



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

November 10, 2016

From the Dean



Every year, some of our wonderful students are selected for the prestigious Gubernatorial Fellows program. This year, four members of the current nine-member class are FSU Law students! As fellows, they are placed in high-level positions at various state agencies where their work directly impacts present and future state government. Since the program was established in 2004, many more FSU law students have been selected as fellows than students from any other law school. Congratulations to [2016-17 fellows](#), pictured L-R above, Alexandra Holliday, a 2L from Lakeland; Sarai Aldana, a 3L from Miami; Britton Alexander, a 3L from Lake Wales; and Grey Dodge, a 3L from Cocoa.

In honor of Veterans Day, I would like to thank James R. Douglass, Jr., who established the Colonel James R. Douglass Veteran's Scholarship to support law students who are serving in the armed forces or who formerly served in the armed forces. Thank you also to all veterans!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: 1972



In 1972, the *Florida State University Law Review* was founded and FSU Law's internship program expanded. Previously, students could not represent clients in court or give legal advice. However, with the adoption of a greatly expanded student practice rule by the Florida Supreme Court in December 1971, students were permitted to represent clients in civil and criminal matters and the state of Florida in criminal matters. Before beginning their internships, all students had to be certified with the Supreme Court. Because of this expansion, the law school added prosecutor and attorney general internship programs to an already established public defender program. Also in 1972, FSU Law Dean Joshua Morse and two other legal advisers were invited to the capital of Saipan to help the Micronesian Congress set up a modern court system.



Bill Jennings ('72) and Charles Francis ('72), law students in FSU's internship programs, confer with Leon County Felony Court Judge James Joanos in his chambers. Judge Joanos served on the four-member committee appointed to guide FSU in the creation of our law school.

Faculty & Alum Profile: Paolo Annino ('83)

Glass Professor of Public Interest Law Paolo Annino ('83) has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Father Robert Drinan Award! This national award is given by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities to a faculty member or administrator whose work on behalf of pro bono and public interest programs is truly extraordinary. A letter notifying Annino of the honor stated that the selection committee was struck by Annino's "longstanding commitment to addressing

the legal needs of low-income clients, first as a legal services attorney and public defender and then as co-director of FSU's Public Interest Law Center and director of the Children's Advocacy Clinic." The letter also cited the impact of two projects Annino created that target the needs of Florida youth: the Children in Prison Project, created in response to the wave of Florida children being swept into the adult criminal system; and the Health Care Access Project, created to advocate for fragile children and developmentally delayed children. Annino has trained and mentored FSU Law students through our Public Interest Law Center since 1995.



"We wholeheartedly agree with the Florida Bar Foundation's reference to you as 'a Florida treasure for children who need help most.'" – Father Robert Drinan Award selection committee

Student Profile: 3L Travis McConnell

Travis McConnell is a third-year student from Melbourne, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication - military science from Florida Institute of Technology. Before attending law school, McConnell earned his commission as a U.S. Army Officer through the nation's ROTC program, receiving the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. He then attended and graduated from the Engineer Basic Officer Leaders Course and joined the 344th Engineer Company (Sapper) as a platoon leader in 2014. McConnell currently serves as the executive officer of that 120-soldier company. Upon graduation from law school in May, McConnell will earn the Business Law Certificate, and he hopes to practice business law and real estate law in the Orlando area. McConnell is currently an articles and notes editor for the *Florida State University Business Review* and has obtained much legal experience during his law student career. The summer after his 1L year he externed for Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson during his time with the Florida Second Judicial Circuit. He also clerked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of General Counsel, and then for Trent Cotney, P.A. This fall, McConnell is a clerk for Hopping



Green & Sams. If you are interested in hiring McConnell for a job after graduation, please [click here to visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

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