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## From the Dean



As many alumni and students know, FSU Law is very active on social media. The law school regularly posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This allows us to share news about programs, students, faculty members and alumni more quickly than possible through other avenues of communication, including the FSU Law Focus newsletter. In addition to allowing the law school to communicate with alumni, students, employees and friends, social media is one of the most important ways we share exciting news with prospective students. The law school's main accounts for **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **YouTube** all use @FSUCollegeofLaw. The law school also maintains an <u>official LinkedIn page</u>.

In addition, many offices and groups within the law school also regularly post on social media, some of the most active being the <u>Office of Student Advancement</u>, the <u>Research Center</u> and the <u>Externship Program</u> Facebook pages. If you are not already following FSU Law on social media, please consider following us to stay up to date on the wonderful things that are happening in our community!



## **Students Gain Experience Through Externships**



Rising 2L Brittany Smith (right) externed with the Honorable Embry Kidd (left), of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, during the summer of 2021.

This summer, many FSU Law students obtained valuable, hands-on work experience through externships located around the world. Some of the students performed externship responsibilities remotely due to COVID-19, while others worked in person. Eighty-two students externed for federal and state courts, including the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida; for businesses, including Apple, Ecobank, and SBA Communications; for government offices, including the Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration; for non-profits, including the D.C. Justice Lab, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, and International Bar Association; and for a variety of Iaw firms, public defender offices and state attorney offices. The experience and skills gained by students this summer will benefit them in their future careers and FSU Law is grateful to the alumni and other attorneys who supervised these important experiential learning opportunities.

"During the summer of 2021, I completed a judicial externship for the Honorable Embry Kidd of the Middle District of Florida," said rising 2L Brittany Smith. "During my externship, I researched procedural and substantive issues related to civil rights, international law, fraud and statutory violations. I also drafted reports and recommendations, court orders, and legal memoranda. My favorite part of the externship was discussing ongoing trials and cases with law clerks and judges. Overall, I loved my experience at the federal courthouse and am very thankful to my career services advisor, who told me about the judicial externship program and helped me prep for my onboarding interview."

#### Alum Profile: Melina E. Garcia ('17)

Melina E. Garcia is an associate at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Seattle, where she is a member of the firm's cybercrime enforcement practice. Garcia helps clients, including Amazon, manage issues involving cybercrime and other digital threats, utilizing her experience in litigation and data security. She supports clients in investigations and legal enforcement to address a wide variety of malicious internet behavior. Garcia also helps clients identify potential data privacy and security issues and assists them with managing internal forensic investigations, addressing legal obligations and engaging with regulators.



Prior to joining Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in March 2020, Garcia practiced at Hill Ward Henderson in Tampa.

"My niche practice allows me to help leading tech clients combat a wide array of malicious activities, including 'tech support' scams, malvertising, and myriad other schemes in which internet bad actors, often operating overseas, aim to steal corporate and customer data, divert funds, abuse corporate brands, and/or impersonate companies to gain access to victims. I will always be grateful to the FSU Law faculty and administration for guiding me into my professional career and look forward to connecting with any students looking to relocate to the great Northwest!"

#### Student Profile: 3L James Bell

Desired Practice Location: Jacksonville,
Pensacola, or Tampa. Also interested in other cities in North Florida.
Expected Graduation: April 2022
Field of Law Sought: Estate planning, probate

James Bell is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



He earned his bachelor's degree in political science with minors in French and history from the University of Florida, and he will graduate from FSU Law in April 2022. This summer, Bell is working at the France Law Firm in Tallahassee, where he assists with

client correspondence, executing documents and legal research. Bell is also currently working in the General Counsel's Office at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. There, he assists with legal research, reviews citations from other attorneys, and sits in on hearings and depositions. He also reviews public records requests to ensure sensitive information is redacted before the requested records are delivered. The summer before his 2L year, Bell participated in FSU's Veterans Legal Clinic, where he primarily helped indigent clients with estate and family law issues.

At FSU Law, Bell is a member of the Student Bar Association, the LitiGators, and the Federalist Society. He has also been involved with the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society and the Sustainable Law Society, and he serves as a student ambassador with the Admissions Office. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Bell after graduation, visit his LinkedIn profile.

# "I've been lucky to have the opportunity to get some first-hand experience at the type of law that I'm interested in while I'm still in law school, and I'm excited to do more as I enter my 3L year!"

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