



# FSU LAW

## Focus

March 29,  
2024

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## From the Dean



*Columbia Professor Richard Briffault presents the Distinguished Lecture in Election Law.*

On Wednesday, March 19, 2024, we were delighted to hold the inaugural Distinguished Lecture in Election Law, which featured Richard Briffault, the Joseph P. Chamberlain professor of legislation at Columbia Law School. Professor Briffault is Columbia Law School's authority on state and local government and an expert on issues central to democracy and the political process, such as campaign finance reform, government ethics, gerrymandering, election administration, and fair elections. In his lecture, "Decline and Fall? The Uncertain Future of Campaign Finance Law," Briffault discussed the campaign finance regulation which was established by Congress fifty years ago in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, and how shortly after, the Supreme Court, in *Buckley v. Valeo*, decided a host of

constitutional challenges to the new law, which created a campaign finance system significantly different from the one Congress intended. Briffault noted that this established doctrine, with few changes, continues to govern today, and said that after a half-century, it's hard to say things have worked out well.

“With respect to the FECA (Federal Election Campaign Act) specifics touted by President Ford,” Briffault said, “spending is unlimited; the statutory contribution limits are effectively circumvented; the presidential public funding system has completely collapsed; the FEC is paralyzed by partisan deadlock; and disclosure—probably the greatest strength of the system—is on increasingly shaky ground.”

Professor Briffault went on to examine the basic elements of the Supreme Court's campaign finance doctrine, its impact on our political system, and some alternative scenarios for the future of campaign finance law. Many thanks to Professor Briffault for presenting this timely lecture and Professor Michael Morley for planning the event as part of our new Election Law Center programming! You can [view a recording of the lecture](#) on our website.

*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

## FSU Law Hosts 15th Annual SELE Meeting



*Duke University Professor Matthew Adler presents during the Society for Environmental Law and Economics meeting.*

On March 22 and 23, FSU College of Law hosted scholars from around the world in Tallahassee for the 15th annual meeting of the Society for Environmental Law and Economics (SELE). The event built upon the success of previous annual meetings in building a community of environmental scholars interested in working in the intersection of law, economics, social science, and environmental or natural resource issues. During the event, scholars presented their theoretical and empirical papers during several plenary sessions. Internationally recognized scholars participating in the meeting included David Adelman, the Harry Reasoner regents chair in law at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law; Matthew Adler, the Richard A. Horvitz distinguished professor of law and professor of economics, philosophy, and public policy at Duke Law School; Jonathan Wiener, the William R. Perkins distinguished professor of law at Duke Law School; and Katrina Wyman, the Sarah Herring Sorin professor of law at NYU School of Law. In addition to the workshop-style plenary sessions, presenters attended an informal tour of the Wakulla Springs watershed at the end of the conference, concluding at Wakulla Springs State Park.

“This organization that I started up 15 years ago with some colleagues embodies what I consider FSU values,” said FSU Law D’Alemberte Professor Shi-Ling Hsu, who planned and presented at the event, about SELE. “We are a bubble of civility exchanging ideas and disagreeing respectfully. That is what conferences should be all about.”

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## Alum Profile: Skye Musson ('19)

**Skye Musson** is an equity partner at Darden & Musson Law in Savannah, Georgia, where she exclusively practices criminal law. Her experience includes cases involving domestic violence, gang activity, RICO, and murder. Musson is barred in Georgia and South Carolina, as well as admitted to practice in the Southern District of Georgia and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Darden & Musson Law prides itself on being a premier defense firm for clients seeking zealous representation in all types of criminal cases. Prior to opening her firm in 2021, Musson was an assistant district attorney in the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia. Before law school, Musson was an officer candidate with the United States Coast Guard, from which she medically retired in 2015 upon suffering a catastrophic training injury.



*“I found that Florida State Law did a great job preparing me for entering the workforce and practicing law. Participating in Professor Kreiger's externship program allowed me to make invaluable connections in Savannah and to establish myself prior to graduation. I am also amazed that to this day, I can reach out to professors and discuss real-life questions about topics like touch DNA and the theory behind it, as I did with Professor Spotswood just last year. Her help was invaluable in preparing for a federal trial where touch DNA evidence was integral to the prosecution.”*

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## Student Profile: 3L Daniela Marrero

**Desired Practice Location:** Open to any location

**Expected Graduation:** May 2024

**Field of Law Sought:** Civil law; particularly interested in litigation in the areas of commercial disputes, labor and employment, international law, liability cases, and civil rights issues

Daniela Marrero is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and she completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Florida, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration and minored in business management. This semester, Marrero is working as a law clerk with Kubicki Draper in Tallahassee, where she conducts research, assists with document production and e-discovery, and drafts legal documents, including pleadings, motions, and discovery requests. She also has attended hearings, depositions, and other legal proceedings to observe and assist attorneys. During the fall semester, Marrero worked as a certified legal intern with the Second Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender. In that role, she, alongside her supervising attorney, managed clients' misdemeanor cases, including first



appearances, arraignments, case management, hearings, pre-trial matters, and trials. She also drafted and filed all necessary motions pertaining to each case on which she worked. During the summer before her 3L year, Marrero was a summer associate in the Miami office of Wicker Smith. There, she drafted legal documents, including motions for summary judgment, motions to quash service, and deposition summaries. She also led a pre-deposition conference with a corporate representative, drafted the deposition questions, and helped prepare for a focus group for an upcoming medical malpractice trial. During her 2L year, Marrero was a law clerk with the Prosecution Unit of the Florida Department of Health, where she assisted with evaluating and prosecuting violations of state law and administrative rules, drafted recommended actions for probable cause panels to include dismissals, letters of guidance, or administrative complaints, and prepared motions and related materials for final agency action. The summer before her 2L year, Marrero was a law clerk intern with the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida in Jacksonville, working under the supervision of Judge Scott Mitchell ('82). Her responsibilities there included compiling legal research, drafting memoranda, participating in legal discussions, and observing court proceedings.

At FSU Law, Marrero is vice president of Hispanic Law Students Association and a member of the FSU Law Trial Team. She also is a Florida Young Lawyers Division law school affiliate and a student advancement liaison with the Tallahassee Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Additionally, Marrero is fluent in Spanish and has served as a volunteer translator with the College of Law's Immigration Rights Clinic. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Marrero after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [dcm20db@fsu.edu](mailto:dcm20db@fsu.edu).

*“I am recognized for being passionate, reliable, and diligent. My attention to detail and natural curiosity motivate me to constantly pursue new knowledge, skills, and connections. Cultivating relationships has always been a priority for me, as I firmly believe that significant accomplishments are often a result of collaborative efforts rather than individual pursuits.”*

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