On Sunday May 7, we held our annual Law School Commencement in the Tucker Civic Center to celebrate our graduating students. The ceremony was a joyful milestone for our graduates, their families, faculty, and staff. It was a testament to the hard work and dedication of all involved.

The event was hosted by Dean Annino, who presented the Outstanding Clinical Student Award, which is given to one clinical student per law school who has demonstrated excellence in class participation and client advocacy. Rising 3L Christina Portuallo received the Clinical Legal Education Association’s Outstanding Clinical Student Award, which is given to one clinical student per law school who has demonstrated excellence in class participation and client advocacy. Portuallo made significant contributions to the Elder Law Clinic and Children’s Advocacy Clinic (CAC). According to Professor Annino, during her time with the CAC, Portuallo made significant contributions to the Elder Law Clinic and Children’s Advocacy Clinic (CAC). According to Professor Annino, during her time with the CAC, Portuallo made significant contributions to the Elder Law Clinic and Children’s Advocacy Clinic (CAC). According to Professor Annino, during her time with the CAC, Portuallo made significant contributions to the Elder Law Clinic and Children’s Advocacy Clinic (CAC). According to Professor Annino, during her time with the CAC, Portuallo made significant contributions to the Elder Law Clinic and Children’s Advocacy Clinic (CAC).

Professor Annino presented the awards and was joined by Clinical Professors Daynica Harley, Rima Nathan, and Darby Kerrigan Scott in speaking to the recipients’ character and achievements. Glass Professor of Public Interest Law Paolo Nieto announced the Raising the Bar Award to Dunbar Family Professor Steve Johnson for his significant contributions to the community and his dedication to the profession. The award is presented to a law school professor who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving the legal profession, providing clinical legal education, serving the public interest, and promoting law student pro bono service. Professor Johnson was recognized for his role in the Alternative Spring Break Program, where he served as a faculty advisor and taught students the importance of public interest law. He has also mentored numerous students and helped them achieve their professional goals.

In addition to the awards, the commencement ceremony featured special addresses from Dean Annino, who spoke about the importance of public service and the role of law schools in promoting social justice. Dean Annino emphasized the need for lawyers to be advocates for the marginalized and to work towards creating a more equitable society. She also highlighted the achievements of our graduates and encouraged them to continue to make a difference in their communities.

The event concluded with a reception where graduates had the opportunity to connect with faculty, staff, and alumni. There was a sense of pride and accomplishment as our newest alumni celebrated the end of their academic journey and looked forward to the next chapter of their lives.

Many thanks to Justice Grosshans, FSU President Richard McCullough, the FSU Law faculty, and many others for helping to make this celebration inspiring, uplifting, and memorable for our graduates! You can continue to follow their journey and support their success through our FSU Law community. Connect with us on LinkedIn and stay informed about upcoming opportunities and events. Sign up to receive our future emails.