



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

June 30, 2017

From the Dean

This summer, more than 100 of our talented students are obtaining valuable legal experience through externships around the country and abroad. Several of those externships are with in-house legal departments at national and international corporations. We are delighted that these students are working directly with in-house corporate counsel, gaining exposure to the daily responsibilities in corporate practice, and getting hands-on skills training through projects like drafting and reviewing contracts, researching legal issues and counseling clients. Many alumni were instrumental in establishing these externships specifically for FSU Law students. We are very grateful to all of them for creating these opportunities and, in many cases, supervising and mentoring our student externs. This summer's in-house corporate externs are working at the following companies:



- First American Title, Atlanta
- Harris Corporation, Melbourne
- HD Supply, Orlando
- ILG/Vistana, Orlando
- International Speedway Corporation, Daytona Beach
- Jabil Circuit, St. Petersburg

- Office Depot, Boca Raton
- Paul Davis Restoration, Jacksonville
- SBA Communications, Boca Raton
- United Technologies Corporation, Jupiter

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Rising 2L Allison Beattie is externing at Paul Davis Restoration in Jacksonville this summer .

50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2002



In the spring of 2002, Professor Tahirih Lee unveiled a new course, Internet Trade Simulation. In this course, students conducted mock multi-million-dollar international trade negotiations online with Chinese students at the Shanghai Institute for Foreign Trade. The innovative course, which is still offered today under a slightly different name, promotes an understanding of transoceanic commercial transactions and gives student hands-on experience in making trade deals. In February 2002, the media, including cable TV network CNBC, called on College of Law Dean Donald Weidner to help explain the Enron debacle. One of the country's foremost authorities on partnerships, real estate finance and complex business transactions, Weidner had recently co-authored *The Revised Uniform Partnership Act*. In 2002, Nancy L. Benavides, associate dean for student affairs, moved into her current role. Dean B., as she is affectionately known, joined the law school as director of career placement in 2000. As associate dean, Benavides is responsible for all student-related activities and events. She also counsels and advises students on a wide range of issues. Also in 2002, Professor Jarret Oeltjen, retired after 33 years of teaching at FSU Law. One of the last faculty members hired by founding dean Mason Ladd, Professor Oeltjen was a scholar on consumer and commercial law and established himself as the nation's foremost legal expert on pawn shops and the pawn industry, writing and lecturing extensively on the subject. His colleague and friend, Chuck Ehrhardt, wrote a "[Tribute to Prof. Jarret Oeltjen](#)," published in volume 30, issue 2 of the *FSU Law Review*.

Pictured above: In a ceremony fit for diplomats, Dean Don Weidner signed an agreement with Wang Xingsun of the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, formalizing plans for the FSU-Shanghai Internet Trade Simulation course.

Alum Profile: Alexandra H. Palermo ('12)

Alexandra H. "Alex" Palermo is an associate in the Tampa office of Burr & Forman LLP. She is a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group, handling a wide variety of large and small business and contract disputes, employment matters including non-compete agreements, and insurance defense work. Palermo serves on the leadership committee of the firm's Women's Initiative, as a director for the Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and as a director for the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She also is an elected governor of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, representing the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. In addition, Palermo is an active member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and The Junior League of Tampa. She has been named a *Florida Super Lawyers* Rising Star each year since 2014.



"I'm so grateful for my time at FSU College of Law. I went to law school during a hard time in the United States. The economy had crashed and there were hardly any jobs to be had. FSU invested in each student who came through its doors to ensure every student had an opportunity to work in the legal field if he or she wanted to do so. The faculty and staff are incomparable and actually care about the students and their futures. I learned from some of the best professors in the country and made some of the best friends along the way. I wouldn't change a thing about my law school experience . "

Student Profile: 2017 Grad Madison Brommer

Originally from Tampa, Madison Brommer earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Notre Dame. She graduated from FSU Law in May 2017 and now lives in Augusta, Georgia. During the spring semester of her 1L year, Brommer interned for Florida Senator Anitere Flores. She was then offered a position with the senator as an OPS clerk for both her 2L and 3L years. In this role,

Brommer was responsible for day-to-day constituent outreach, bill tracking, bill research, drafting committee agenda requests and other general office support. Brommer spent both of her law school summers at the Office of the State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Tampa. The summer after her 1L year, she clerked in a felony division. The summer after her 2L year, she externed as a certified legal intern in the county court division. In this position, she held her own case load of approximately 50 cases, assisted other attorneys in preparing for trial and docket, handled case management and dockets, conducted legal research and was able to first chair her own trial. Fluent in Spanish, Brommer



would like to practice criminal law, ideally as a prosecutor. However, she is open to other opportunities as well. Brommer's husband is in the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in Augusta, Georgia. She is already a member of the Augusta Chapter of the Federalist Society and enjoys being part of her church choir. If you are interested in hiring Brommer or helping her make connections in the Augusta area, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

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