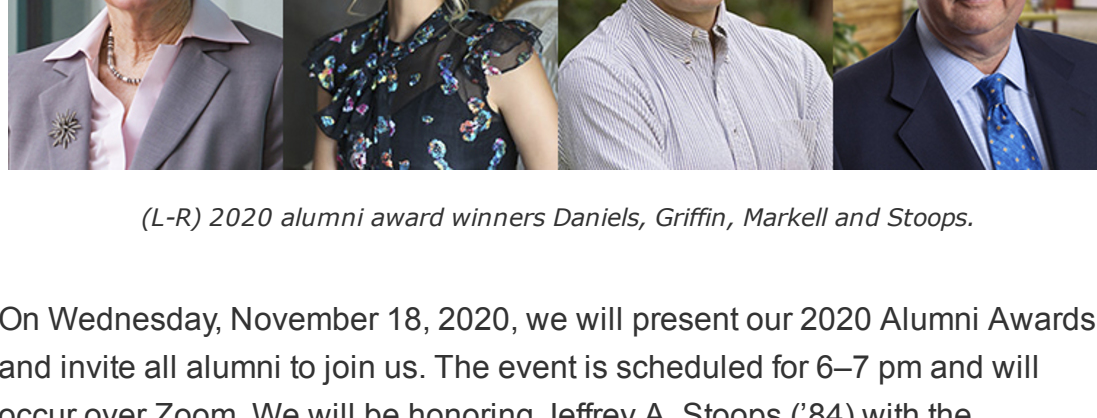


## From the Dean



(L-R) 2020 alumni award winners Daniels, Griffin, Markell and Stoops.

On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, we will present our 2020 Alumni Awards and invite all alumni to join us. The event is scheduled for 6–7 pm and will occur over Zoom. We will be honoring Jeffrey A. Stoops ('84) with the Distinguished Alum Award, Melanie Shoemaker Griffin ('06) with the Alumni Association Service Award, Professor Emeritus David L. Markell with the Class of '66 Award, and Nancy Daniels ('77) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award. [More information about the awards and their recipients](#) is available on our website. Although we were unable to present awards in person at Homecoming as usual this year, we are still delighted to be able to honor Jeff, Melanie, Dave and Nancy, who have contributed so much to FSU Law and to the community. They are shining examples of what is best in our profession. You can [register online now](#) to join us when we celebrate them in November.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

