



FSU LAW FOCUS

Friday, August 23, 2024

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From the Dean



This week, we welcomed our incoming 1Ls to the law school for orientation. It has been energizing to have them and their enthusiasm on campus. The new class of 137 students is extremely engaged and impressive. They boast a record-high median undergraduate GPA of 3.91 and a record-tying median LSAT score of 165. This class represents 61 undergraduate schools, 38 majors, with seven students holding advanced degrees. The class is also diverse with 27.9% self-identifying as non-Caucasian and 34% coming from out of state. They collectively speak 22 languages besides English, and have studied or traveled abroad to 90 different countries.

Highlights of orientation week included mock contracts classes and other sessions featuring our talented faculty members and students; a welcome to the profession, oath and pinning ceremony, led by alumnus and former Florida Bar president, John Frost ('68); a professionalism panel led by members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar; and workshops on outlining and preparing for exams. The new students also had an opportunity to learn about many of our outstanding student groups during a fair with student leaders from more than 25 law school student organizations. We are all delighted to have our new 1Ls on campus and are excited as they join the FSU Law family!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Volusia County Courthouse Annex Renamed for Judge Steven C. Henderson '03

On August 15, the Volusia County Courthouse Annex in Daytona Beach was officially renamed the Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center. Volusia County hosted the dedication event, which was attended by judges from the Seventh Judicial Circuit, local officials, and members of Judge Henderson's family.

The name change honors the late Judge Steven C. Henderson '03, who passed away from complications due to COVID-19 in August, 2021 at the age of 49. He is survived by his wife Janet and six children.



The vote by the county council to rename the facility was unanimous. Judge Henderson was appointed as a Volusia County Court Judge in 2012. In 2017, he was appointed Circuit Judge. Judge Henderson earned his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University before attending FSU Law. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as a prosecutor for eight years. Judge Henderson was widely respected for his integrity, fairness, and deep commitment to justice.

Alumni Profile: Manuel Farach '86

In His Own Words on New Florida Bar Role

"Serving as Chair of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar has been both an honor and a significant responsibility. This position has enabled me to contribute meaningfully to our legal community, assist in the evolution of business law, and promote the professional growth of both myself and my peers. The robust foundation provided by our law school was instrumental in preparing me for these challenges.

The Business Law Section is dedicated to three fundamental pursuits: providing service to the Bench, the Bar, and the citizens of Florida; advocating for the interests of the Florida business community; and fostering the development of our next generation of lawyers through mentorship. In my role as chair, I strive to do more than manage administrative tasks; I am committed to maintaining the ethical standards of our profession and ensuring that we, as legal practitioners, consistently contribute positively to society. These commitments reflect the core values instilled in me during my time at Florida State Law; values championed by our professors and reinforced through our school's forward-thinking programs.

My passion for service was sparked right here at Florida State Law and I hope to ignite a similar enthusiasm in you. Please feel free to reach out at any time if you wish to discuss how you can also make a meaningful impact through service or if you have any questions about navigating your career path. I am eager to share my journey with you as a demonstration of what you, too, can achieve in your legal careers."





We invite 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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