



FSU LAW FOCUS

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

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From the Dean

87.4%
**BAR
PASSAGE RATE
FOR FIRST-TIMERS**

In our June 21 FSU Law Focus [newsletter](#), we introduced you to our Spear the Bar Summer 2024 program, as well as our Bar Success team: Deans Nancy Benavides and Karusha Sharpe, Professors Laura Dennis and Cecelia Smith. We also told you about the supplemental lectures, special canvas page, free tutoring, progress tracking, student food pantry, and other efforts we were making to help our recent graduates prepare for the July 2024 bar exam. While I do not usually announce our Florida Bar Exam results, I am proud to share good news relating to those efforts this summer. Earlier this week, we learned that the first-time takers who have graduated from FSU Law obtained an 87.4% passage rate. That represents our highest pass rate since 2012, and it is particularly good news given that we did not have a full-time bar support person with us.

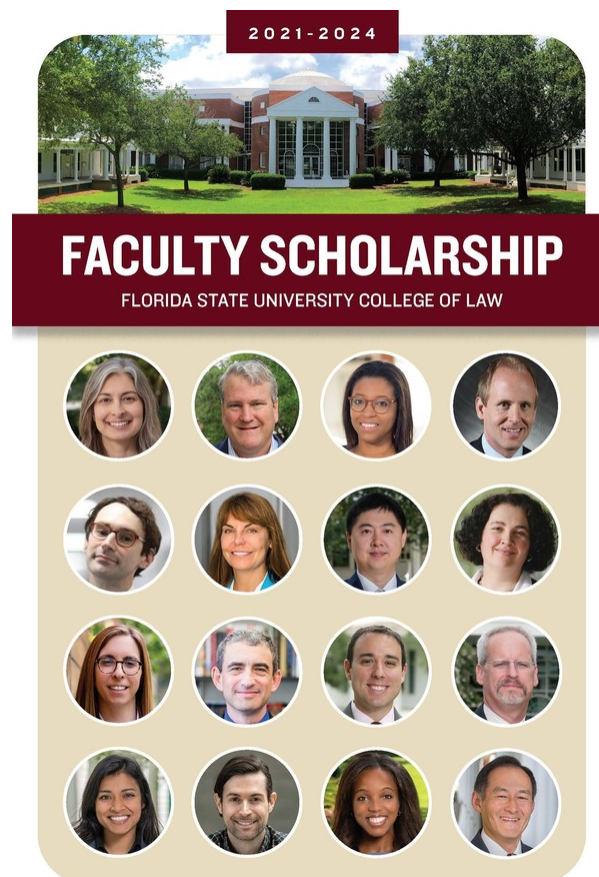
We will continue to focus on helping our graduates pass the bar by even greater numbers as we move forward. In the meantime, please join me in thanking our summer 2024 bar support team and congratulating our alumni who passed the bar exam. Great job everyone!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

2024 Faculty Scholarship Brochure

FSU Law alumni and friends, you are invited to review our recently published 2024 Faculty Scholarship Brochure. It is yet another reminder that our amazing faculty are also prolific scholars. The scholarly output of our faculty is impressive both in range of subject matter and quality. This year's brochure highlights some extraordinary law journal placements. Our professors have recently published articles in many of the nation's top ranked journals, including the Harvard Law & Policy Review, Columbia Law Review Forum, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Vanderbilt Law Review, University of Chicago Law Review, UC Davis Law Review, Yale Law Journal Forum, and Washington & Lee Law Review. In addition, media outlets and courts regularly feature and cite the impactful scholarship of our faculty. You can [browse our 2024 Faculty Scholarship Brochure](#) online to see a comprehensive list of our faculty's recent and forthcoming publications.



Student Profile: 3L Kole Kolasa

Desired Practice Location: Anywhere in Florida, particularly Tallahassee, Jacksonville and Central Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Field of Law Sought:

Commercial transactions, commercial litigation, real estate, M&A, corporate law, labor and employment, HOA/condo, construction defect, and insurance defense.



Kole Kolasa was born in Big Lake, Minnesota. He attended Florida State University where he obtained a BS degree in economics, *Magna cum laude* as well as a master of science in applied economics. At FSU Law, Kolasa is the editor-in-chief of the FSU Law Review. He is also the chief justice of FSU Student Government Supreme Court and a staff editor of the FSU Business Review. Kolasa is a member of the William Stafford Inn of Court. He also mentors and serves as a house coordinator for one of our new 1L houses.

Kolasa currently works as a law clerk at Henry Buchanan where he drafts legal documents and conducts in-depth research and analysis on labor and employment, medical malpractice, and insurance defense. He has prepared various motions, including for summary judgment, initial briefs, developed detailed deposition outlines, and utilized technological skills to manage and analyze media files. This past summer, he was a summer associate with Bleakley Bovol Denman & Grace where he conducted legal research, drafted legal documents, and provided analysis on diverse issues related to civil defense, residential and commercial real estate, construction defect, breach of contract, insurance defense, and business litigation. He also contributed to the firm's summer competition by deposing a senior partner, drafting an original research memorandum, and conducting *voir dire* to empanel a jury. Since May, 2023, Kolasa also continues working as a teaching assistant and reviews course material to prepare for grading student submissions and provides substantive feedback regarding students' work. He has worked in this capacity for the following classes: Torts; Conducting Workplace Investigations; Consumer Compliance; Lending; and Regulatory Compliance.

If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Kolasa after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn](#) profile or email him at kak17g@fsu.edu.

“As a curious and analytical self-starter, I've honed my skills to approach every challenge with a desire to learn. I also have the mental toughness to persist until I succeed. My work experience and role as editor-in-chief of FSU Law Review have further developed my flexibility and coachable nature. These qualities make me a valuable team player who's always ready to adapt and grow while maintaining a personable demeanor that fosters positive relationships with colleagues and clients.”



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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