



FSU LAW

Focus

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From the Dean



Our 2024 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program (SUG), began earlier this week on May 21 and will end on June 14. We have welcomed 59 bright, ambitious, accomplished undergraduate students from around the nation to FSU Law for our program which is celebrating its 33rd year. While here, the students will attend legal writing, public interest law and criminal procedure classes; tour the Florida Supreme Court; learn about the law school admissions process and what to expect during law school from members of our faculty and administration; prepare and present oral arguments in one of our courtrooms; meet with dozens of practicing

attorneys and judges to network and learn about their careers; participate in a career fair; and hear inspiring remarks from program benefactor Wayne Hogan ('72) during a special lunch. Students will also attend several fun, team-building sessions, including a retreat at the FSU Rez lakefront park, a networking reception at the Challenger Learning Center and an inspirational session with FSU football coach Mike Norvell. Many thanks to our alumni and friends who will engage with the SUG participants and to our Office of Student Advancement for planning and implementing enriching programming for the students! It is no wonder that SUG has been twice honored for its excellence by the American Bar Association.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Election Law Program Welcomes Executive Director



We are delighted to welcome Maureen Wagner, who joined FSU College of Law as executive director of the newly formed Election Law program in April 2024. In this role, Wagner works closely with Professor Michael Morley. The program is nonpartisan and provides students, scholars, policymakers, and election officials throughout the state with objective, evidence-based analysis of election-related legal and policy issues. It held its inaugural Distinguished Lecture in Election Law in March featuring Richard Briffault, the Joseph P. Chamberlain professor of legislation at Columbia Law School. On April 25-26, the program hosted its inaugural Election Law conference on voting, voter registration, and the federal laws governing the electoral process welcoming leading election law scholars from law schools around the nation and top election law administrators for thought-provoking panel discussions.

Prior to joining the law school, Wagner served as deputy secretary for professional regulation at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation where

she oversaw the licensure and regulation of 20 professions of over 800,000 licensees. Wagner previously served as the chief of staff to Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez. Prior to working in Florida's state government, Wagner served as a member of the counsel's office at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and as deputy chief of staff at the New Jersey Department of State. Wagner received her J.D. degree from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2010.

“I am thrilled to join the FSU Law community. Election law has always been a huge passion of mine and it is an honor to be able to prepare students entering this field at the best place for them – Florida’s capital city. Professor Morley has some fantastic ideas that I am excited to help him implement in the coming years.”

Alumni Profile: Sasha Watson Sankey ('07)

Sasha Watson Sankey is a partner at HAWM Law in Orlando, where she practices in the areas of immigration law and family law. She assists individuals and organizations in navigating the complexities of the immigration process, including family petitions, employment petitions, removal proceedings, and naturalization. Sankey has been called upon to testify as an expert on behalf of the Florida Bar on immigration-related issues. In the area of family law, Sankey handles cases involving divorce, paternity, child support, and custody. Sankey also serves as a legal and business consultant throughout the Caribbean and has consulted on various public sector projects funded by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Organization of American States.



“FSU Law equipped me with the tools to navigate the

intricate maze of immigration and family law, but it's the human stories and the chance to make a meaningful difference in people's lives that truly fuels my passion. From reuniting families to changing legacies, every case is a symphony of emotions and resolutions. I am thankful for the community of friends and dear colleagues I was able to forge at FSU Law."

Celebrating 2024 Grad Andrew Van Ness

Recent FSU Law grad, Andrew Van Ness will be working as an associate with Bentley Goodrich Kison, a business and commercial litigation firm in Sarasota, Florida! During law school, Van Ness was a member of the trial team for two years and traveled to three states to compete in criminal and civil competitions. He was also a member of the Florida State University Business Review, serving as a staff editor. As a 1L, Van Ness was a member of the LitiGators student organization. We wish Van Ness all the best 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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