



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

March 17, 2017

From the Dean



We are delighted to report that *U.S. News & World Report* (2017) has ranked us as the nation's 48th best law school overall, up two spots from 2016! We are the 24th best public law school on the list. *U.S. News* also ranks our environmental law program the nation's 14th best, up from 18th last year.

The overall ranking reflects FSU Law's strong employment and student selectivity numbers. Florida State is the best law school in Florida, and 32nd best nationally, in terms of the percentage of 2015 graduates employed 10

months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs. Thank you to all of the alumni who contributed to our job placement success, which accounts for 20% of the *U.S. News* rankings. The law school's 2016 entering class has a median LSAT of 159 and a median GPA of 3.52. Our acceptance rate of 34% is outstanding compared to the rates of other schools. We're also thrilled to report that, in terms of the "peer assessment score" metric, our score improved to 3.0 from 2.9 in 2016. It is especially difficult to improve this score, which is based on ratings by law school deans and faculty members, so this is a huge accomplishment. I'm so grateful to everyone at the law school who has worked tremendously hard to achieve this ranking!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1987



In 1987, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved money for the Caribbean Law Institute, a cooperative educational program of FSU Law and the University of West Indies Faculty of Law in Barbados. The institute was created to organize and promote reform and uniformity of laws in the Caribbean region, particularly those relating to trade and commerce. The Class of '87 also holds the distinction of graduating both FSU Law alumni who currently sit on the Florida Supreme Court—Justice Ricky Polston and Justice C. Alan Lawson. Justice Polston was also the first FSU Law alum to serve as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Restoration of the first two historic homes in the College of Law Village Green Project was complete in 1987. The two-story Johnson-Caldwell House was moved from its original location on Old Bainbridge Road in Tallahassee. Owned by the late Governor Millard F. Caldwell, the house was placed directly across from the Sarah Payne Cawthon House, mentioned in last week's newsletter. A third home, the Damon House, was found only three blocks away from the law school, but administrators wanted to find a fourth historic home in the same Greek Revival style before moving the Damon House.

Pictured above: The Caldwell House, pictured in 1987, is currently home to several student organizations.

Alum Profile: Fred E. Karlinsky ('92)



[Fred E. Karlinsky](#) is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, where he co-chairs the firm's Insurance Regulatory and Transactions Practice Group. He has nearly 25 years of experience representing the interests of insurers, reinsurers and a wide variety of other insurance-related entities on their regulatory, transactional, corporate and governmental affairs matters. Karlinsky splits his time between his firm's Fort Lauderdale and Tallahassee offices, as he does a great deal of strategy work on all types of insurance-related legislative and regulatory initiatives. In addition, he travels extensively domestically and internationally for business. Karlinsky also has taken a leadership position in many insurance trade organizations. In addition, he is a member of the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission. Earlier this month, he was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Constitution Revision Commission. For several years, Karlinsky has taught a week-long Law and Risk Management course at the law school during spring break. As part of the course, Karlinsky introduces students to many top policy makers and insurance industry leaders who visit the course to share their expertise with our students.

"I really enjoy my work in the area of insurance regulatory and transactional law. I speak around the world on the topic, so teaching a class on insurance regulation makes sense. As part of the class, we

bring in a number of guest speakers. It is especially gratifying to be able to introduce my students to leaders in their respective fields.”

Pictured above: Karlinsky teaching during this week's Law and Risk Management course.

Student Profile: 3L Chenthen Thambaiyah

Originally from San Ramon, California, Chenthen Thambaiyah earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Riverside. Thambaiyah would ideally like to practice in Clearwater, where he has family, or Central Florida. However, he is open to remaining in Tallahassee. Thambaiyah is a member of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society, as well as the Association for Criminal Justice. Before entering law school, Thambaiyah clerked for solo practitioner Andrew Sheff in Indianapolis, where he saw first-hand how solo practitioner offices operate. During his 2L summer, he clerked for the Second Circuit Public Defender's Office in Tallahassee in the Felony Division. Currently, Thambaiyah is gaining real-world experience working full time as a Certified Legal Intern at the Quincy Public Defender's Office in the Misdemeanor Division. He would like to practice in the area of criminal law as a public defender, but is also open to administrative law. Thambaiyah was a sports writer for the *Highlander* at UC Riverside and enjoys playing sports, traveling and meeting new people. If you are interested in hiring him for a job after graduation, please [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).



“I want to dedicate my career to fighting for the rights of others.”

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

