provide salary supplements based on merit. Faculty members are appointed for five-year terms, with renewal contingent on continued scholarly productivity. Professorships and chairs give us the merit money we need to retain our top faculty. The professorship or chair would be named after you or your designee.

Minimum gift needed to endow a professorship: $250,000 (may be paid over time)
Minimum gift needed to endow a chair: $2,000,000 (may be paid over time)

ENDOWMENTS FOR EXCELLENCE
Endowments for excellence are used, at the discretion of the law school, for purposes such as student scholarships, faculty incentives, general discretionary dollars, and funding for co-curricular activities including Law Review, Trial Team, and Moot Court. The endowment for excellence would be named after you or your designee.

Minimum gift needed to create an endowment for excellence: $30,000 (may be paid over time)

ENDOWMENTS FOR PARTICULAR PROGRAMS
Private philanthropy has helped us take many of our existing programs to a new level of excellence. Our award-winning Moot Court and Trial Teams benefit from private contributions to supplement the dollars available to them for purposes such as traveling to regional and national competitions. Our Public Interest Law Center, which includes the Children’s Advocacy Clinic, Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic, and International Human Rights Clinic, relies on private contributions to help pay for some of the expenses involved in training students to provide effective legal services to the under-represented. An important goal of the law school is to raise substantial endowments to support special programs and co-curricular organizations. Some programs simply would not exist at the law school but for the generous support of our alumni.

Minimum gift needed to create an endowment to benefit a particular program: $30,000 (may be paid over time)

DONOR RECOGNITION
We are delighted to recognize scholarships, professorships and other targeted gifts by naming them in honor of the donor or the donor’s designee. In addition, we are pleased to acknowledge inter vivos gifts of $200,000 or more with an oil portrait of the donor or the donor’s designee that will be displayed in a prominent place at the law school. The Advocacy Center and the renovated spaces in the main classroom building give us many rooms to name to thank donors for gifts ranging from $25,000 to $5 million.
LARGER GIFTS FOR 2020-2021

We would like to specially thank those of you who made a larger gift commitment between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. These gifts make it possible to continue the dynamic advancement of the academic programs and reputation of the law school.

F. Palmer (’71) and Leslie Williams have donated real property valued at $300,000 to establish the Williams Family Scholarship to support students with financial need, as well as the Williams Family Endowment for Excellence to provide general support to the College of Law. Palmer is a retired partner from the Williams Gautier firm in Tallahassee. He spent most of his career providing broad ranging legal advice to credit unions and their memberships.

Multiple donors, led by Bruce (’93) and Wendy Wiener (’93), have made gifts totaling $90,000 to establish the Racial Justice Advocacy Fund. The fund will provide financial support to students in the College of Law who elect to pursue externships, internships, and work that provides hands-on legal training and focuses on racial inequality.

David Varet (’12) and the Middle Road Foundation have contributed $50,000 to support the College of Law’s General Fund. Varet is an assistant regional counsel with the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel’s 5th District Office in Orlando. He is a member of the College of Law’s Board of Visitors and the college’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

An anonymous donor has made a total of $35,000 in contributions to two funds. Both funds support students who choose to take on public interest externships, internships, or clerkships that are often underpaid or offer no pay, but benefit society.

Brian (’71) and Bonnie O’Neill have pledged $35,000 to their already established Brian D. and Bonnie R. O’Neill Endowment for Excellence. Endowments for excellence support the College of Law in the areas of greatest need. Brian is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Van Ness Feldman LLP. He has spent his entire career in energy law. Brian is a member of the College of Law’s Board of Visitors.

Margaret “Peggy” Rolando (’78) has made an additional contribution of $30,000 to her already established Peggy Rolando Endowment for Excellence. Endowments for excellence support the College of Law in the areas of greatest need. She is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where she is a member of the Real Estate Practice Group, and is a member of the College of Law’s Board of Visitors.

