



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

January 13, 2017

From the Dean

Today's law school graduates face a job market that is very different from the market just a decade ago. The majority of today's law students do not obtain employment offers until after they graduate and pass the bar exam, so securing a job prior to graduation is a major accomplishment. We feature 3Ls in the newsletter in part to aid them in their job searches.

Several of our students who were featured in previous issues of the newsletter have since obtained employment: Shane Chernoff has accepted a position at Roig Lawyers in Deerfield Beach, Brittany Cobb will be working at True Partners Consulting in Tampa, D. Bailey Howard will join Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, and Charles LeCocq will work at Kanner & Pinaluga in Boca Raton. Congratulations to these students and to our many other 3Ls who have secured jobs for after graduation! Also, thank you to all of the alums who assist our students in their searches!

- Dean Erin O'Connor



50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1978

FSU College of Law completed its first fundraising campaign in 1978. According to the law school's *Obiter Dictum* newsletter from Winter 1978, the College of Law's Board of Visitors joined the drive with a challenge gift of \$10,000 and 47% of alumni contributed for a total \$17,500. The faculty also showed their support with 100% contributing a minimum of \$100. In contrast, for fiscal year 2015-16, 30.67% of alumni contributed \$1,143,381 to FSU Law. That giving rate places us among the nation's top 10 law schools - and the top three public law schools - in terms of alumni giving. The 1978 *Obiter Dictum* also reported that a second endowed chair was created by the Trustees of the Law School Fund of the FSU Foundation. Professor John F. Yetter was named to the position. One of our most high-profile alums, Tony La Russa, also graduated in 1978. Currently the chief baseball analyst/advisor for the Arizona Diamondbacks, La Russa is best known for managing the Chicago White Sox, Oakland Athletics and the St. Louis Cardinals. After retiring from his playing career, La Russa earned his J.D. with the intention of practicing law. Instead, he had the opportunity to coach a minor league team and continued to use the critical thinking, public speaking and problem solving skills gained from law school in a non-traditional career.



Professor Yetter

Alum Profile: Andrew Fay ('10)

In December, alum Andrew Fay ('10) was named the 2016 Government Attorney of the Year by the Florida Government Bar Association (FGBA). Fay, who serves as special counsel and director of legislative and cabinet affairs for Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, was honored for his work following the June 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. According to the FGBA, Fay worked virtually nonstop for three weeks in Orlando immediately following the attack. He ensured that all applications for assistance by victims and their families met all legal requirements so they could obtain help and that businesses were not taking advantage of victims



or their families. Attorney General Bondi nominated Fay for the prestigious award, which was established to honor a lawyer in government practice who has demonstrated professionalism in the practice of law and who performs above and beyond the call of duty.

“Andrew works nonstop without complaint. His compassion and dedication are second to none. During the Pulse Nightclub tragedy, Andrew showed great leadership and commitment working 18-hour days, seven days a week helping to ensure the claims of the victims and their families were processed and that their needs were met.”

– excerpt from Attorney General Pam Bondi’s nomination letter

Student Profile: 3L Melissa Torres

Melissa Torres is a third-year student from West Palm Beach. She attended the University of Florida and earned a bachelor’s degree in criminology and law, with a minor in family, youth and community sciences. Torres is a member of the *Florida State University Law Review* and the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*, where she previously served as an articles and notes editor. She is also a member of the Women’s Law Symposium and LitiGators. The summer after her 1L year, Torres externed with the Felony Division of the Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit. During the fall and spring of her 2L year, she clerked with the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, Division of Consumer Finance. Last summer, Torres clerked with Schutz & White, LLP. She is currently clerking with Sniffen & Spellman, PA, and is enjoying her work in labor and employment law and would like to continue practicing in that area or in the area of civil litigation. She hopes to return to South Florida after graduation. If you are interested in hiring Torres for a job after graduation, please [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



“My experience at FSU Law has been an eye-opening one,” Torres said. “I have had so many wonderful professors who are passionate about the law and who have taught me about many different practice

areas. I love the diversity of the law and that no matter who you are, there is an area where you feel like you fit in.”

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