



FSU LAW FOCUS

Friday, September 13, 2024

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From the Dean



FSU Law's Stoops Center for Law & Business is offering an opportunity to dive deep into the rapidly evolving cannabis industry in Florida at the Sunburn Business and Law of Cannabis Symposium on September 18 from 2-5 p.m. Join us in person in the main classroom building in Room 102 or [virtually](#). The event has been approved for 3.5 Florida Bar CLE credits and will feature FSU Law alum Chris Polaszek ('97) and FSU alum Brady Cobb (BA '99), who will share their entrepreneurial journeys and unique insights into the past, present, and future of the cannabis market. Starting with the fascinating story behind Sunburn Cannabis, a brand born from Florida's history of smuggling and persistence, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how the state's cannabis industry grew from its roots to what it is today.

The symposium will cover critical legal topics, including the current regulatory and legislative frameworks shaping Florida's marijuana market. As the state braces for potential changes with the upcoming vote on Amendment 3, the symposium will explore how these shifts could open new doors for businesses, consumers, and those seeking careers in this expanding industry. There will also be lessons for entrepreneurs on how to navigate capital markets, build a

leadership team, grow a business in a highly regulated environment, and understand the legal complexities of the cannabis industry.

The Sunburn Business and Law of Cannabis Symposium promises to be an informative, engaging, and invaluable experience for anyone interested in Florida's burgeoning cannabis sector.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Alum John R. Jenkins '84 Retires as Executive Director of Bonita Springs Utilities

FSU Law alum John R. Jenkins ('84) recently retired as executive director of Bonita Springs Utilities, Inc. (BSU). As executive director, Jenkins oversaw the operations of the company's various departments and carried out the policies of the board of directors. BSU has over 130 employees and provides over 31,000 members with water and wastewater services to the City of Bonita Springs, the Village of Estero, and the townships of South Lee County. Prior to joining the utility company, Jenkins practiced law for 30 years, focusing on public utility law and Florida water and wastewater utilities. While in private practice, he served as special counsel for BSU, working on a variety of issues, including rate setting, revenue bond financing for capital projects, tax exempt status, developer agreement and contract drafting, franchise issues, wastewater system expansion, environmental matters, and real estate matters. Jenkins frequently spoke to local business and civic organizations about BSU and its operations. He is a member of The Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation.



Student Profile: 3L Harrison Otto

Desired Practice Location:

Jacksonville or Tampa, Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2025**Field of Law Sought:** Real estate, corporate law or appellate practice, but also open to litigation

Harrison Otto was born in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of South Carolina where he obtained a BA degree in political science with a minor in English literature. Otto is very involved at FSU Law. He currently serves as president of the FSU Law Moot Court Team and as treasurer for the FSU Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society. Otto has also worked as a legal writing teaching assistant for Professor Courtney Brewer. This past summer and the summer after his 1L year, Otto worked as a law clerk at Coleman Talley LLP in its Jacksonville, Florida office. He primarily assisted the commercial real estate practice group drafting closing documents, reviewing titles and surveys and researching regulatory issues involved in their real estate transactions. However, Otto also assisted the civil litigation attorneys with legal research and drafting motions and complaints.

Otto is open to exploring either transactional practice or litigation. He has been exposed to and enjoys aspects of both. He also has a passion for writing and oral advocacy. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Otto after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn](#) profile or email him at hto21@fsu.edu.

“Studying at FSU Law has allowed me to push my boundaries as a reader, writer, and thinker. I am beyond excited to be able to utilize these analytical skills to bring value to future clients in Florida.”



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