R.J. (’97) and April Haughey (’97) have pledged $30,000 to create the Haughey Family Endowment for Excellence. The fund will be used at the discretion of the law school, with a preference for funding initiatives that support the goal of minimizing and eliminating racial biases and their impact on all participants in the criminal justice system. R.J. is a shareholder at Sivyer Barlow Watson & Haughey P.A. in Tampa, where he practices in the area of commercial litigation. April serves as an assistant state attorney in the Office of the State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. R.J. is a member of the College of Law’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The Garcia Family Foundation has pledged $27,000 to create the Originalism in Legal Interpretation Fund. The fund will provide financial resources to host a member of the federal or state judiciary to teach classes that focus on originalism and textualism in the law. The Foundation is based in Tampa and supports many causes, including legal education and veterans-focused organizations.

An anonymous donor has made a $25,000 contribution toward scholarships for students who have an interest in public interest work and have demonstrated a financial need.
SUMMARY OF NAMED FUNDS
(as of June 30, 2021)

ENDOWMENTS FOR EXCELLENCE
Anonymous Endowment for Excellence
Attorney General Endowment for Excellence
Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje Endowment for Excellence
Catherine Pierce Brindell Endowment for Excellence
John Boudet and Devon Cook Endowment for Excellence
Ronald & Shannon Christaldi Endowment for Excellence
Mike and Peggy Coleman Fund for Excellence
Andy and Hope Dogali Endowment for Excellence
Dunbar Family Endowment for Excellence
Equels-Fabar Endowment for Social Justice
Florida State University College of Law Endowment for Excellence
Richard Q. Cynthia Hadlow Endowment for Excellence
Haughey Family Endowment for Excellence*
Henry Buchanan Law Firm Fund for Excellence
Huey, Guidal and Simpson Endowment for Excellence
James Reynolds Jorgenson and Frederick Reynolds Jorgenson Endowment for Excellence
Lawrence Family Endowment for Freedom
Tracy and Biff Marshall Endowment for Excellence
McConnaughay and Rissman Endowment for Excellence
Sheila M. McDevitt Endowment for Excellence
Middle Road Foundation Endowment for Excellence
Brian B. and Bonnie R. O’Neill Endowment for Excellence*
O’Shea Family Endowment for Excellence
David e. Ramba Endowment for Excellence
A. Wayne and Gwen Rich Endowment for Excellence
Peggy Rolando Endowment for Excellence*
Cari Roth & Wellington Meffert Endowment for Excellence
Harold A. Saul Endowment for Excellence
D. David Sessions and Leslie P. Kitching Endowment for Excellence
Gina Gatus Smith Endowment for Excellence
John W. O. Judith C. Thomas Endowment for Excellence
Cynthia and Charles Tunnicliff Endowment for Excellence
Edwin W. Walborsky Endowment for Excellence
Williams Family Endowment for Excellence*
Kevin Wood & Mary Jo Peed Endowment for Excellence

CHAIRS & PROFESSORSHIPS
Alumni Centennial Chair
Elizabeth C. and Clyde W. Atkinson Endowed Professorship
Attorneys’ Title Insurance Fund Endowed Professorship in Real Estate
Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Chair in International Law
Larry and Joyce Beltz Endowed Professorship in Torts

SCHOLARSHIPS
Riley and Mary Allen Scholarship
Allen, Norton & Blue Endowed Book Award in Labor and Employment Law
American Academy of Matrimonial Law Endowed Scholarship
Sandra Anderson Single Parent Scholarship
Anonymous Endowed Scholarship
Altrier Family Mentoring Endowed Scholarship
Attorney General Endowed Scholarship
Dubose Audley Endowed Scholarship
Ralph Bailey Endowed Scholarship
Sandra Barr Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Bedell Standley Endowed Scholarship
Carol Z. Bellamy Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Jennifer Beltz Scholarship
Blank-Miller Scholarship
Joan and Garrett Briggs Endowed Scholarship
Broad and Cassel Scholarship
Burns Family Scholarship for Excellence and Fealty to Rule of Law Fund
Justice Raoul G. Cantero, III, Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Terry and Linda Cole Environmental Law Scholarship
Thomas W. Cenroy Endowed Scholarship
Larry and Jeanne Curtin Endowed Scholarship
Bud Daley Memorial Fund

