From the Dean

On Monday, October 2, the university unveiled a stained-glass window in honor of President Emeritus and Professor Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte. The window in Dodd Hall includes four hand-painted black and white pendants that spotlight special times in Sandy’s life and career. One of the pendants features the College of Law, where he served as dean from 1984 to 1989. A team of artists at FSU's Master Craftsman Studio designed and created every piece of glass for the 101-by-35-inch stained-glass window. More information and photos are available online. On behalf of everyone at the College of Law,
thank you to Sandy for all he has done for the law school and the university at large!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: President Emeritus and Professor Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte with the stained-glass window in his honor.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2016

2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the FSU College of Law, which welcomed students into the charter class in the fall of 1966. In the fall of 2016, we held several commemorative celebrations during orientation and homecoming. We also celebrated with an #FSULawGolden50 social media campaign during the summer and this weekly newsletter column recounting the highlights from each year over the past 50 weeks. Dean Donald Weidner retired as dean in June 2016 and returned to the full-time faculty. Also, the College of Law Summer for Undergraduates Program was renamed the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program, in his honor. Recognized in 2011 as one of the most transformative law school deans of the past decade, perhaps Weidner’s most obvious accomplishment was leading the Florida State University College of Law into the top tier of American law schools. In July 2016, Erin O’Hara O’Connor joined FSU Law as our eighth dean. O’Connor came to Florida State from Vanderbilt Law School, where she was the Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law and director of graduate studies for the Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics. Also in 2016, a new online Juris Master program was announced for a fall 2017 launch. Like our on-campus J.M. program, the online J.M. is designed for non-lawyers who regularly work with statutes and regulations. Based on specific career goals, students can choose from three concentrations: Financial Regulation & Compliance, Health Care Regulation, and Legal Risk Management & HR Compliance.

Pictured above: Members of the Class of 2019 helped celebrate FSU Law's golden anniversary by posing for a "50" photo during their 1L orientation.
Alum Profile: Terry L. Hill (‘05)

Terry L. Hill is director of the programs division at The Florida Bar, leading a team of six department heads and 65 staff members, and overseeing annual operating budgets of approximately $9.9 million. Hill provides leadership and oversight for the Bar’s legal publications, legal specialization & education, professional development, meetings & conventions, and the Practice Resource Institute. He also serves as the director of CLE and The Florida Bar Member Benefits Program and oversees the staffing of the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice. Hill is an active member of the National Association of Bar Executives, where he currently serves as a member of the board of directors, and has served as a committee chair, vice chair and member of several committees. He is also a member of the Association for Continuing Legal Education Administrators. In 2013, Hill was presented with the Fastcase 50 award, which honors innovators and trailblazers in the delivery of legal services. Hill serves on the FSU Law alumni board of directors as secretary/treasurer and is the immediate past chair of the board’s alumni recruitment committee.

“I attended FSU Law as a non-traditional student after serving in the U.S. Navy and working in private business. The experience and relationships I garnered from my time at FSU Law prepared me for the rigors and demands of my position at The Florida Bar. I was truly in the right place at the right time. My work at The Florida Bar has been the highlight of my professional career.”

Student Profile: 3L Kristen Schalter

Desired Practice Location: greater Tampa Bay area or Orlando
Expected Graduation: May 2018
Specialization: contract and corporate law
Field of Law Sought: business law, labor and employment law, or land use law within the area of civil litigation; or an in-house role in corporate or sports law

Kristen Schalter is originally from Adrian, Michigan and moved to Florida in 2009 to become a middle school teacher. She now considers Tampa her “Florida hometown.” Schalter earned a bachelor’s degree in
English, with minors in secondary education and earth science from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. She also received a Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) from Cornerstone University. When Schalter graduates with her J.D. this spring, she will also earn the Environmental Law Certificate. Schalter currently serves on the executive boards of Phi Delta Phi, the Business Law Society and the Intellectual Property Law Society. Schalter is also a student ambassador for the FSU Law admissions office and is a member of the Entertainment and Sports Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta and the Student Bar Association. She was an articles and notes editor for the most recently published volume of the Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law and was named one of the Fall 2016 Outstanding Subciters for the previous volume. Prior to law school, Schalter interned at two personal injury law firms—the Hudgins Law Firm in Zephyrhills and the Lao Law Firm, PA in Tampa. She spent the summer after her 1L year as the legal and contracts intern for Thales Avionics, an international aerospace company in Melbourne. Schalter clerked at Hopping Green & Sams, PA in Tallahassee during her 2L year and this past summer she was a summer associate at Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt, PA in Fort Myers. For the fall 2017 semester, Schalter is externing three days per week at Universal Orlando and two days per week at the United Soccer League in Tampa. These in-house positions are giving her valuable experience in corporate law, labor and employment law, procurement, franchise law, contract drafting, negotiation, music licensing, antitrust and sports law, international law and compliance with FIFA and USSF regulations. If you are interested in hiring Schalter after graduation, visit her LinkedIn profile.

“As a Seminole law student, I have learned the skills necessary to be a successful lawyer, and am ready to put what I have learned into practice in the business community. I am so thankful to have made valuable legal connections throughout the state. Attending FSU Law is the best decision I could have made!”