From the Dean

Last summer, our advanced Litigation class on Trial Advocacy taught through a variety of workshops that highlighted the importance of public speaking in the courtroom. To be a successful trial advocate, you must be able to think on your feet, organize your thoughts in a coherent manner, and develop a persuasive narrative. Public speaking is a critical skill that helps you communicate your arguments effectively and make a strong impression on the trier of fact. This class focused on the techniques and strategies for developing persuasive oral arguments, as well as the importance of active listening and the ability to react to opposing counsel's questions and objections.

Faculty Profile: Mark Spottswood

Professor Mark Spottswood is the Myra T. artist of the 2019-2020 Center for the Study of the American Court and its Director of the Arts and Law Program. He is also the founding Director of the Civil Justice and Public Policy Program. Spottswood's research and teaching focus on the proper interpretation of the Confrontation Clause, and the ways in which probabilistic concepts are being introduced into the courtroom. His recent work has explored the proper interpretation of the Confrontation Clause, and the ways in which probabilistic concepts are being introduced into the courtroom. His recent work has explored the proper interpretation of the Confrontation Clause, and the ways in which probabilistic concepts are being introduced into the courtroom.

Student Profile: July 2018 Graduate Cole Masterson

Cole Masterson is a 2018 graduate of Florida State University College of Law. A member of the trial advocacy program, Masterson holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Jacksonville University. Masterson was a staff editor for the Florida State University Law Review and a member of the Law Review Board. He clerked for the Law Office of Fred Pearson, an Atlanta-based firm that specializes in personal injury and disability law. Masterson also provided per-project services for Soler & Slack, P.A. He represented clients in cases involving personal injury, employment discrimination, and medical malpractice.

Masterson completed both a law degree and an education in psychology, which has helped him develop a unique approach to litigation. He understands the importance of understanding the psychology of witnesses, opposing counsel, and the jury. He has also developed a keen ability to anticipate the opposing counsel’s arguments and develop strategies to counter them.

Dean of the College

Field of Law Sought

There is no doubt in my mind that, without FSU Law, I would not have had the skills, the education and, most importantly, the confidence to start my legal journey as a litigator and to then jump into global compliance. I now get to travel and speak to people all over the world. I constantly impress by our students’ enthusiasm for both kinds of work—public speaking and litigation. Our students are not only sharp, but they’re driven and committed to their careers. I do my best to strike a balance between showing students the best of both worlds in the classroom and the courtroom.

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As a graduate of FSU Law, I have the opportunity to work on complex and challenging cases that require a high level of expertise. I have represented clients in cases involving personal injury, employment discrimination, and medical malpractice. I have also developed a keen ability to anticipate the opposing counsel’s arguments and develop strategies to counter them.

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