FSU LAW focus
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June 29, 2018

From the Dean

It is my great honor to announce alumna Kristine "Kris" Knab ('78) as our inaugural Exemplary Public Service Career Award recipient. One of 49 nominees, the award committee selected Knab for her decades of service at Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. (LSNF), where she worked from 1978 until retiring in 2016. Knab's last 22 years at LSNF were as executive director. Her nominators called Knab a "champion for the underprivileged," and submitted evidence of her skillful leadership of LSNF, especially during times of limited resources. The Honorable Claudia Isom ('75) wrote, "Because this award honors FSU graduates who have given their life, or the entirety of their legal career, and souls to public service, I can think of no person better qualified than Kris Knab."

"Not only is Kris undeniably deserving, but her selection as the first recipient of this award would set an appropriately high bar for all future nominees," wrote nominator Tom Powell ('76). "To the listed criteria for this award – exceptional character, integrity, humility, professionalism and ethics – I would add dedication, selflessness, generosity, and unfailing respect for others, and say that she exceeds all conceivable expectations in every category."

We will recognize Knab during our 2018 Homecoming Reception on Friday, October 19, and hope many of you will attend to help us honor her that evening. Knab also will be honored with an oil portrait displayed prominently at the law school. Thank you to the award committee members for their hard work in establishing criteria for this new award and selecting Knab as our first recipient. She is an inspiration for us all!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty and Alum Profile: Sally C. Gertz

Sally C. Gertz is a clinical professor and co-director of externship programs at FSU Law, where she supervises judicial, government, in-house corporate, public interest and international externships. She teaches Civil Pretrial Practice and seminars related to her students' externships (Judicial Perspectives, State and Local Government Law Practice, Poverty Law), and taught Employment Law as an adjunct. Before joining the faculty, she was a commissioner on the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission for four years and was in-house counsel to a labor union for 12 years. Gertz is a proud double Nole, graduating *cum laude* from FSU Law and *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in English (and she dreams of writing spec scripts for her favorite TV shows in retirement). Drawing on her background in employment and labor law, her research focuses on workplace issues. Gertz cares deeply about ensuring that all members of the community have access to the justice system. She is a past president and long-serving board member of Legal Services of North Florida.

"My job is to create fruitful, educational work experiences for our students at courts, companies, government entities and nonprofits. After 19 years here, what still inspires and energizes me daily is the generosity, wisdom and sincere desire to pay-it-forward of the judges and lawyers who volunteer to teach our students at their field placements. I've seen them help thousands of students develop the knowledge, skills, professional habits and confidence to take the next step toward their career goals. What a wonderful group of people to collaborate with and to count as friends and colleagues."

Alum Profile: Charlotte H. Danciu ('80)

Charlotte H. Danciu is a board certified adoption attorney and has practiced family law for more than 30 years. She specializes in private adoption, as well as reproductive law, including surrogacy, paternity, egg donation, sperm donation and embryo adoption agreements, contracts and legal proceedings. Charlotte H. Danciu, P.A. is located in Delray Beach, Fla. Danciu has a worldwide clientele, having handled more than 2,000 adoptions and hundreds of reproductive law matters. In addition, Danciu has successfully influenced Florida's strong adoption and surrogacy laws. She has won numerous awards for her work, including the Congressional Angels in Adoption Award and The Florida Adoption Council Star Award. She also received the FSU College of Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008. Throughout her career, Danciu has appeared as an expert on local, national and international television, talk show and radio programs as a result of her outstanding work in her fields of law.

"When you stop believing one person in the world cannot make a difference; differences in the world will be made." – Kellie Ellmore

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Student Profile: 2018 Grad Thomas Buchan

Desired Practice Location: Sarasota/Tampa/St. Petersburg area
Field of Law Sought: Hopes to continue developing civil litigation skills; open to practice area subject matter

Originally from Sarasota, Thomas Buchan earned a B.S.B.A. in accounting from the University of Central Florida. He graduated from FSU Law in May 2018 and was a member of the Business Law Society. The summer after his 1L year, Buchan clerked for Lancaster & Eure in Sarasota. He reviewed client cases to ensure correct billing demands following the Florida Supreme Court decision of *Castellanos v. Next Door Co*. Throughout his 2L and 3L years, Buchan clerked for Phipps & Howell, where he assisted in the civil litigation of complex wrongful death, wrongful termination, employment discrimination and workers' compensation cases. He has worked in nearly all aspects of handling a case—drafting motions and pleadings, conducting discovery, interviewing witnesses and prepping them for deposition. Buchan is still working at Phipps & Howell while studying for the bar exam, but he would like to return to his hometown of Sarasota or the Tampa/St. Pete area. Buchan is a musician and plays the guitar and drums. He also enjoys playing poker and studying the application of game theory strategy to the game. If you are interested in hiring Buchan, visit his LinkedIn profile.

"I am thankful for my time here at FSU Law, the opportunities it has brought me and for the experience I have gained at Phipps & Howell. I realize how fortunate I am to have had these experiences and am truly excited for what the future holds."

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