

From the Dean



On Wednesday, we welcomed William Buzbee, the Edward and Carole Walter Professor Chair and Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, to present our Spring 2023 Distinguished Lecture. Professor Buzbee presented “Fears, Faith, and Facts in Environmental Law” to a packed audience in the Rotunda. During his lecture, he identified the kinds of fear and faith that catalyze environmental regulatory action, as well as the disparate fears and faith that foment legal constraints to check regulatory abuses. Considering the volatility of environmental law’s most pressing challenges—including climate change, political vacillations, and changing dynamics on the U.S. Supreme Court—Professor Buzbee discussed how greater attention to the documentation of statutorily significant facts and science can help surmount the growing conflicts between the different sources of fear and faith. It was a fascinating discussion, and we are grateful to Professor Buzbee for talking to FSU Law students and others interested in his scholarship. If you were unable to attend the event, you can [watch a recording of the livestream](#). Many thanks to our FSU Law Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law for organizing this thought-provoking event.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Welcomes Federal Judge Jeffrey Sutton



On Thursday, February 23, FSU Law hosted the Honorable Jeffrey S. Sutton during a Raising the Bar: Professionalism+ Program lunch event. Judge Sutton is chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Florida Supreme Court Justice Jamie Grosshans introduced Judge Sutton, who then presented “Who Decides? States as Laboratories of Constitutional Experimentation,” a discussion on how American federalism allows the states to serve as laboratories of innovation for protecting individual liberty, property rights, and structural guarantees. Judge Sutton engaged students in the conversation, encouraging them to ask questions and participate.

Judge Sutton joined the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 2003, and he has served as chief judge since 2021. Before his confirmation to the court, he was in private practice, served as solicitor general of Ohio, clerked for a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and clerked for two U.S. Supreme Court justices. He has also served as an adjunct professor of law at the Ohio State University College of Law and as a visiting lecturer at Harvard Law School.

Alum John J. Truitt ('10)

John J. Truitt recently joined the GrayRobinson Environmental and Sustainability Law Team as a shareholder in the Tallahassee office. Truitt has extensive regulatory experience in environmental, energy, and water issues and will work with business clients to address the changing landscape of environmental regulatory challenges and compliance demands facing the public and private sectors. Prior to joining GrayRobinson, Truitt served as the longest-tenured deputy secretary of regulatory programs for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There, he oversaw the implementation of environmental regulations and policy through four agency divisions, six district offices, the Office of Emergency Response, and the Florida Geological Survey. His previous experience includes serving as chief advisor for environmental and regulatory policy for DEP, chief prosecuting attorney and section manager at the Florida Department of Health, a chief advisor to a commissioner at the Florida Public Service Commission, and a chief attorney at the Office of Public Counsel.



“I was very fortunate with the opportunity to use my Environmental and Land Use Certificate from FSU College of Law to work with some of the best and brightest public servants during my time at DEP. Now, I get to do so with some of the best and brightest in private practice at GrayRobinson. As a native Floridian, I know the environment and future sustainability are the lifeblood of our state, and I look forward to continuing my work in these areas.”

Student Profile: 3L Joseph Evans

Desired Practice Location: Georgia or Florida, though, open to other states

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Interested in administrative law, international law, criminal law, business law, civil law, law and religion, constitutional law, and/or appellate law

Joseph Evans is from Columbus, Georgia, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Emory University with a concentration in British studies. He also holds a Master of Public Administration in public management and public policy from the University of Georgia, and separate Master of Arts degrees in philosophy and theology from Holy Apostles Seminary. He will graduate from FSU Law this semester, and has concentrated his coursework in administrative law, international law, business law, and comparative constitutional law, in which he will have completed three directed studies concerning full presidential government by graduation. Evans currently serves as a research assistant for the International Criminal Law course. In this role, he assists by providing course communications and documentation. Evans is also a teaching assistant for the Juris Master Program’s Regulatory Compliance course, where he grades student assignments regarding the laws and administrative practices of business entities, financial institutions, and healthcare organizations and practitioners. Evans’ extensive experience prior to law school included working as a research assistant for a public policy organization; a crime victim advocate; an intern for a United States senator; and as a fraud analyst, where he trained 41 new fraud analysts while producing many operations manuals.

At FSU Law, Evans serves as a student ambassador. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Evans after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at jpe19b@fsu.edu.

“I believe the law is optimized when it harmonizes the public good and private necessity, and I aim to practice with this belief in mind.”