FLORIDA STATE LAW
Richard Dixon Family Endowed Scholarship
Colonel James R. Douglass Veterans Endowed Scholarship
Richard M. Davis Endowed Scholarship
David Warren Denney Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Chad Wayne Denton Memorial Scholarship
Denise Diaz Memorial Scholarship
Carlos R. Diez-Argueues Endowed Scholarship
Patricia A. Dore Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Steve and Susan Ecenia Endowed Scholarship
Farach Family Endowed Scholarship
Joe and Paula Flood Oxford Studies Endowed Scholarship
FSU Friends Opportunity Scholarship
FSU Law School Awards Fund
Steve Gey Endowment for Civil Liberties
Steven M. Goldstein Memorial Endowed Fund
Tom and Robin Gonzalez Endowed Scholarship
Marcos R. Gonzalez Endowed Scholarship
Elwin J. Griffith Endowed Scholarship
Terence A. Gross Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Gunster Environmental Law Scholarship
Randy and Jerri Hanna Endowed Scholarship
Diane and Larry Hill Family Scholarship
Wayne and Patricia Hogan Endowed Scholarship
James Richard Hooper Scholarship Fund
James Madison Institute Scholarship
Karlinsky Family Endowed Scholarship
Katzentine/Simon Endowed Scholarship
Kellogg Family Endowed Scholarship
John Marshall Kent and Sally D. M. Kent Endowed Scholarship
Knowles Q. Randolph Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Steven and Blanche Koegler Scholarship
Suzy-Rossomondos Kreis Memorial Scholarship
Terry E. and Georgann P. Lewis Endowed Scholarship
Domenick R. Lioce Memorial Scholarship
Llorente Family Endowed Scholarship
Mason Ladd Merit Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Julio and Rene Martinez Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Tim and Jill Meenan Legal Opportunity Scholarship
Montjoy Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Guylie P. McCord Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Metc, Husband & Daughter Endowed Scholarship
David Guy and Judith Ann McGunegle Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Beverly S. Mclear Memorial Endowed Scholarship
National Notary Foundation Scholarship
Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship
Parks & Crump Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Tiffanie Suzanne Perry Scholarship
Sean Pittman Scholarship
John S. Rawls and Samuel Wolf Endowed Scholarship
B. K. and Mary N. Robert Endowed Scholarship
Marilyn Rothman Single Parent Scholarship in Law
Amelia White Rowell Endowed Scholarship
Courtney Seaward Oxford Memorial Scholarship
WP and Erin Shelley Endowed Scholarship
Daniel Q. Natalie Selovay Diversity Enhancement Endowed Scholarship
Doug and Judy Spears Endowed Scholarship
Abraham and Rhea Stern Scholarship
Synergy Foundation Scholarship in Legal Excellence
Tubbs Memorial Endowed Fund
Unconquered Scholars in Law Fund
Bob & Betty Weber and Helen Powell Endowed Oxford Studies Scholarship
Nancy Wallace Endowed Scholarship for Summer Program Alumni
Bruce and Wendy Wiener Endowed Scholarship
Thornton I. and Harriett W. Williams Scholarship
Williams Family Scholarship*
Mark and Ruthelen Williamson Scholarship
Bruce A. Wragg Memorial Scholarship
Young Family Endowment
Robin Lynn Young Memorial Scholarship

**SPECIFIC PROGRAM GIFTS**

Cecelia Bonifay Moot Court Endowed Scholarship
Mike and Peggy Coleman Moot Court Endowment
James and Anne Corrigan Endowment for Moot Court
Amber H. Drummond Memorial Endowment
John W. Frest, Jr. Moot Court Endowment
Enrico G. Gonzalez Endowment for Law Review
Alan and Melanie Grunspan Endowment for Children’s Programs
Carol Gregg and Ken Hart Endowment for Excellence for the Public Interest Law Center
Wayne Hogan Endowment in Civil Trial Justice
Wayne and Patricia Hogan Endowment Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law Endowment
Amelia Rea Maguire Endowment for Business Law Lectures
Middle Road Foundation Professionalism Program Fund
Mock Trial Coaches Endowment
Originalism in Legal Interpretation Fund*
Public Service Fellowship
Racial Justice Advocacy Fund*
Judges John S. Rawls and James R. Wolf Intramural Moot Court Competition
B.K. Roberts Hall Endowment*

