

FSU LAW FOCUS

Friday, September 20, 2024

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From the Dean

The 2024 Alumni Awards



Justice Alan Lawson ('87)



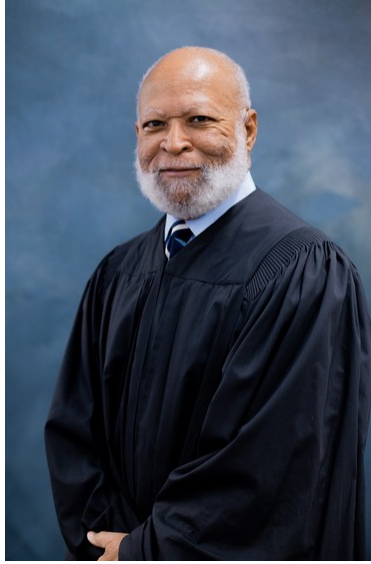
Fred Karlinsky ('92)



Lolia Fernandez ('17)



Professor Emerita Donna
Christie



Judge Emerson Thompson
('73)



Helaine Blum ('78)

FSU College of Law alumni and friends are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 29, for a Zoom event celebrating the law school's 2024 Alumni Awards recipients. The virtual event will take place from 6-7 p.m. and will include the presentation of awards and remarks by the award recipients and other guests. A live presentation will be held on Friday, November 22, during the Law Alumni Reunion Reception at Meenan, P.A. Justice Alan Lawson ('87) will be honored with the Distinguished Alum Award; Fred Karlinsky ('92) with the Alumni Association Service Award; Professor Emerita Donna Christie with the Class of '66 Award; Lolia Fernandez ('17) with the Everyday Hero Award; and both Judge Emerson Thompson ('73) and Helaine Blum ('78) will each receive the Exemplary Public Service Career Award. Each of these individuals has contributed in many significant ways to the law school, the legal community and beyond. Please visit our special [webpage](#) to learn more about the recipients and the awards. You may also [register](#) online to attend the event virtually and receive the Zoom information. We hope you will join us as we celebrate our exceptional award recipients!

Dean Erin O'Connor

It's Almost Fall Fundathon Time!



FSU | COLLEGE
OF LAW

**ANSWER
THE CALL**

*SUPPORT OUR
STUDENTS*

On Monday, October 7, our students will begin calling and emailing alumni as part of our three-week Fall 2024 Fundathon. Law students will contact graduates to solicit support for our Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is utilized for important needs at the law school, including student scholarships, student enrichment activities and support for our new graduates during the Florida bar exam. A gift in any amount makes an impact, and you can designate gifts to a wide variety of causes, organizations, and programs. Please consider giving to the Annual Fund if you have not already. Donations can be made when you receive our students' calls or emails, or you can donate [online](#) now. If you have already given, thank you very much for your support!

Student Profile: 3L Tara Bagherlee

Desired Practice Location: Flexible and open to opportunities on the east coast, particularly South Florida, Washington, D.C., or New York

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Field of Law Sought: Criminal defense, immigration direct legal services/deportation defense or appellate practice

Tara Bagherlee was born in Weston,

Florida. She attended the University of Florida where she obtained a degree in political science and criminology with a minor in English. At FSU Law, Bagherlee is the current vice president of the FSU Law Moot Court Team. She and her competition partner, Arnèle Francis, were semifinalists at the 2024 National Child Welfare and Adoption Law Moot Court Competition in Columbus, Ohio. She also received the 2nd best oralist award. Bagherlee is a founding member and the social media chair for the Middle Eastern Law Association. She



previously served on the executive board of the Public Interest Law Students Association and as their social media chair. Bagherlee has also been a member of the Student Advisory Board during her 2L and 3L years.

Bagherlee currently works as the research assistant to the clinical director of the Farmworker and Immigrant Rights Clinic, Professor Erika Nyborg-Burch. This past summer, Bagherlee worked as a law clerk at Motley Rice in Charleston, South Carolina, a plaintiff's civil litigation firm. She researched and drafted comprehensive legal memoranda in support of high-impact federal, state, and multi-district litigation concerning medical devices, consumer protection, women's health, and environmental/toxic exposure on behalf of injured plaintiffs nationwide. During her 2L spring, she worked as a legal extern at the Center for Appellate Litigation in New York where she drafted sections of excessive sentencing briefs and completed legal memoranda for attorneys in support of criminal appeals for indigent clients in Manhattan and the Bronx. During her 1L summer, Bagherlee was a legal intern at the Broward County Public Defender's Office in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she assisted in case management, motion drafting, and trial preparation within the felony division.

In addition to the above experience, Bagherlee worked as an immigration law paralegal at the U.S. Immigration Law Counsel for approximately 2 years before law school. In this position, she prepared and filed detailed family and humanitarian-based immigration petitions. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Bagherlee after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn](#) profile or email her at tb21z@fsu.edu.

“As a first-generation law student and the daughter of Iranian immigrants, I chose to attend law school to pursue my passion for serving marginalized communities. My time at FSU Law has provided me with the opportunity to

develop essential skills and build meaningful relationships with brilliant peers, faculty, and mentors. I am deeply grateful for these experiences, which have prepared me for a career in passionate and dedicated advocacy.”



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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