## Trial Team Wins National Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition

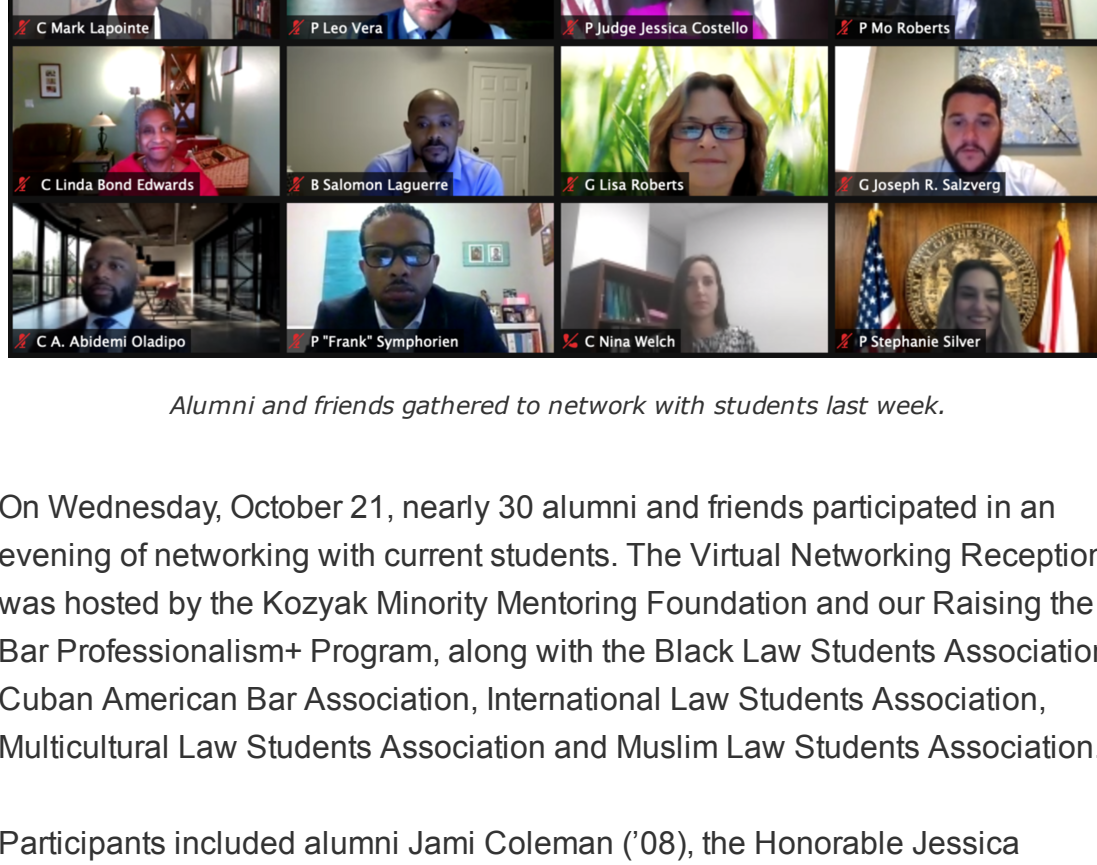


(L-R) 2020 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition national champions Lewis, Carter, Ruth and Ramirez.

The FSU Law Trial Team won first place in the 2020 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition on October 25. The competition was held virtually over three days and hosted by the University of Buffalo School of Law. Twenty-four law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from Fordham University, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin, and Washington and Lee University. Winning team members are 3L Sidney Carter, 3L Halley Lewis, IV, 2L Christopher Ramirez and 3L Shaina Ruth. Ramirez also earned the title of Best Advocate for the competition. FSU Law alumni Jasmine Henry ('19), who practices at Novey + Gonzalez in Tallahassee, and Rachel Lopez ('18), a deputy district attorney for the Denver District Attorney's Office, coached the team to victory. FSU Law's Trial Team previously won the Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition in 2016. Lopez served as a student member of the 2016 winning team.

"We are extremely proud of our talented student advocates and their dedicated coaches," said Dean Erin O'Connor. "Winning this national championship adds to the team's strong record of success. Additionally, winning a virtual competition highlights the resiliency and adaptability of our students."

## Virtual Networking Reception Provides Evening of Connections for Students



Alumni and friends gathered to network with students last week.

On Wednesday, October 21, nearly 30 alumni and friends participated in an evening of networking with current students. The Virtual Networking Reception was hosted by the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation and our Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program, along with the Black Law Students Association, Cuban American Bar Association, International Law Students Association, Multicultural Law Students Association and Muslim Law Students Association.

Participants included alumni Jami Coleman ('08), the Honorable Jessica Costello ('09), Linda Edwards ('95), Alexander Fumagali ('12), Marlon Hill ('95), Janeia Ingram ('04), Salwmon Laguerre ('11), Markenzi Lapointe ('99), Adrian Mood ('13), G.C. Murray, II ('12), A. Abidemi Oladipo ('07), Mo Roberts ('07), Joseph Salzverg ('15), the Honorable Stephanie Silver ('00), Frank Symphorien-Saavedra ('08), the Honorable Jessica Varn ('95), Leo Vera ('16) and Nina Welch ('15). Friends of the law school, Mutaqee Akbar, the Honorable Laura Cruz, John Kozyak, Francesse Lucius, Lisa Roberts and Mark Schnapp, also attended.

Marlon Hill started the evening with a few remarks and then the attendees, including more than 45 students, were split into two rounds of breakout sessions. The small group setting allowed for students to ask questions and the professional attorneys and judges to share their experiences and offer advice.

## Alum Profile: Nina C. Welch ('15)

[Nina C. Welch](#) is an associate in the Ft. Lauderdale office of Nelson Mullins, where she is a member of the firm's litigation team. She represents clients in complex business litigation matters and has experience handling contract disputes, claims of fraud, alleged breaches of fiduciary duty, bankruptcy litigation, shareholder disputes, professional malpractice and intellectual property litigation, among other business torts. Welch also defends business entities against consumer claims, including those under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Welch is a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and previously chaired the group's Business Litigation CLE Committee and co-chaired its Circuit Civil Practice Committee. She also is a member of FSU Law's Alumni Association Board of Directors.



