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From the Dean



(L-R) SALDF President Savannah Sherman, Olsen, Awasthi, Prof. Tricia Matthews



Bauman



Tayeb

Congratulations to our law student and two recent graduates who recently swept the awards in the 10th Annual Animal Law Writing Competition. The contest was sponsored by the The Florida Bar Animal Law Section, Pets Ad Litem, and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapter at FSU Law. 3L Catherine Awasthi won first place for her piece, "Staving off Starvation: How Florida's Invasive Plants Could Sustain the State's Marine Mammal." Katie Bauman ('22) placed second for her article, "Bloodsuckers & Biotech: Public Concerns and Regulatory Questions Raised by the First Release of Genetically Modified Mosquitoes in the United States." Diana Olsen ('22) took third place for her article, "The Big Cat Public Safety Act: A Plot to Dethrone the Next Tiger King."

Congratulations also to Allaa Tayeb ('22), who recently won the FSU Law Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program's 2022 writing competition. As a result, Tayeb's article, "Integrating Professionalism and Social Media in the Age of Lawyers that Grew Up With It," was published in the The Professional, a publication of The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism. You can [read Tayeb's award-winning piece online](#).

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Peer Elevation Program Launches

Later today, FSU Law will unveil the mentor/mentee groups that form the new Peer Elevation Program (PEP). Part of FSU Law's Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program, PEP matches 1Ls with 2L and 3L mentor leaders in small groups led by faculty advisors. The special program was designed to help new students transition into law school and encourage them to take full advantage of their law school



experience via a student-driven, faculty-assisted support system. Groups will meet in person approximately once a month during the semester. Additionally, mentors have volunteered to be available to answer questions and connect 1Ls with resources at any time. This new program is being offered as an additional layer of support for 1Ls, and the law school community is looking forward to watching the mentoring relationships grow. Thank you to Professor Chris Busch for conceiving of the innovative program and to him and the Office of Student Advancement for creating and implementing it.

Alum Profile: Brad deBeaubien ('08)

Brad deBeaubien is a partner at Shumaker in Tampa, where he represents clients primarily on labor and employment matters. He also serves as co-hiring partner for the firm's Tampa office. In his practice, deBeaubien helps employers navigate state and federal employment law issues, including wage and hour litigation, discrimination and retaliation actions, restrictive covenant and trade secret claims, and other employment-related disputes. Additionally, he advises clients on compliance with employment laws and on employer best practices. deBeaubien also has extensive experience representing creditors and other stakeholders in bankruptcy matters and other distressed financial situations. deBeaubien remains engaged with FSU Law, teaching Fundamentals of Employment & Human Resources Law in the new executive education program that will launch October 1 as part of the Stoops Center of Law and Business.



"My time at the FSU law school has proven such a pivotal part of my personal and professional journey. I owe so much of who I am today to the faculty and friends that helped define my three years in Tallahassee, and I am delighted to be a part of the law school's newest chapter as an instructor in the employment law curriculum for the Stoops Center of Law and Business."

Student Profile: 3L Grace Speas

Desired Practice Location: In or near Tallahassee or any major city in Florida

Expected graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Civil litigation; hopes to eventually work in mediation

Grace Speas is originally from Fort Myers, Florida. She attended the University of Texas at Austin for her undergraduate studies, where she majored in journalism and minored in philosophy of law. She is a recipient of the Gamet Law Scholarship at FSU Law and will graduate in May. In October, Speas will begin a legislative fellowship with the Florida House of Representatives. She will work within a House committee, subcommittee, or leadership office on tasks such as research, bill drafting and analysis, oversight activities, and other policy-related assignments. Since January, Speas has worked as a law clerk with Howell, Buchan & Strong in Tallahassee on the defense side of lawsuits against state agencies such as the Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Health. In this role, Speas has gained practical knowledge of state and federal court procedures. She has also honed her skills in drafting motions, engaging with clients, and implementing efficient systems to work ahead of deadlines. During the summer and fall of 2020, Speas interned for the Honorable Judge Edwin Scales III of the Third District Court of Appeal, where she conducted research on specific issues on appeal, reviewed briefs, and issued memoranda to Judge Scales based on her research.



At FSU Law, Speas volunteers her time as a Peer Elevation Program mentor, helping 1Ls acclimate to law school, and also as a student ambassador with the Office of Admissions. She was a Phi Alpha Delta national competitor and a Trial Team intramural competitor in previous semesters. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Speas after graduation, please visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at gms15f@fsu.edu.

"I love problem-solving, sorting through the weeds to get to the core issue, effective argumentation and communication, and writing. Law school has allowed me to take these general passions, put them to work, and learn specific skills to transform myself into a valuable attorney. It is my goal to be a lawyer who people know as fair and kind, but also a force to be reckoned with."

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