From the Dean

May 15, 2019

To our FSU Law friends and families,

It is with a heavy heart that I now inform you of the loss of one of our own. Professor Emeritus Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte died suddenly last evening. President John Thrasher has already released a statement acknowledging the loss of Sandy and his contributions to Florida State University and the legal community. We will follow suit here, but now I want to focus on Sandy as he was and how he impacted us.

Sandy attended FSU and then went on to law school. After graduation, he started to work. He worked on the City Council, as a county attorney, and as an assistant city attorney. Sandy was eventually appointed to the Jacksonville Bar Association and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. His clients included the Jacksonville Jaguars since their expansion year into the National Football League, the Jacksonville Jaguars of the National Football League, and the Florida Coalition for the Preservation of Urban Parks and the Jacksonville Bar Association. Sandy also represented the Jaguars before appellate courts in Florida, Nevada, the Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court. He maintained a practice primarily in the field of environmental law in the areas of land use litigation and local government legislative activity.

Sandy was a dedicated family man, a mentor to our students, and a warrior for social justice. He was widely considered one of the top academic authors in his field. Sandy was a mentor and role model for law students and alumni. Sandy was a fighter for the underdog and a champion for the little guy. He was a tough negotiator and a fierce advocate. Sandy was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Sandy was a living legend.

I am informed by the passing of our dear Sandy. The FSU College of Law, for such a calamity, will honor his memory in every way possible. I will share the arrangements for his funeral. We are in the midst of the start of the semester, and so I ask for your continued understanding.

We will announce Sandy’s passing and subsequent arrangements in due course. In the meantime, we ask everyone to please keep Sandy and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

You will find Sandy’s obituary and a link to donate to the FSU College of Law in Sandy’s name as a memorial to him in our “About Us” section. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandy and his family.

Sincerely,

Dean Erin O’Connor

Faculty & Alumni Profile: Christa A. Lawless (’96)

Christa A. Lawless is a shareholder at the law firm of Brown & James, P.A., in Jacksonville, Florida. Christa’s practice focuses on Business & Corporate Law and Property & Zoning & appellate law. She handles several issues related to land use matters, including zoning, land division, and code enforcement. Christa is an active member of the Jacksonville Bar Association and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. This has provided her with knowledge and expertise in understanding and working with zoning and land use laws that are critical in the business community.

Student Profile: 2019 Grad Eugene White

Eugene White was a graduate of the Florida State University College of Law in 2019. Eugene is currently serving as an associate attorney at the Mowrey Law Firm in Tallahassee. He assisted in all stages of civil and criminal cases. This past summer, Eugene was a legal research intern to staff attorney Christina Nutter of the Mowrey Law Firm in Tallahassee. He assisted in all stages of civil and criminal cases.

Eugene White plans to sit for the Uniform Bar Examination in Montana in July 2019. He interned at the law firm of White & Williams in Denver, Colorado, where he drafts and edits legal documents and correspondence. This spring, Eugene clerked for the Mowrey Law Firm in Tallahassee. He assisted in all stages of civil and criminal cases. In the summer, Eugene was a legal research intern to staff attorney Christina Nutter of the Mowrey Law Firm in Tallahassee. He assisted in all stages of civil and criminal cases.

Eugene White holds a bachelor’s degree in health and human services and a master’s degree in health administration. Eugene was one of only 27 students in the nation to be named as a finalists for the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Hispanic/Latino Law Student of the Year Award. Eugene was the 2017-2018 recipient of the Fred H. Brown, Jr. Scholarship for Excellence in Water Law. Eugene was also the 2016-2017 recipient of the Florida State University Law School Association’s Outstanding Student Volunteer Award. Eugene is currently clerking for Lulich & Sons, P.A. in Missoula, Montana.

Alum Profile: Paul W. Harden (’89)

Paul Harden is an experienced attorney and business owner with a current focus on land use litigation and local government legislative activity. He is the founder and principal of Harden Law, PC, a Jacksonville-based law firm that provides legal services to clients throughout Florida. Paul has represented the Jacksonville Jaguars since their expansion year into the National Football League, as well as other clients such as the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Port Authority. His clients include developers, businesses, and individuals who rely on his expertise to navigate complex land use and development issues.

Paul uses his skills and knowledge to advocate for his clients, working closely with them to understand their goals and develop strategies to achieve them. His experience in land use litigation and local government legislative activity has enabled him to provide effective representation in a variety of legal matters. Paul’s work has earned him recognition as a leader in the legal community.

Paul holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Florida State University, specializing in Middle Eastern relations, with a minor in history. He graduated from FSU Law in 1989 and holds a law degree from Florida State University College of Law. He received the ABA Military Pro Bono Project’s Outstanding Service Award in recognition of the pro bono services he provided to the Jacksonville Jaguars before appellate courts in Florida, Nevada, the Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court. Paul maintains a practice primarily in the field of water law and holds a bachelor’s degree in health and human services and a master’s degree in health administration. Eugene was one of only 27 students in the nation to be named as a finalists for the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Hispanic/Latino Law Student of the Year Award. Eugene was the 2017-2018 recipient of the Fred H. Brown, Jr. Scholarship for Excellence in Water Law. Eugene was also the 2016-2017 recipient of the Florida State University Law School Association’s Outstanding Student Volunteer Award. Eugene is currently clerking for Lulich & Sons, P.A. in Missoula, Montana.

Lawson was appointed to the Jacksonville Bar Association’s Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure in 2017, served as president of the Jacksonville Bar Association’s Family Law Section in 2018, and is a member of the Florida State University College of Law’s Ethics Committee. She has written and published articles and presentations on a variety of topics, including civil procedure, consumer debt law, and family law. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the FSU College of Law, teaching Regulatory Compliance at the FSU College of Law.

Lawson is a member of the firm’s governing board for Orlando’s chapter of ATHENA International, a non-profit organization that promotes and encourages the involvement of women in business and professional fields. She currently serves as co-chair for the City of Orlando’s Civil Service Board. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the FSU College of Law, teaching Regulatory Compliance at the FSU College of Law.

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