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Friday, September 6, 2024

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From the Dean



Professor Alex Tsisis



Professor Cristina Rodriguez

We are excited that Florida State University College of Law and Loyola University Chicago School of Law will co-host the Fifteenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium at the FSU College of Law campus on November 16. Our own Professor Alex Tsisis, the D'Alemberte Chair in Constitutional Law, created the colloquium and has hosted it at various law schools across the country since it began.

This invitation only event for academic scholars will provide a forum for constitutional law scholars at all stages of their professional careers to discuss current projects, doctrinal and theoretical developments in constitutional law, and future goals. The conference brings together academics to discuss works-in-progress concerning a broad variety of constitutional issues—including free speech, substantive due process, equal protection, suffrage rights, campaign finance, interpretive methods, process oriented constitutionalism, issues at the interface of national security and constitutional rights, due process underpinnings of criminal procedure, judicial review, executive privilege, suspect classifications, commerce clause, and comparative constitutionalism—to present ideas and benefit from informed critiques. Past participants have

included constitutional law scholars from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Presentations will be assigned to panels based on affinity of subject matter. The conference is also open to scholars who wish to attend sessions without presenting.

This year's keynote speaker is Cristina Rodriguez, the Leighton Homer Surbeck Professor of Constitutional Law at Yale Law School. Rodriguez's fields of research and teaching include constitutional law and theory, immigration law and policy, administrative law and process, and citizenship theory. In 2021, she was appointed by President Biden to co-chair the commission on the Supreme Court of the United States. Her recent writings include the 2020 foreword to the Harvard Law Review, "Regime Change," and the book, "The President and Immigration Law", co-authored with Adam Cox and published by Oxford University Press in September 2020. Rodriguez earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees from Yale and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, where she received a Master of Letters in modern history. Following law school, Rodríguez clerked for Judge David S. Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the U.S. Supreme Court.



Dean Erin O'Connor

Judge Jacqueline B. Steele ('94) Inducted Into Workers' Compensation Institute Hall of Fame

FSU Law alum Judge Jacqueline B. Steele '94 recently experienced a full circle moment. In May, she was inducted into the Workers' Compensation Insurance Institute's Hall of Fame. Judge Steele received this honor in part because of her dedication to the institute's moot court competition, the E. Earle Zehmer National Moot Court Competition. Judge Steele has chaired the competition every year since 1995. She also has a special connection to the competition the year before she began leading it—she won it. As a 3L at FSU Law, Judge Steele, (who at the time was Jacqueline

Blanton) and her moot court team partner, Jessica Enciso, under the guidance of their coach, Professor Mark Seidenfeld, won the 1994 Florida Workers' Compensation Institute moot court competition. Below is a copy of the 1994 Florida Bar News article announcing the win.

Judge Steele was appointed to the bench in Manatee County in 2020. Prior to her appointment, she was a partner at McConnaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern where she worked in the workers' compensation and insurance defense field for over 25 years. Before joining the firm, Judge Steele was a state attorney in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. She received a B.A. from the University of South Florida in 1991.



“I truly enjoy serving my community as a county judge here in Manatee County. I am honored to serve in this capacity. I spent my career prior to taking the bench in the field of workers’ compensation. I was afforded that opportunity as a result of my time on the moot court team at FSU as it provided contacts that led to my employment in private practice in the field for 25 years. I have continued to develop the moot court program since 1994 when I was a student competitor. The competition is now recognized nationally with a focus on fostering interest in the field of workers’ compensation and developing potential career opportunities for students ... It has been my distinct pleasure to serve in this field of legal education and I look forward to continuing in that capacity as well as in service to my community in Manatee County.”

FSU moot court team wins workers' comp contest

The Florida State University moot court team of Jacqueline Blanton and Jessica Enciso took first place in oral argument competition at the 1994 Florida Workers' Compensation Educational Conference, held last month in Orlando.

The annual competition is sponsored by the Florida Workers' Compensation Institute.

Arguing a case involving an employer's attempt to waive, without cost, exclusion of coverage for domestic servants, Blanton and Enciso defeated a team from

Nova University in the final round. The judges from the First District Court of Appeal ruled unanimously for FSU. The competition included teams from five of Florida's law schools as well as from Vanderbilt and Mercer universities.

FSU's victorious team was coached by FSU College of Law Professor Mark Seidenfeld.

The University of Miami won the best brief competition.

52 - The Florida Bar News / October 15, 1994

Student Profile: 3L Dr. Dahlia Al-Haleem

Desired Practice Location: Illinois, Texas or Washington, D.C. preferred, but open to other locations

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Field of Law Sought: General liability and Health law



Dr. Dahlia Al-Haleem is from Jacksonville. She attended Mercer University School of Medicine where she obtained a PhD in Rural Health Sciences. She also earned a MS in Aquatic Environmental Science and Oceanography from Florida State University and attended the University of Florida, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in sociology. Al-Haleem has been busy throughout her time at FSU Law gaining varied work experiences. This past summer, she worked as a law clerk at the Tallahassee firm, Webster & Baptiste, PLLC, a position she continues today. She also studied abroad in our Oxford program. Earlier this year, Al-Haleem was a legal intern at Thomas Thomas Law, LLC, also in Tallahassee, where she drafted motions, discovery and demand letters. Al-Haleem also currently works as a Juris Master Teaching and Instructional Assistant in the program's medical malpractice course. Al-Haleem just completed an eight month assignment as a research assistant in the law school's Office of Academic Engagement and Success. Last summer and fall, Al-Haleem worked with Professor Parker-Flynn as an environmental adaptation research assistant. Last fall Al-Haleem also worked in the elder law clinic interviewing clients and drafting advanced directives, powers of attorney and other documents for the clinic's clients.

At FSU Law, Al-Haleem's extracurricular activities are also extensive. Al-Haleem serves as mentorship committee chair and community service chair for the Black Law Students Association. She also served this summer as a mentor and legal writing teaching assistant for the 2024 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Al-Haleem after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn](#) profile or email her at dja18y@fsu.edu.

“I am fueled by a deep passion for unraveling complex issues. As a first-generation law student, I am grateful for my time at FSU Law, where I’ve been challenged and equipped with practical experience. I am confident that my background in environmental science and public health, combined with my legal experience, has positioned me for a successful career in general liability and health law.”



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