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From the Dean



On Wednesday, January 25, we were honored to host alumna Sia Baker-Barnes ('00)

Sia Baker-Barnes speaks with students

for a special event with students. The event was part of our Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program, and Baker-Barnes focused her remarks on lessons she has learned about leadership and professionalism. She spoke about her career in medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation and answered questions from the many students in attendance. Baker-Barnes is a shareholder at Searcy Denney in West Palm Beach and has achieved numerous multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements. She also serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear from someone who has accomplished a great deal during her career, in terms of both advocacy and leadership. Many thanks to Baker-Barnes for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with our students, and to our BLSA and WLS student organizations for co-hosting this outstanding session.

Dean Erin O'Connor

Spring 2023 Fundathon Begins Next Week



support for our Annual Fund, which is utilized for important needs at the law school, including student scholarships and student enrichment activities. Gifts can be earmarked to support specific causes, groups, and programs at the law school that are most important to the donor. A gift in any amount makes an impact on the law school and our students, so please consider giving to the Annual Fund if you have not already. Donations can be made when our students call, or you can donate online now. To those who have already donated this year, thank you for your support!

Starting on Monday, February 6, students will be calling and emailing alumni during our three-week Spring 2023 Fundathon. Students will contact graduates to solicit

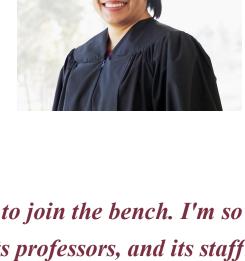
In December, Stephanie Tanada was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to serve

Alum Profile: Hon. Stephanie Tanada ('08)

on the bench on January 23, and she has a criminal assignment in the Victorville District of the San Bernardino County Superior Court. Tanada previously served as a research attorney for the Orange County Superior Court, was an associate at Jackson Lewis PC, and was a partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. "I am both thrilled and honored to join the bench. I'm so thankful to the College of Law, its professors, and its staff for giving me the tools I needed to succeed from the very

as a judge in the San Bernardino County

Superior Court. Tanada began her appointment



beginning of my career." Student Profile: 3L Vito Bayaro **Desired Practice Location:** Sarasota, St.

earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Sport Management from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, and he will graduate from FSU Law in May. During law school, Bavaro has worked at Cole, Scott & Kissane in Tampa as a

Vito Bavaro, from Lakewood Ranch, Florida,

Field of Law Sought: Trusts and estates or real

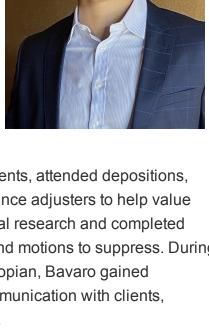
Petersburg, or Lakewood Ranch area

Expected Graduation: May 2023

estate law

in Sarasota as a summer intern. Last summer, at Cole, Scott & Kissane, Bavaro communicated with clients, attended depositions, trials, and mediations, and worked directly with insurance adjusters to help value injuries and property damage. He also conducted legal research and completed motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss, and motions to suppress. During

summer associate and at Gallagher and Hagopian



the summer before his 2L year, at Gallagher and Hagopian, Bavaro gained experience in personal injury law by maintaining communication with clients, conducting legal research, and attending depositions. Bavaro would like potential employers to know that he is a former division one hockey player who thrives in a team-oriented environment. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Bavaro after graduation, visit his LinkedIn profile or email him at **vb21e@fsu.edu**.

"During my time at FSU Law, I've grown as a person and gained valuable knowledge of the law and legal system.

However, my biggest takeaway from law school is the importance of relationships. I value every relationship I've made, and if I can have even the slightest positive impact on someone's life, I believe that's a success."

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