FSU Law Welcomes Federal Judge Jeffrey Sutton

On Wednesday, we welcomed William Buzbee, the Edward and Carole Walter Professor of Environmental Law and Conservation at FSU College of Law, to Tallahassee. Professor Buzbee presented “Fears, Faith, and Facts in Environmental Law” to a packed audience in the Rotunda. During his lecture, he identified the kinds of fear and faith that catalyze environmental policy decisions and explored strategies for surmounting the growing conflicts between the different sources of fear and faith. It was a dynamic discussion focused on the importance of attention to the documentation of statutorily significant facts and science in the environmental law context.

On Thursday, May 25th, FSU College of Law hosted Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, to a full house in the Conference Center. Sutton engaged students in the conversation, encouraging them to ask questions and participate. Judge Sutton delivered a lecture, “Decides? States as Laboratories of Constitutional Experimentation,” a discussion of the impact of states on the development of law and the importance of states as laboratories for the Constitution. He engaged the audience by asking them to consider how state law impacts the Constitutional rights of individuals and how state courts and actions can influence the development of national law. He also discussed the role of judges in preserving individual liberty, property rights, and structural guarantees.

As a native Floridian, I know the environment and future sustainability are the lifeblood of our state, and I look forward to continuing my work in these areas.

Joseph Evans is from Columbus, Georgia, and separate Master of Arts degrees in philosophy and theology from Holy Apostles Seminary. He will graduate from FSU Law this semester, and has previously served as a research assistant for the International Criminal Law course. In this role, he identified the kinds of fear and faith that catalyze environmental policy decisions and explored strategies for surmounting the growing conflicts between the different sources of fear and faith.

John J. Truitt ('10), a Florida native, was called to public service after earning his law degree and now practices as a partner in the Environmental and Sustainability Law Team at GrayRobinson, a Florida law firm. Truitt has extensive regulatory experience in environmental, business, and compliance demands facing the public and private sectors. Formerly a section manager at the Florida Department of Health, a chief advisor to a Florida geological survey, chief prosecuting attorney and secretary of regulatory programs for the Florida Geological Survey, and a fraud analyst for a public policy organization, Truitt has a wealth of experience that informs his legal practice with this belief in mind.

“I believe the law is optimized when it harmonizes the diversity of human perspectives and is open to other states’ experiences and wisdom,” Truitt said. “That is precisely why Iam a lifelong Floridian and will continue to work with some of the best and brightest public servents during my time at DEP. Now, I get to do so with some of the best and brightest in private practice at GrayRobinson.”