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FSU Law Hosts ABA Task Force

During the three-day meeting, task force members discussed a variety of topics, including the impact of COVID-19 on the legal profession and ways to support front-line workers. One of the key discussions centered around the need for resources to assist those who have been laid off due to the pandemic. The task force also looked into ways to help law students who are about to graduate and are facing uncertainty in the job market.

Amidst the current challenges, Debra Henley, the assistant dean for career services, emphasized the importance of connecting students with opportunities that align with their interests and skills. She highlighted the FSU Law’s commitment to assisting students in finding employment, especially in light of the current economic conditions.

"We are working diligently to connect our students with those opportunities. We appreciate the support of our alumni and other professionals who are willing to work remotely if needed. Many state agencies and law firms are in need of additional support due to the novel coronavirus. It is our goal to provide support to all in need, regardless of location," said Henley.

The task force also discussed the implementation of emergency funds for students who may face unexpected financial challenges. These funds can be used for tuition, living expenses, and other necessities.

"Our work is far from over. If we haven’t reached out to you yet, please let us know how we can assist you," added Henley.

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Alum Profile: Thomas K. Equels (’80)

As the president and CEO of AIM ImmunoTech, Thomas K. Equels is dedicated to the development of novel drug entities for the treatment of different types of cancers. Prior to joining AIM ImmunoTech, Equels practiced law for 36 years as a defense attorney and a trial court judge.

Before joining AIM ImmunoTech as CEO in 2016, Equels practiced law for 36 years as a defense attorney and a trial court judge. He represented clients in complex cases and handled matters related to different types of cancers.

During his legal career, Equels earned a Distinguished Flying Crosses. Equels has also established an endowment at the Florida Coastal Law Center.

In addition to Laroche and Donoso, other Women in Criminal Justice Task Force members included Carmie Laroche and Donna Delgado. The task force also welcomed representatives from the Florida State University College of Law’s Criminal Justice Section, who provided invaluable insights into the current challenges faced by criminal justice professionals.

On Friday morning, March 6, the task force hosted a half-day listening session, followed by two days of discussions aimed at identifying areas where the FSU College of Law could provide support. During the three-day meeting, task force members discussed ways to support front-line workers and to blunt the spread of the pandemic.

"The current situation has made it more important than ever to support our front-line workers, including doctors, nurses, police officers, and EMTs. This fight is not just about protecting ourselves, but also about supporting our loved ones and communities. We must do our part to help those who are bravely working to fight the pandemic around the world," said Equels.

The task force is expected to release a report outlining its recommendations for supporting front-line workers and fighting the pandemic in the coming weeks.

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Student Profile: Nathan Figueroa

Figueroa has a Bachelor of Music degree in keyboard performance from the University of Miami. He is interested in pursuing a career in health and business law.

During his time at FSU Law, Figueroa interned with Legal Services of North Florida at their Low-Income Tax Clinic in Quincy, Florida. There, he assisted under Chief Judge Karen K. Specie ('78). During the spring of his 2L year, Figueroa interned with Legal Services of North Florida at their Low-Income Tax Clinic in Quincy, Florida. There, he assisted with legal research and document drafting for immigration, domestic violence and divorce cases. If you are interested in hiring Figueroa after graduation, please contact the FSU College of Law.

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Scholarships and Loans Fund (F03349), which serves as our emergency relief fund. If you would like to support this fund, you can give online.