



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

June 16, 2017

From the Dean



One of the many resources offered by our Career Services and Professional Development Center is [Simplicity](#) – an online software system for posting job advertisements for students and alumni. While students take advantage of this resource often for part-time and summer employment opportunities and for post-graduation job searches, it is not frequently utilized by many alumni. We want to make sure graduates know that nearly half of the jobs posted on Simplicity are specifically for experienced attorneys. Many of those

opportunities are being advertised exclusively to FSU graduates through Symplicity, making it a valuable resource for alumni who are interested in making a career move. Symplicity accounts do not expire, so the login information that alumni created while in school is still active and forgotten passwords can be reset. Graduates who do not recall their username or never created an account can call the Career Services and Professional Development Center at 850.644.4495 for assistance in gaining access to Symplicity.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Simplicity is one of the resources offered by FSU Law to help alumni advance their careers. The law school also partners with alumni to host networking receptions for graduates to connect with one another. Alumni gathered in Jacksonville for a reception in March 2017.

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2000



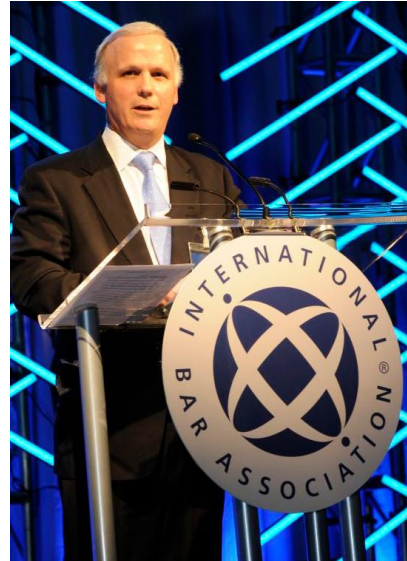
Many of the law school's alumni and faculty played starring roles in the wake of the 2000 presidential election. During the 36-day post-election drama, much of the action centered around the Florida Supreme Court, two blocks from the law school. It became known as "Ground Zero" and alumni Judges Terry Lewis ('76) and Nikki Clark ('77), and faculty members Nat Stern and Steve Gey became familiar players on TV broadcasts and front-page newspaper stories around the world. Earlier in the year, the Spring 2000 issue of *FSU Law* magazine featured an article about the dedication of the Virgil D. Hawkins Collection in the College of Law's library. The collection was dedicated to the late Lake County civil rights pioneer who in 1949 was denied admission to the University of Florida Law School, the only public law school in the state. The rejection of Hawkins' application began a series of events that eventually brought about desegregation of the state's public universities and Hawkins was referred to as "Florida's Rosa Parks." Also in 2000, the Children's Advocacy Center received international coverage for its representation of Jessica

Robinson, who was incarcerated as an adult for a murder she committed at age 13. Professor Paolo Annino and Claudia Kemp ('00) were interviewed extensively for a cover story in *The New York Times Magazine* and for a story that aired on the National Public Radio show, "This American Life."

Pictured above: News satellite trucks were lined up along Duval Street and crammed into every loading zone and alley within a quarter-mile radius of the Capitol during the weeks following the 2000 presidential election.

Alum Profile: Mark Ellis ('84)

Since 2000, Mark Ellis has served as executive director of the International Bar Association (IBA) in London. In this position, he leads the organization that is the global voice of the legal profession and is comprised of more than 190 bar associations and law societies spanning 160 countries, major international law firms and 80,000 members. Ellis previously was executive director of the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), served as legal advisor to the Independent International Commission on Kosovo, and was a long-time consultant to the World Bank on investment policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet



Union. He currently chairs the UN Security Council's established Advisory Panel on Matters Relating to Defence Counsel of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. Because of his expertise in international legal issues, Ellis is a frequent speaker and media commentator. Although he is based in London, Ellis remains extremely engaged with the College of Law. He is an adjunct professor, often co-teaching International Human Rights Law with President Emeritus and Professor Sandy D'Alemberte, and has been a featured speaker for students outside of his classes on numerous occasions. He established an externship for FSU law students at the IBA and supervises an extern twice a year. He also has served on the law school's Alumni Board since 2004.

"One of my greatest pleasures is to support our law school. My professional achievements are directly linked to my time at the College of Law and to the professors who taught me . "

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Christopher Rodriguez

Originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Christopher Rodriguez earned a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Florida and a master's degree in forensic psychology from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, before graduating with his J.D. this spring. Rodriguez served approximately eight years in the U.S. Army, where he held various positions. He was a mental health specialist, working at a military hospital in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was also a special agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, where he finished his service as part of the security detail for the secretary of defense. During his law school career, Rodriguez received the book award for the Advanced Criminal Law course and completed 320 hours of pro bono work, which included providing Spanish language translation services for indigent criminal defendants. He is also a volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club and the American Cancer Society. Rodriguez has clerked with Tallahassee's Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, as well as the Orlando Public Defender's Office, where his responsibilities included legal research, preparation of legal memos and motions, and providing assistance with trial preparation. Rodriguez is open to moving anywhere in Florida, but he would prefer to stay in Tallahassee. He has family in the Ft. Lauderdale area, so that is another preferred location. Rodriguez is interested in practicing criminal law. He also has recently become interested in immigration law as it overlaps considerably with criminal law and where his fluency in Spanish would be most vital. If you are interested in hiring Rodriguez, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).



“ I am fortunate to have made great friends and obtained a world-class education at FSU College of Law. My academic focus has been on criminal law as it is commensurate with my prior education and work experience. I look forward to putting what I've learned into practice and making a positive impact on our community. ”

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