**DEFERRED GIFTS**

Garry D. Adel Endowed Scholarship
Judge John Antoon Endowed Scholarship
Anonymous Endowment for Excellence in Elder Law
Michael and Helen Atter Endowment for Excellence
Mark P. and Marriane P. Barneby Endowed Scholarship Fund
Cecelia Bonifay Moot Court Endowed Scholarship
Yvonne and Steve Brown Public Interest Service Award
Stephen C. Cheeseman Endowment
William J. and Susan P. Cohen Professorship in Environmental Law
Thomas W. Conrey Endowment for Excellence
Sandy D’Albemonte Scholarship in Human Rights Law
Elizabeth Daniels Fund for Excellence
David and Deborah Frenville Public Defender Service Award
Kelly Overstreet Johnson and Hal Johnson Endowment for Excellence
Steve and Blanche Koegler Professorship in Business Law
Maury and Diana Kalchakan Gif to benefit the Sandra M. Anderson Single-Parent Endowed Scholarship
Howard L. Nations Endowed Fund
Mary L. and Joseph M. Pankowski Scholarship
Larry J. Sartin and Marilyn R. Lawrence Scholarship in Law
David R. and Cristina Z. Slaton Endowed Scholarship
John C. and C. Jeannette Webb Memorial Endowed Fund
John Welch Endowment

*Denotes new gift or increased commitment for fiscal year 2020-2021*
2020-2021 TOTAL CASH AND NEW PLEDGES RECEIVED

$1,433,811

- Cash $1,107,011
- Unrealized new pledges $326,800

2020-2021 RECENT LARGER GIFT PLEDGES BY PURPOSE

$922,000

- Scholarships $360,000
- Faculty development $216,750
- Unrestricted $145,000
- Special programs $200,250

2020-2021 CASH RECEIVED: ENDOWED VERSUS EXPENDABLE

$1,107,011*

- Annual fund and expendable** $806,355
- Endowments for faculty development $33,525
- Endowments for scholarships $160,028
- Endowments for special programs $9,250
- Endowments for student programs $54,807
- Endowments for unrestricted $43,046

*There were no state matching dollars this fiscal year.

**Annual fund includes all cash gifts of $10,000 or less made by alumni and friends that are not earmarked for endowment or part of a larger pledge.
2020-2021 ANNUAL FUND AND EXPENDABLE CASH RECEIVED BY PURPOSE

$806,355*

- SCHOLARSHIPS $421,247
- UNRESTRICTED $326,986
- STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS $20,241
- SPECIAL PROGRAMS $18,737
- LIBRARY, LAW REVIEW, AND JOURNALS $9,144
- FACULTY DEVELOPMENT $10,000

*All cash gifts of $10,000 or less made by alumni and friends that are not earmarked for endowment or part of a larger pledge.

ALUMNI AND STUDENTS GIVING RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>30.38%</td>
<td>85.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>28.53%</td>
<td>86.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>26.22%</td>
<td>88.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>21.46%</td>
<td>85.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>18.47%</td>
<td>56.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL ALUMNI CASH GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>$471,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>$418,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>$529,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>$478,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>$400,011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes Book Awards
## All Alumni and Student Donors by Class

### Class of 1969
- **Alumni:** 56
- **Number of Donors:** 16
- **Participation:** 28.57%
- **Amount Donated:** $2,850.00

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable</td>
<td>Emerson R. Thompson, Jr.</td>
<td>Stephen R. White</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Class of 1972
- **Alumni:** 113
- **Number of Donors:** 23
- **Participation:** 20.35%
- **Amount Donated:** $14,254.05

|---------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

### Class of 1973
- **Alumni:** 119
- **Number of Donors:** 17
- **Participation:** 14.29%
- **Amount Donated:** $5,895.00

|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|

### Class of 1974
- **Alumni:** 112
- **Number of Donors:** 36
- **Participation:** 32.14%
- **Amount Donated:** $9,910.00


### Class of 1975
- **Alumni:** 145
- **Number of Donors:** 37
- **Participation:** 25.52%
- **Amount Donated:** $6,107.52


### Class of 1976
- **Alumni:** 134
- **Number of Donors:** 38
- **Participation:** 28.36%
- **Amount Donated:** $21,772.50

ALL ALUMNI AND STUDENT DONORS BY CLASS

CLASS OF 1988
Alumni: 156
Number of Donors: 26
Participation: 16.67%
Amount Donated: $23,256.10

