



FSU LAW

Focus

February 16,
2024

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From the Dean



Distinguished Environmental Lecturer Gregory Alexander speaks at FSU Law.

On Wednesday, February 7, FSU Law welcomed Gregory Alexander, the A. Robert Noll Professor of Law, Emeritus at Cornell University, to present the Spring 2024 Distinguished Environmental Lecture. During his talk, “Reversing Means and Ends: The Human Flourishing Theory in Conditions of Climate Change,” Professor Alexander discussed climate change in relation to the human flourishing theory. The theory posits that property is required for the development of the capabilities necessary for humans to flourish. Professor Alexander discussed how climate change creates conditions in which it may be possible and necessary to reverse the means-end relationship assumed in the human flourishing theory, stating that certain

human capabilities have become the necessary means for achieving the goal of protecting property, both human-made and natural. He went on to state that the human capacity of cooperativeness can be especially important to protecting property. To illustrate his assertions, Professor Alexander discussed the California wildfires as an example of a climate-related natural disaster where cooperativeness facilitated the goal of property protection. If you were unable to attend this fascinating lecture, a [recording of the talk](#) is available online.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Student to Receive 2024 Ellis Medal

Third-year FSU Law student Robin Rodriguez has been selected as the 2024 Ellis Medal recipient! The Ellis Medal is presented to an FSU Law student for excellence in international human rights studies and activities. Rodriguez, who was the inaugural D'Alemberte-Ellis fellow, was selected for the Ellis Medal because of her excellent work at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre in Accra, Ghana, during the summer of 2023. During her fellowship, Rodriguez, working alongside human rights advocates and lawyers, created a project on voting rights awareness, attended a disability rights conference, and drafted policy briefs advocating for better legal treatment for marginalized groups. Additionally, she interviewed clients who were seeking asylum, worked with other interns at the centre to research and track harmful legislation across sub-Saharan Africa, and collaborated with other human rights NGOs in Ghana. Professor Darby Scott, who oversees the D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellowship, notes that Rodriguez was the ideal inaugural fellow due to her independence, courage, and open-mindedness. Rodriguez will receive the Ellis Medal during the [2024 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights](#) on Thursday, February 29, at FSU Law.



Alum Profile: Christi Gray ('93)

[Christi Gray](#) is the founding partner of Gray Law in

Tallahassee, where she practices marital and family law. She also is a certified family mediator and is trained in collaborative family law. Prior to opening her firm over a decade ago, she practiced marital and family law at McCall, Moody & Gray and Novey Law. Her experience also includes practicing insurance defense and commercial litigation. She also was a hearing officer for the Public Employees Relations Commission for approximately a decade. Gray has been a guardian ad litem for more than five years and has been an adjunct professor for Thomas University. She has been involved in many professional organizations over time, including the board of directors of the



Tallahassee Women Lawyers, Florida Bar Family Law Section committees, as chair of The Florida Bar Second Circuit Grievance Committee, the William Stafford American Inns of Court, the Capital Collaborative Group, Thunderdome for Legal Services, as chair of the Second Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, and the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tallahassee. She has received several awards, including the Leader in the Law Award from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. Gray also is a member of the Colorado Bar.

“With my job, I head home every day feeling like I have helped someone that day.”

Student Profile: 3L Dylan Kren

Desired Practice Location: Open to any location

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Civil litigation

Dylan Kren is from Fort Myers, Florida, and he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Georgia. Since August 2023, Kren has worked as a law clerk with the Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit, where he has conducted probable cause review for hundreds of cases, drafted substantive motions, and assisted in voir dire and other aspects of trial practice. From

October 2022 to July 2023, Kren was a law clerk with Howell, Buchan & Strong, Attorneys at Law, where he defended clients in civil and administrative proceedings, including appeals, through legal research and factual investigation, and drafting formal correspondence, written discovery, and substantive motions. During the summer after his 1L year, Kren was a legal intern with the School Board of Lee County. There, he conducted legal research in areas including ad valorem taxation and construction. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Kren after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at ddk22a@fsu.edu.



“Raising young children has been a great complement to my law school career. Fatherhood has forced me to communicate clearly, to mediate effectively, and to aim to arrive at least 45 minutes early.”



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