



FSU LAW FOCUS

April 4, 2025

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From the Dean



This week, the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA) had the honor of welcoming two distinguished Florida Supreme Court Justices—**Justice Meredith Sasso** and **Justice John D. Couriel**—for a special "Cuban Coffee and Conversations" event. Students were able to engage directly with these judges and gain valuable insights into their journeys to the bench and the intricacies of their roles.

Justice Couriel shared his unique and winding path to the bench. Justice Sasso shared that law and politics were not her initial career aspirations. She began with internships in public relations before ultimately deciding to pursue law school. She also spoke about her proud role in opening the 6th District Court of Appeal (DCA).

The Judges also shared the day-to-day responsibilities of being on the bench and their thoughts on the most rewarding aspects of their work. Justice Sasso discussed how moving from a District Court of Appeal with three other judges to working with seven justices on the Florida Supreme Court brought new challenges, but also

offered rewarding intellectual collaboration. Justice Couriel emphasized the critical importance of listening in their work.

This conversation not only gave our students a deeper understanding of the professional lives of these distinguished justices, but also reminded all of us of the value of perseverance, adaptability, and collaboration in the legal field.



Dean Erin O'Connor

Frontiers in Law and Technology



David Teske



Dorian
Simmons

Join us on April 18 at 12:30 p.m. for a **Frontiers in Law and Technology** webinar, **'The Latest Trends and Developments in AI Regulation'** with Partner **David Teske** and Senior Associate **Dorian Simmons** from Alston

& Bird.

As governments worldwide move to regulate artificial intelligence, businesses must stay ahead of rapidly evolving legal frameworks and compliance requirements. This session will explore key regulatory developments across U.S. states and industries, highlighting how different sectors are adapting to emerging AI laws. The discussion will also provide insights into Europe's AI regulatory landscape, including the EU AI Act and other international initiatives shaping the future of AI governance.

Register

Alumni News: Ralph A. DeMeo ('85)



Congratulations to **Ralph DeMeo**, Environmental Law Adjunct Faculty and shareholder at Guilday Law, on his **recent inclusion in the prestigious Lexology Index: Environment & Climate Change.**

This distinguished index serves as a comprehensive guide to the world's foremost environmental attorneys.

The lawyers featured in this guide are widely regarded as leaders in their field, offering expert counsel on a diverse range of commercial, regulatory, and contentious matters.

Alumni News: J. Cameron Thurber ('01)

Congratulations to alumnus James Cameron Thurber of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Office of Inspector General, who was **recently elected Vice Chair of the Council of Counsels to the Inspectors General in Washington, DC.**



Alumni in the News: Leron E. Rogers ('99)



Congratulations to alumnus **Leron E. Rogers**, partner at Fox Rothschild whose recent marriage celebration—following 17 years of dating—was featured in a New York Times article, '**Happily Unmarried- Until Her Daughters Staged an Intervention.**'

Rogers, a prominent entertainment lawyer based in Atlanta, first met his wife in 2007 at a children's birthday party. Their paths crossed again a year later when she sought legal advice from him for a real estate transaction.

Soon after, sparks flew, and the couple was swept up in a romance that would span nearly two decades. The couple exchanged vows in a beautiful ceremony on Valentine's Day in Jamaica, surrounded by their closest friends and family, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their love story.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Student Feature: 3L Hannah Robinson

This past week, 3L Hannah Robinson's opinion piece titled '**Let's stop neglecting the year-long value of farmworkers in Florida**' was featured in the **Tallahassee Democrat**.

As a two-time participant in FSU College of Law's **[Alternative Spring Break program](#)**, Robinson has gained firsthand insight into the essential role farmworkers play in sustaining Florida's agricultural industry. Despite their significant contributions, these workers face numerous challenges. In her piece, Robinson urges Floridians to stay informed about several bills currently under consideration during this Legislative Session that could have a profound impact on these crucial workers.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



We invite all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a 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 and start connecting.

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