From the Dean

On September 11, 2018, with Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael R. Smerconish as lead prosecutor, the Florida Supreme Court held a public hearing and public comment session on proposed amendments to the rules that govern Florida’s public records laws. The hearing, held in the Supreme Court’s all-new William H. Stafford Inn of Court at the Capitol, was an opportunity for the public to provide input on the reforms that will help all Floridians have better access to public information. On behalf of all of us at the College of Law, we are grateful for the opportunity and the chance to shape a modern, more effective system of public records in Florida. The comments and feedback that we heard during the public hearing were stimulating and helpful.

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Faculty Profile: Richard E. Herring

Richard E. Herring is a valued professor at the American University Washington College of Law. A resident of Tallahassee, FL, Herring has been involved in numerous important professional activities over the past 35 years. He is a member of the American Bar Association, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association. Herring has served as a judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals for the past 15 years. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida since 2003. Herring has been recognized as a Top 100 litigator in the United States and a Top 100 attorney in Washington, D.C.

Alum Profile: Mark E. Kaplan (’92)

In June, Mark Kaplan joined the University of Florida’s new president, Dr. Mark D. Long, as the vice president for government and community relations. He is responsible for external affairs in the state of Florida and works closely with state legislators and stakeholders at all levels of government. Kaplan is a former Florida senator and governor’s liaison to the legislature. He has a passion for education and has been directly involved in analyzing many policy issues relating to public education. Kaplan has been an advocate for schools in his home state of Florida and has been a member of the Florida House of Representatives since 2002. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the FSU College of Law for a period of 10 years. Kaplan is the founder of Kaplan’s Business Law Firm, which provides legal services to businesses and individuals in the state of Florida. He currently chairs the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and is a commissioner of the Tampa Port Authority.

Student Profile: Grad Janevis Rodriguez

Jessica Rodriguez is a third-year law student at the FSU College of Law. She is a member of the William H. Stafford Inn of Court and was recently named the Student Bar Association’s Student of the Month. Rodriguez has been recognized for her outstanding work in the classroom and in the community. She is a proactive and passionate advocate for the needs of her clients and is dedicated to providing excellent legal representation. Rodriguez is a valuable member of the FSU College of Law community and is a shining example of a successful law student.

The Florida Bar will host its bi-annual CME/CLE event on August 3, 2018, at the College of Law. The event is designed to provide legal professionals with an opportunity to attend a live stream of the event or to watch a recording of the event on the website. The event will feature numerous speakers and presenters, including FSU Law alumni and faculty. The event will cover a wide variety of topics, including professional development, marketing and marketing, and diversity/cultural awareness. The event is open to the public and is a great opportunity to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in the legal profession.

For more information about the event, please visit the College of Law website. For further details, please contact the College of Law’s Office of Communications at (850) 644-3322.