CLASS OF 1990
Alumni: 162
Number of Donors: 20
Participation: 12.35%
Amount Donated: $5,750.00

CLASS OF 1992
Alumni: 161
Number of Donors: 31
Participation: 19.25%
Amount Donated: $10,178.00

CLASS OF 1995
Alumni: 195
Number of Donors: 35
Participation: 14.58%
Amount Donated: $18,135.00

*Class Agent for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

William A. Buzzett
J. Michael Coleman
The Honorable Cynthia L. Cox
The Honorable William H. Dane, Jr.
A. Anderson B. Dogali
Hope Dogali
Manuel Farach*
Anna C. Fentriss
Anthony J. Griffith
Lauren L. Haffner
The Honorable Paul M. Hawkes
Kimberly L. King
Kathleen J. Loggins
The Honorable Robert C. Shearman
Michael A. Shorstein
Francisco J. Sanchez, Jr.
Laura L. Rush
Francesca M. Sánchez, Jr.
Floyd R. Self
Robert C. Shearman
Michael A. Shorstein
Robert M. Truman

CLASS OF 1987
Alumni: 158
Number of Donors: 28
Participation: 17.72%
Amount Donated: $24,595.00

CLASS OF 1989
Alumni: 155
Number of Donors: 31
Participation: 20.00%
Amount Donated: $12,459.18

CLASS OF 1991
Alumni: 240
Number of Donors: 35
Participation: 14.58%
Amount Donated: $18,135.00

CLASS OF 1993
Alumni:195
Number of Donors: 26
Participation: 13.33%
Amount Donated: $16,192.00

CLASS OF 1994
Alumni: 160
Number of Donors: 20
Participation: 12.50%
Amount Donated: $20,650.00

CLASS OF 1995
Alumni: 215
Number of Donors: 36
Participation: 16.74%
Amount Donated: $17,780.00

*Class Agent for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
Maurice D. Evans
Geoffrey D. Geist
Kenneth S. Gluckman
Shannon B. Hartfield
W. Cochran Keating, IV
Edward M. Koch
Heather F. Lindsay
Leenette W. McMillan
Jeannie M. Miller
Jacquelyn Lewis Newman
Curtis S. Pajcic
Dario A. Perez, Jr.
Bryan T. Pugh
The Honorable
Stephanie W. Ray
Gary A. Roberts
Diego Rodriguez
Marlano Salo
Senator Christopher L. Smith
The Honorable Julie S. Sneed
William H. Stafford, III
Jacqueline B. Steele
Leon S. Stewart
Sharon C. Tiffany
Meredith Trammell
Ida Ufferman
Robert E. Faigin
Gregory M. Chabon
Anonymous
Amount Donated: $14,935.94
Participation: 16.40%
Alumni: 189

CLASS OF 1996
Alumni: 182
Number of Donors: 21
Participation: 11.54%
Amount Donated: $4,600.00
Anonymous
Terrance L. Ashanta-Barker
Jennifer R. Beltz
Tanya L. Bower
Gregory M. Chabon
Elizabeth C. Daley
Robert E. Faigin
JoLinda L. Harring*
Sue E. Jenkins
Edmond E. Koester
The Honorable Keith R. Kyle
Russell M. Lazega
Malinda L. Lugo
S. Hunter Malin
Michael A. Martinez
Robert S. Phillips, II
Emilia A. Quesada
Pablo S. Quesada
James E. Sorenson
Scott A. Tavelieri
D. Franklin Wright

CLASS OF 1997
Alumni: 189
Number of Donors: 31
Participation: 16.40%
Amount Donated: $14,935.94
Eric R. Birge
James A. Bordonaro
Joshua M. Brechel
Tracey L. Ellerson
Alejandro Espino
Professor Cleveland
Ferguson, Ill
Gregory W. Files
Angela D. Flaherty
Mark T. Flaherty
Erica D. Glover
Roger J. Haughhey, II
April E. Haughhey
Pamela Haddock Klavon
Commander Anthony J. Mazzio
Kimelynn A. Minnfield
Prinston O. Ddem, Ill
Janel D. Oertugen
Peter Papagianakis
L. William Porter, Ill
Scott A. Remington*
Amie H. Remington
CDR Peter M. Rodnitz
Michael R. Ross
William J. Seegers
C. Gene Shipley
The Honorable
Charles P. Sniffen
Michael G. Stefer
John A. Tomasino
Michael R. Ufferman
Dwayne E. Williams
Richard F. Woodford, Jr.

