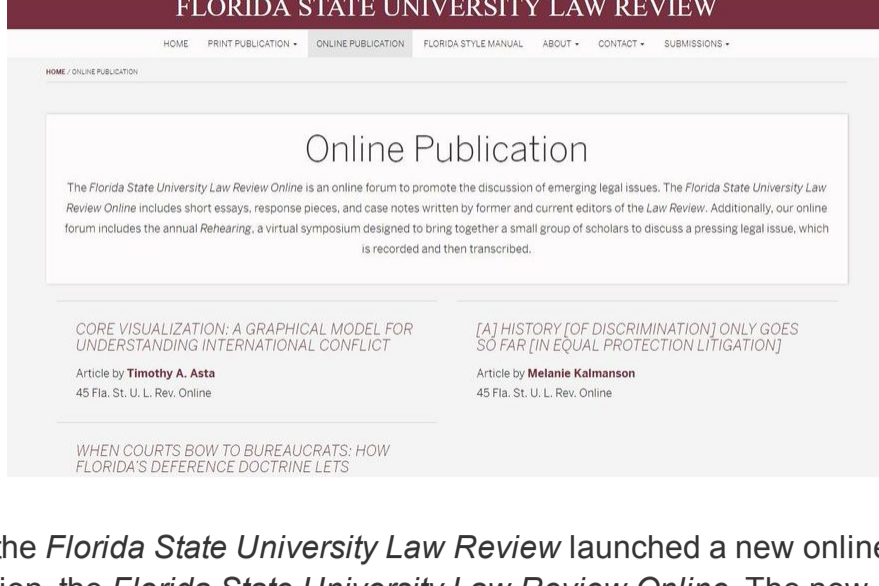


From the Dean



In May, the *Florida State University Law Review* launched a new online publication, the *Florida State University Law Review Online*. The new digital publication features timely short essays, response pieces and case notes. The first issue is dedicated to the friends and family of FSU Law, featuring pieces written by former *FSU Law Review* members Timothy Asta ('17), Melanie Kalmanson ('16) and the Honorable John G. Van Laningham ('88). Another component of the new online forum is the *Florida State University Law Review Rehearing*. The *Rehearing* is a virtual initiative that provides a unique and innovative platform for leading scholars to weigh in on important and pressing legal issues. The entire discussion is conducted remotely via teleconference, recorded and then transcribed, published and searchable via HeinOnline, Westlaw and Lexis. The audio recording and transcript are also posted in the online publication. The inaugural *Florida State University Law Review Online* is [available now](#). Moderated by FSU Law's Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor Erin Ryan, the first *Rehearing* addressed issues in a case before the Ninth Circuit, *Juliana v. United States*, and its transcript will be available later this summer. Congratulations to our students, especially Editor-in-Chief Danny Buchholz ('18), as well as Sam Walenz ('18), Elisa Walker ('17) and Jazz Tomassetti ('17), who worked tirelessly to bring the online publication and *Rehearing* to life.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Mark R. Schlakman

Mark R. Schlakman serves as senior program director for the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, and coordinator of its Human Rights & National Security in the 21st Century lecture series. He taught Immigration Law (which also incorporates refugee protection issues) during the spring semester, is teaching Felony Disenfranchisement in Florida this summer and will teach Executive Clemency in Florida this fall. He previously taught Human Rights & National Security, and teaches related courses on main campus through the College of Social Sciences (and its Osher Lifelong Learning Institute). Schlakman is a recipient of a 2015 Guardian of the Flame Award that Burning Spear presented to him for outstanding service to the College of Social Sciences and the university. He held senior positions in state and federal government prior to transitioning to FSU in 2002, including assistant general counsel and clemency aide, and ultimately special counsel to Governor Lawton Chiles; as an adviser to then-incoming Governor Jeb Bush during transition; and as a foreign affairs officer within the White House Office of the Special Envoy to the Americas during the latter stages of the Clinton administration. Schlakman was reassigned to the U.S. Department of State at the outset of the George W. Bush administration where he earned a Superior Honor Award for his service, also as a special assistant and interim foreign policy advisor to then-Commander of the U.S. Southern Command Peter Pace, USMC. Schlakman has participated in the command's Human Rights Initiative under multiple commanders. He was retained as a subject matter expert by COL Emilio Gonzalez (Ret.), Ph.D., Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during the latter stages of the George W. Bush administration. He is a member of the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida's Hate Crimes and Civil Rights Working Group, and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's Florida Advisory Committee. He served on the American Bar Association's eight-member Florida Death Penalty Assessment Team, and is a past and the longest serving board chair of The Innocence Project of Florida. Schlakman has addressed a range of issues before legislative committees and the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, is eligible to practice law in Florida, is a member of various Bar sections and is a frequent contributor to state and national media outlets. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami *magna cum laude* and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., serving as SBA president. He completed Harvard University's Kennedy School post-graduate Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government while on Chiles' staff.