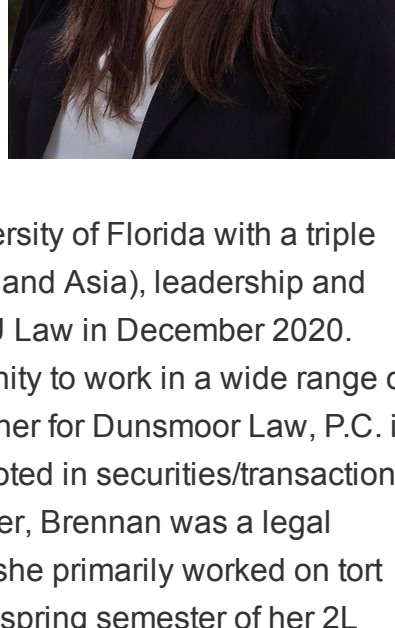
*"FSU Law has shaped the path of my legal career. During my time at FSU Law, the externships and courses I took truly prepared me for my business litigation practice. Now, five years later, I still recall the material I learned in those classes and the hands-on experience during externships as I litigate commercial cases. I currently practice and live in Fort Lauderdale and have a wonderful FSU alum community down here. Go 'Noles!"*

## Student Profile: 3L Kristina Brennan

**Desired Practice Location:** Open to anywhere in Florida; also interested in Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York, Texas or other opportunities

**Expected Graduation:** December 2020

**Field of Law Sought:** Wide range of interests and open to many practice areas, including securities/regulations law, corporate law, energy law, health/pharmaceutical law, sports law, tax law and privacy law



Originally from Weston, Florida, Kristina Brennan earned a bachelor's degree in international law and legal studies from the University of Florida with a triple minor in religion (with a focus on the Middle East and Asia), leadership and disabilities in society. She will graduate from FSU Law in December 2020. During law school, Brennan has had the opportunity to work in a wide range of roles. She is currently working as a legal researcher for Dunsmoor Law, P.C. in New York. She is primarily researching issues rooted in securities/transactions, as well as some blockchain researches. Last summer, Brennan was a legal researcher with Beautyman Alvtstad, LLP, where she primarily worked on tort issues and construction law disputes. During the spring semester of her 2L year, Brennan worked as a complaint drafter at Marie A. Matox, P.A. There, she met with clients to assist in their employment law complaints, drafted legal memoranda and observed legal proceedings. Brennan clerked at the Innocence Project of Florida during the fall semester of her 2L year. She reviewed case histories of those convicted and evaluated the post-conviction procedural history to determine whether any remedies were available. During the first part of her 1L summer, Brennan was a judicial intern for Judge Stephen Everett, part of the Florida Second Judicial Circuit. Judge Everett presided over probate, juvenile and guardianship court, which allowed her to observe a range of proceedings, as well as develop legal memoranda on such issues. Brennan attended the FSU Summer Program in Law at the University of Oxford in England during the second part of her 1L summer.

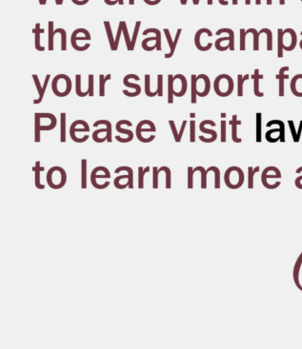
Brennan is a member of the FSU Law Student Bar Association, Women's Law Symposium, and LitiGators. She was also the executive secretary for the Health Law Society. Brennan is a member of the William H. Staffor American Inn of Court and a student representative on the Tallahassee Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Board of Directors. If you are interested in connecting with Brennan or hiring her after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*"Above all else, I am eager to learn. I am a team player and receptive to constructive criticism. The most important thing I have learned thus far is that persistence is key, so I try to apply that attitude to my daily life—not just so I can be a better lawyer, but a better person as well."*

## Event Reminders



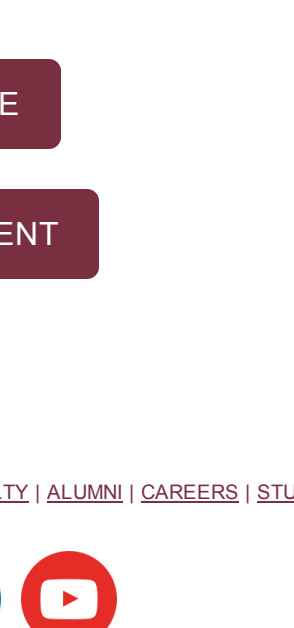
"What the Kentucky Derby Can Teach Us About Law" with Professor Jules Coleman, retired professor of philosophy, professor of recorded music, senior vice provost for academic planning emeritus at New York University  
November 5, 2020, 4 pm  
[Register online](#)



"Noles to the Polls: Ballots, Recounts, & Court Battles— Election Litigation and What's Next" with Michael Morley, Assistant Professor, FSU Law  
November 6, 2020, 12 pm  
[Zoom link](#)

*We're almost there!*

We are within \$50,000 of our Pave the Way campaign goal and need your support for student scholarships. Please visit [law.fsu.edu/pavetheway](http://law.fsu.edu/pavetheway) to learn more and give online today.



*We need your support for student scholarships!*

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