CLASS OF 1999
Alumni: 195
Number of Donors: 16
Participation: 8.21%
Amount Donated: $2,620.00
Toyan A. Aha-Hargrett
Tammie D. Butler
The Honorable
Garnett W. Chishenhall, Jr.
Kidd P. Crawford
Virginia C. Dailey
Angela C. Desmond
Michael W. Hober
Mark E. Kruse
Neil B. Mooney
Kenneth D. Pratt*
Gregory K. Rettig
Michael W. Schmid
N. West Strickland
Leslie A. Sweet
Sandra M. Upegi
G. Todd Whitcomb

CLASS OF 2000
Alumni: 219
Number of Donors: 34
Participation: 16.27%
Amount Donated: $16,071.00
Yulric Abercrombie
Jean Humphrey Anderson
Rosalyn S. Baker-Barnes
Lourdes Bernal-Dixon
William M. Blocker, II
Leroy "Boy" Gayter*
Frank J. Campoamer
Rochelle Birnbaum Chiocca*
The Honorable
Darlene F. Dickey
Judy L. Finkel
Philip A. Fowler
Steve C. Franklin
Wendy Stein Fulton
Ignacio J. Garcia
Heidi L. Hobbs
Steven J. Johnson
Shasta L. Kruse
The Honorable
Anthony B. Miller
Mindly L. Miller
Dion J. Moniz
Jason R. Mooley
Alicia Westhoff-Reid
Francis P. Roche, Jr.
Douglas B. Rohan
Matthew A. Smith
Julia R. Sotolongo
Colonel Isaac C. Spragg
Michael B. Stein
The Honorable
Dustin S. Stophens
G. Harry Stopp, Jr.
Jeffrey S. Trespel
Bart R. Valdes
Danielle A. Watts
John N. Weed

CLASS OF 2001
Alumni: 220
Number of Donors: 20
Participation: 9.09%
Amount Donated: $20,515.00
Kristy K. Branch Banks
Dennis G. Collard
Linda H. Dodson
Eileen D. Fernandez
Kathy S. Gatzlaff
Kristie L. Hatcher-Balin
Jason C. Hill
Christi A. Lawson
Jezabel P. Lima
Representative Marcelo Llorente
Analyz G. Megison
Kyle V. Mitchell
Mary L. Pankowski*
Wilford A. Payne, Ill
Christopher B. Roe
Michael A. Sjuggerud
Deborah B. Stearn
Graham H. Todd
Joshua M. Toman
Evgenia M. Waczezowski

CLASS OF 2002
Alumni: 219
Number of Donors: 26
Participation: 11.87%
Amount Donated: $12,670.00
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
The Honorable
Amanda H. Craven*-
Jeannie B. Curtin*
Daniel S. Dalesandro
Alison D. Debelder
Timothy E. Dennis
Floyd B. Eagle
Leonard S. Feula
John M. Grady
Pamela E. Hudson
Aaron V. Johnson
Jason K. Kellogg
Daniel W. Langley
Robert S. Mactavish
Richard H. Martin
Clan G. O'Brien
T. DeWayne Pearson
Elaine I. Prabasso
Joseph A. Prabasso
Thomas A. Range
Christopher J. Shipley
Marie G. Vital
Tonya H. Walker
W. Timothy Weekley

