



FSU LAW

Focus

May 17,
2024

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From the Dean

Exciting changes are occurring in the Office of Student Advancement! Effective May 6, 2024, Professor Christopher Busch is now serving as the assistant dean of student affairs. In addition to serving as the dean of students, Busch will be taking over much of our student programming, including our nationally recognized Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program (SUG) and professionalism programs.



Dean Nancy Benavides will continue to serve as our associate dean for student advancement and will oversee final exams while retaining her involvement in a number of student matters including conduct issues. Additionally, Benavides will also be facilitating and helping to align all of our student services, including academic programs, bar support, and career services.

The Office of Student Advancement provides a wide range of support to our law students. Whether through counseling on academic or personal matters, coordinating student activities, or implementing policies and procedures, its goal is to help students achieve their academic and extracurricular goals.

Congratulations to Dean Benavides and Dean Busch as they take on new roles at the College of Law!

Faculty Profile: Christopher F. Busch



Christopher Busch ('11), is the law school's new assistant dean of student affairs. Busch has worked closely with the Office of Student Advancement throughout his time at FSU Law. For example, in 2022, FSU Law launched the Peer Elevation Program (PEP) as part of our Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. PEP matches 1Ls with 2L and 3L mentor leaders in small groups led by faculty advisors. PEP is designed to help new students transition into law school and encourage them to take full advantage of their law school experience via a student-driven, faculty-assisted support system. The program was conceived by Busch.

Busch taught Legal Writing and Research I and II for seven years and in 2021, the graduating class voted him the recipient of the Open-Door Faculty Award. Busch has served for several years as a faculty advisor to our nationally ranked moot court team and taught our Lawyers as Leaders course. Prior to returning to the law school, Busch was a partner at Busch & Kelley, P.A. in Tallahassee and an associate at Theriaque & Spain. He worked as an actuarial analyst for the Florida Department of Financial Services and as an assistant actuary for Allstate Financial in Jacksonville. Busch has served as president of the board of directors for the Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association as well as a member of the association's board of directors.

"I'm humbled and honored for this opportunity. I look forward to continuing FSU Law's legacy of

fostering a supportive environment where every student thrives and succeeds."

Alumni Profile: Paul R. Berg ('91)

Paul R. Berg practiced with Vocelle & Berg LLP for 30 years before recently becoming a partner at WhiteBird Law PLLC In Vero Beach. His focus is in the areas of complex civil litigation, serious personal injury, product liability, business disputes, construction claims, and wrongful death. Berg has been board certified in both civil trial and business litigation since 2005. Berg is extremely involved in professional activities. He has served as president of the Indian River County Bar Association, chair of the Florida Bar Business Litigation Certification Committee, chair of the Florida Bar Statewide Nominating Commission for Judges of Compensation Claims and a member of The Florida Bar Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee. Over the years, he devoted many hours to pro bono work and was a recipient of the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 19th Judicial Circuit.



"Florida State College of Law was a great choice and afforded me invaluable opportunities. I was able to clerk at firms working on the important statewide issues of the day, try eight jury trials with the Public Defender's office before graduation and work as an extern to the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. I made lifelong friends and am grateful to the College of Law for the quality of its faculty and education and the experience it provided."

Celebrating 2024 Grad Larry Lynn

Recent FSU Law alumnus Larry Lynn will be working as an associate with Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale! During his time at FSU Law, Lynn served in the roles of president and secretary of the Black Law Students Association. He was also a member of the FSU Trial Team, the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team, and a student advocate with the Public Interest Law Center's International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic and Children's Advocacy Clinic. We wish Lynn all the best in his new role and look forward to celebrating his future accomplishments!



We are inviting all alumni and students to **join FSU Law Connect**, a new platform exclusively for the FSU Law community. Alumni can keep in touch with the College of Law and other alumni, post jobs, and access career development tools. If you haven't already joined FSU Law Connect, please join today to help us increase engagement and connection.

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