"From my perspective, the College of Law is a vibrant, unusually collegial and supportive environment wherein an array of impressive students are intent upon developing their skills, knowledge and professionalism. I appreciate the opportunity to explore the wide-ranging dimensions of any given subject matter with them, as well as the implications of attempting to reconcile issues they spot within the corresponding legal and policy frameworks, and sometimes popular narratives that may not necessarily be well-founded. I particularly enjoy taking unconventional tacks toward challenging students to think critically and expansively; to personify and contextualize issues albeit dispassionately and apolitically, including insofar as their own perspectives on point, whatever they might be. It's truly a privilege!"

Alum Profile: Wayne L. Helsby ('81)

Wayne L. Helsby is a shareholder and managing partner of the Orlando office of Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. Helsby has practiced at the labor and employment law firm since graduating in 1981, specializing in a broad array of cases, including harassment and discrimination litigation, bargaining matters, personnel consultation and unemployment compensation. Helsby also is very engaged in the legal community. He currently serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, representing the ninth judicial circuit, and previously chaired the Bar's Trial Lawyers Section in 2012-2013. He also was the treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar from 1992-1993 and served as president of the Orange County Bar Association for 2004-2005.



"Since completing my legal studies at the FSU College of Law, I have been privileged to serve in a number of leadership roles for The Florida Bar and various voluntary local bar associations. Along the way, I have endeavored to guard the principles that our profession holds sacred, most notably the independence of our third branch of government. At the same time, I have developed numerous friendships with many great attorneys across the state of Florida."

Student Profile: 2018 Grad Alexis Rodriguez

Desired Practice Location: Tampa, West Palm

or South Florida

Specialization: Corporate law

Field of Law Sought: Business/corporate law

or appellate law

Originally from Boca Raton, Alexis Rodriguez earned a bachelor's degree in editing, writing and media at FSU, where she double minored in communications and law & society. She graduated from FSU College of Law with her J.D. in May 2018. During law school, Rodriguez participated in Moot Court and was the treasurer her 3L year. She argued in front of the Florida Supreme Court at the Robert Orseck Moot Court Competition and received second place. She also participated in the national Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Moot Court Competition, making it to the octofinals. Rodriguez was also a member of the Cuban American Bar Association, where she was the secretary during her 3L year. As an undergrad and into her 1L and 2L years, Rodriguez interned at Buccu Law Offices in Ft. Lauderdale. Since the boutique firm only had two attorneys, Rodriguez was able to play a major role in the day-to-day handling of cases. From 2016-2018, Rodriguez worked as an engrosser for the Florida Senate. As an engrosser, she had several jobs, including helping with the drafting of bills, inserting legislative amendments into bills and proofreading all bills and resolutions. Rodriguez also worked for the FSU Veterans Legal Clinic, where she performed preliminary intakes and helped clients come to clinic. If you are interested in hiring Rodriguez, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



"Florida State College of Law has afforded me more opportunities than I can count. From working at the Florida Senate to arguing in front of the Florida Supreme Court, I have honed both my writing and oral advocacy skills. These, combined with my drive and eagerness to learn, have made me not only a successful student, but a zealous advocate as well."

2018 ANNUAL FLORIDA BAR CONVENTION

AT THE HILTON ORLANDO BONNET CREEK

6/13: FSU LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

6/14: FSU LAW ALUMNI RECEPTION

FOR MORE INFO OR TO RSVP:
ALUMNI@LAW.FSU.EDU
OR 800.788.7097

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

[ABOUT US](#) | [ACADEMICS](#) | [ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID](#) | [OUR FACULTY](#) | [ALUMNI](#) | [CAREERS](#) | [STUDENTS](#)



If you unsubscribe from the FSU Law Focus, you will only be unsubscribed from the newsletter and not other emails from FSU Law.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

425 West Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL | 32306 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.