CLASS OF 2003
Alumni: 248
Number of Donors: 37
Participation: 14.92%
Amount Donated: $5,010.00
Anonymous
Thomas C. Adam
Lieutenant Colonel
Kripton L. Ader
Frederick C. Aschauer, Jr.
Shirley L. Bates
John T. Cardillo, Jr.
Thomas L. Colter
Ronald E. Dupree, Jr.
John R. Fernandez
James F. Goldsmith
Quinn A. Henderson
Katherine Littell Hinchey
Brian D. Hudson
Bridgette M. Jensen
Jami M. Kimbrell
Gwen L. Kohler
Kathy L. Lee
John G. Maus, Jr.
Joseph McGhee
Sarah Ball Miller
Jonathon S. Miller
Janna S. Nugent
Kirk A. Perrow
Stephen J. Rapp
Amanda H. Rapp
Steven D. Santiago
Kisa K. Shapiro
Ethen R. Shapiro
Jennifer A. Sullivan Remore
Professor Charlee M. Taylor*
Andrew E. Thomas
Tara Van Rooy
Joseph J. Van Rooy
Matthew D. Vinson
Michael L. Wiener
Michael S. Willard
Jeffrey H. Wood

CLASS OF 2004
Alumni: 202
Number of Donors: 31
Participation: 15.35%
Amount Donated: $7,355.00
Manuel A. Arissos
Lori L. Betha
Brandon G. Cathey
James C. Clark
Paul Daragjati
Marcy B. Waters Desantis
Jennifer R. Dixon*
Robert L. Ehrhardt
Audrey E. Ehrhardt
Donald C. Freeman
David C. Gadd
Robert C. Hale
Stefan T. Hoffer
Justin K. Holcombe
Janea D. Ingram
The Honorable Jason L. Jones

*Class Agent for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
ALL ALUMNI AND STUDENT DONORS BY CLASS

CLASS OF 2016
Alumni: 193
Number of Donors: 33
Participation: 17.10%
Amount Donated: $1,212.00

CLASS OF 2017
Alumni: 215
Number of Donors: 59
Participation: 27.44%
Amount Donated: $4,556.86

CLASS OF 2018
Alumni: 191
Number of Donors: 48
Participation: 25.13%
Amount Donated: $2,626.00

CLASS OF 2019
Alumni: 169
Number of Donors: 32
Participation: 18.93%
Amount Donated: $2,015.00

CLASS OF 2020
Alumni: 193
Number of Donors: 27
Participation: 13.99%
Amount Donated: $2,086.15

*Class Agent for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

42 FLORIDA STATE LAW
CLASS OF 2022
Alumni: 193
Number of Donors: 111
Participation: 57.51%
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Paul S. Lawler
Iared M. Lee & Ruth Jackson Lee
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Zachary Lee
Mindi R. Lee
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Megan F. Schrader
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Emily A. Scott
Lindsay K. Scott
Victoria A. Scotti

*Includes only cash received during the 2021 fiscal year and not prior payments or future pledges. See page 5 for Larger Gift Commitments.
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tiffany N. Zink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret E. Zinsel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes only cash received during the 2021 fiscal year and not prior payments or future pledges. See page 5 for Larger Gift Commitments.*
BOOK AWARD SPONSORS  
(as of June 30, 2021)

Book Awards generate scholarship funds for the College and recognize the academic achievements of law students. They also recognize the highest student grade in each sponsored course. Awards are sponsored with an annual contribution of $3,000 per year for each of five years. For information about Book Award sponsorship, please contact Becky Shepherd, executive director of alumni outreach and engagement, at 850.644.0231 or rshepher@law.fsu.edu.

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*New Book Award Sponsors for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
Shaina Ruth (5th from right), a 3L placed at Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Additionally, seven FSU Law students were part of the nine-member 2021-2022 Legislative Fellows class. These students were immersed in the legislative process through their work assignments with different Florida House committees and offices. FSU Law is very proud of the following FSU Law students (pictured) who gained valuable experience at the Florida Capitol as fellows: 2L Fatou Calixte (second from right), who worked with the Health & Human Services Committee; 2L Davis Johnson (fourth from left), who served in the Rules Committee; 3L Margaret “Maggie” McCormick (fourth from right), who worked with the Majority Office; 3L David Melito (fifth from right), placed with the Minority Office; 2L Rebecca Neuffer (far right), who worked with the Commerce Committee; 3L Christen “Christie” Petruzzeelli (far left), placed with the Judiciary Committee; and 2L Keeley Smith (third from left), placed with the State Affairs Committee.
FSU Law celebrated the Class of 2022 with a graduation ceremony and reception on May 1. The event featured an inspiring speech by Judge Robert Luck, of the United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. More photos from the celebration and a recording of the ceremony are available online at law.fsu.edu/students/graduation.