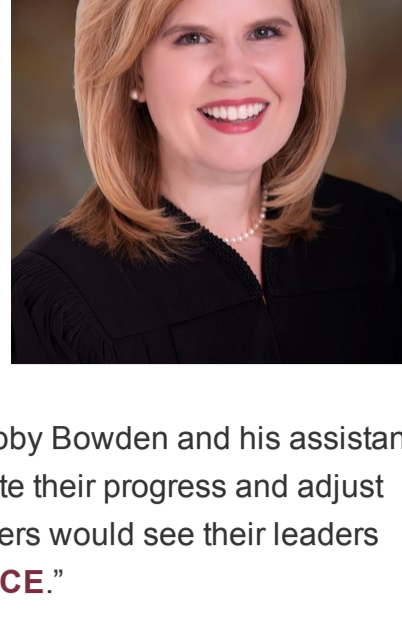


FSU Law Alumni Association Board Takeover: A Message from the President

When I was a student at Florida State, I took my younger brother, Hutch, to a football game. Six years younger than me, he was not yet in college and was excited to be on campus for his first big game day. As we walked past the football practice fields, he pointed out a multi-story, covered viewing tower boldly emblazoned in glossy garnet paint with the word **"PERSISTENCE"** on all four sides. My companion, who would eventually become my husband of now 25 years, Diego "Woody" Rodriguez, Class of 1995, explained to my brother that this was where legendary Coach Bobby Bowden and his assistants would lead practice, motivate the players, evaluate their progress and adjust the game plan. Any time they looked up, the players would see their leaders quite literally standing on the word **"PERSISTENCE."**



Over the past eighteen months, the FSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors has witnessed Dean O'Connor and her leadership team act much like Coach Bowden on that practice field—standing undaunted in the tower on hot muggy summer days or rain soaked practices, constantly assessing the situation, adjusting when necessary, and above all, reminding us with every glance to remain persistent. Indeed, at a time when one might decide that maintaining the status quo was enough of an accomplishment during a world-wide pandemic, the FSU College of Law continued pushing forward with new innovations, achieving national recognition for our school and students, attracting an exceptionally accomplished incoming class, and responding to the renewed and urgent demands for social justice through both words and actions. In short, our alma mater has remained persistent.

Similarly, as you will see in today's FSU Law Focus, our alumni association remains active and committed to supporting our law school and students, through mentorship, student opportunities, and, of course, financial support. In this new season of the pandemic, our Alumni Association Board of Directors is committed to serve our school and students with a renewed sense of **PERSISTENCE**. To achieve this, as we emerge from our virtual world we are undertaking a new "Social 'Nole" initiative, encouraging simple social interactions among alumni and students to renew our commitment to each other and devotion to our alma mater through fellowship and laughter—all the essential connections we missed these many months.

You can be a part of these exceptional times at the FSU College of Law! Reach out to one of our Board of Directors members listed below to connect for coffee, lunch, a virtual chat or a short get-together after work—or simply accept their invitation if they contact you. Contact our enthusiastic and friendly Becky Shepherd, executive director of alumni outreach and engagement, at rshepherd@law.fsu.edu to see how you can volunteer to engage and support our students, host an alumni gathering in your hometown, connect virtually or financially support our school. Plan to be a part of our Homecoming festivities the weekend of October 22-24, and don't miss the always tasty and lively Alumni Homecoming Tailgate!

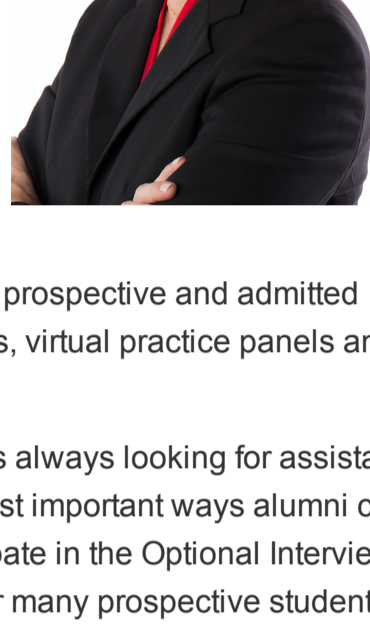
Given how much we have accomplished, today is already one of the brightest days in our law school's history. And we will see even brighter days if we continue to work together with **PERSISTENCE**. Go 'Noles!

-Judge Heather Pinder Rodriguez ('98), president, FSU Law Alumni Association

Student Recruitment Committee Work

The job of the Student Recruitment Committee is exactly what it sounds like—recruiting a diverse and academically successful group of students to attend the FSU College of Law.

Much of the committee's work involves personalizing the College of Law. One way we do this is by calling, texting or emailing admitted students. We answer their questions and help connect them with members of the faculty and administration who can address their concerns. Through the dedication of the committee's members this year, the committee was able to reach out to most of this year's admitted students. Committee members also connect with prospective and admitted students by participating in virtual Preview events, virtual practice panels and other events hosted by the College of Law.



As many hands make light work, the committee is always looking for assistance from alumni in its recruiting efforts. One of the most important ways alumni can assist with recruiting is by volunteering to participate in the Optional Interview Program. Applicants opt in to the program and for many prospective students, the interview may be their first contact with a practicing attorney. Interviews can be conducted either virtually or in person. Having participated as an interviewer, I can attest that the feedback provided after these interviews makes a difference in the admission decisions being made. If you are willing to participate in the Optional Interview Program, please reach out to the Admissions Office at admissions@law.fsu.edu.

-Ginger L. Boyd ('00), chair, Student Recruitment Committee

Alumni Association Board of Directors

The 2021-2022 FSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors members listed below are eager to connect with fellow alumni. You can email them by clicking on their names.

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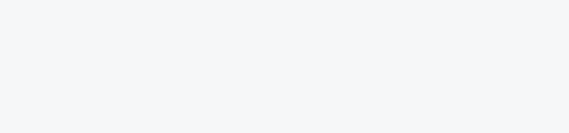
GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

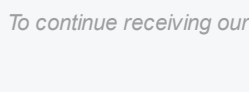
MAKE A GIFT

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