

From the Dean



Judge Wendy Berger talks to students during a coffee session hosted by the Career Services Office and Women's Law Symposium.

On Tuesday, February 21, we hosted the Honorable Wendy Berger ('93), of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, through our Jurist in Residence Program. During her visit to campus, Judge Berger met with students for coffee and lunch, and with faculty members on our Judicial Clerkship Committee. She also participated in Professor Chuck Ehrhardt's Evidence class, where she made remarks on the value of taking a course in evidence and answered questions. During her visit, Judge Berger talked to students about a wide variety of topics, including the importance of professionalism and being kind, the application of Daubert in federal court, taking career risks, her career path, and characteristics judges look for when interviewing clerkship applicants. During her lunch remarks, Judge Berger commented about reputation being the single most important asset for a lawyer.

Judge Berger joined the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida on August 1, 2019. Prior to her service on the federal district court, Judge Berger served as a district judge on Florida's Fifth District Court of Appeal from 2012-2019, and as a circuit judge in Florida's Seventh Judicial Circuit from 2005-2012. Before joining the bench, Judge Berger was an assistant general counsel and clemency aide to Governor Jeb Bush and an assistant state attorney in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. She is actively involved in numerous community and professional organizations, and she frequently speaks on a wide variety of topics including professionalism, textualism, diversity, judicial appointments, appellate practice, extradition, the death penalty, and drug court. Judge Berger graduated from FSU Law in 1993.

We are grateful that Judge Berger spent so much time with our students and imparted valuable wisdom and advice!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Hosts Career Advisor Fair



On Wednesday, February 8, the FSU College of Law held its first annual Alumni Career Advisor Fair for students to explore their interests in different practice areas and network with lawyers. The alumni participating in the fair represented a wide variety of practice areas and shared valuable advice with students on starting careers in their substantive areas. The fair was the brainchild of Alex Fumagali, an FSU Law alum who chairs the law school alumni association board's career services committee, and was coordinated by the Office of Career Services & Professional Development. Many thanks to the following alumni and other attorneys for sharing their expertise with students at the fair:

- Lauren Brooker ('20), Second Circuit Public Defender's Office (criminal law)
- Rochelle Chiocca ('00), Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. (insurance defense)
- Jami Coleman ('08), Coleman Law Practice, P.A. (business law)
- Virginia Dailey ('99), Panza, Maurer & Maynard P.A. (international law)
- Alex Fumagali ('12), Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP (insurance defense)
- Celeste Gaines ('15), McKesson Corporation (corporate/in-house)
- Christin Gonzalez ('11), Novey Gonzalez Family Law (family law)
- Greg Hearing ('89), GrayRobinson, P.A. (employment law)
- Rachel Lagos ('21), Second Circuit Public Defender's Office (criminal law)
- Mike Markham ('88), Johnson Pope (business litigation/bankruptcy)
- Preston McLane ('09), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (environmental law)
- Nick Niemiec ('14), Florida Office of the Attorney General (government/regulatory law)
- Ben Odom ('04), NASCAR (sports/entertainment law)
- Lisa Roberts, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (government/regulatory law)
- Christina Smiekle ('16), McKesson Corporation (corporate/in-house)
- Max Solomon ('17), Heuler-Wakeman Law Group, P.L. (wills/estates/trusts)
- Bruce Wiener ('93), Akerman LLP (real estate law)

Alum Kelly Kibbey Smith ('15)

Kelly Kibbey Smith recently joined Dean, Mead & Dunbar in Tallahassee, where she is a member of the firm's lobbying team. Smith focuses on governmental relations, with a specialization in health care and administrative law. Prior to joining Dean Mead, Smith was a senior attorney for the Florida Senate, where she wrote, analyzed, and provided counsel regarding proposed health legislation and monitored the implementation of enacted health legislation. Smith is extremely engaged in professional groups—among many activities, she represents the Second Judicial Circuit on The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, she is a past president of the Florida Government Bar Association, and she is vice chair of The Florida Bar's Governmental and Public Policy Advocacy Committee. In January, Smith was awarded the Thomas M. Ervin Distinguished Young Lawyer Award by the Tallahassee Bar Association.



“I can point to sections of the Florida Statutes relating to Medicaid, telehealth, facility regulation, licensure, scope of practice, drug importation, medical marijuana, and more and know that I wrote pieces of it. Landing a job as a bill drafter in the Florida Senate was one of the best things that could have happened to me as a young lawyer. I later transferred to the Committee on Health Policy and after six wonderful years at the Senate, I am excited and ready to build my practice at Dean, Mead & Dunbar.”

Student Profile: 3L Jack Craven

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee or a north Florida beach town

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Interested in trusts and estates, family law, and commercial law

Jack Craven is from Marianna, Florida. He attended Florida State University for his undergraduate studies and will graduate from FSU Law this spring. Craven is currently a law clerk at the Florida Department of Financial Services, where he drafts administrative complaints, notices of revocation, and settlement stipulations for administrative actions against licensees. During the fall semester of his 3L year, Craven externed for Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga. In that role, he drafted determinations of jurisdiction and observed oral arguments. During the summer before his 3L year, Craven was a law clerk at Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon, where he conducted legal research on a wide range of civil litigation matters. He drafted memoranda on topics including real estate law, construction law, HOA law, tax law, and probate, and he attended a trial, hearing, and mediation. As a 2L, Craven clerked for the Public Employee Relations Commission. In this capacity, he drafted and proofread orders, attended hearings, and conducted research on employee rights.



At FSU Law, Craven serves as associate editor of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Craven after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at jcraven@fsu.edu.

“I am a hard worker with excellent research and writing skills. I have a passion for justice and helping clients through their uncertain situations. I hope to use the tools I have gained from law school and my work experience to serve the best interests of my employer and clients.”