



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

August 18, 2017

From the Dean

I'm thrilled to report that our Student Bar Association has been recognized by the ABA Law Student Division as the best SBA in the nation! Our SBA received the National Achievement Award – also known as the SBA of the Year Award – on Saturday, August 12, at the ABA Annual Meeting in New York City. This is the sixth time in 10 years that FSU has been recognized as the best SBA in the nation. The award recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession. FSU competed with law schools from around the nation for the honor. During the 2016-2017 academic year, FSU SBA's successful programming included Diversity Week, an inaugural golf tournament, Mental Health Week, a pro bono fair for the student body and a blood drive to support survivors of the 2016 Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting. Congratulations and thanks to the entire SBA board, especially immediate-past president Kristin DuPont ('17)! The programming and leadership provided by SBA during the past year has made the FSU Law community more vibrant, collaborative and successful!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: Brandon Sapala, incoming FSU SBA treasurer, and Lilly Sharpe, incoming president of FSU SBA, with the SBA of the Year Award in New York City. Sapala and Sharpe represented FSU at the ABA Annual Meeting last weekend.



50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2009

In 2009, retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female justice of the United States Supreme Court, visited the law school. Justice O'Connor was in Tallahassee to discuss a civics education program at the Florida Capitol. She discussed the need for civics and government education in middle schools and offered students insight into her path to the high court. In May 2009, Professor David Powell retired. A student favorite, Powell was an expert on wills, trusts, estates and gifts and taught FSU Law classes for more than 35 years. He has continued to teach at the College of Law periodically. During the summer of 2009, the College of Law unveiled a new [LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy](#). The program built on FSU Law's highly-ranked program in environmental law and gives J.D. holders the opportunity to concentrate in environmental law.



Pictured above: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at the law school in 2009.

Alum Profile: Stacie B. Harris-Cox ('05)

Stacie B. Harris-Cox is an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, where she serves as chief of the major crimes division and the civil rights and human trafficking coordinator. Since joining the Department of Justice in 2008, Harris-Cox has prosecuted a wide range of crimes, focusing on violent crimes, child exploitation, violent crimes against children, national security and sex trafficking cases. Since 2009, she has prosecuted the majority of the human trafficking cases in the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division. She also directs the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force and is active in the Central Florida Crimes Against Children Task Force, both of which investigate and



prosecute domestic minor and international human trafficking crimes in Florida. As a result of her significant impact in the fight against human trafficking, Harris-Cox was honored as an Inspire Award recipient in July. The award, which is sponsored by the FSU Alumni Association, The Women for FSU and the Tampa Bay Seminole Club, recognizes FSU alumnae who have distinguished themselves as leaders within their industry and whose hard work and determination serves as an inspiration to current students and young alumni. Harris-Cox also received an FBI Director's Award and the 2013 Florida Human Trafficking Prosecutor of the Year Award for her work on human trafficking.

"I love my job and I am passionate about the work that I do. There is no greater honor than to serve my community and represent the people of the United States of America. My work with child victims and human trafficking victims is particularly important to me because they are the most vulnerable amongst us and are often forgotten by society. I feel blessed that I have been trusted to tell their stories and to shed light on the injustices that have been committed against our citizens."

Student Profile: 2017 Grad James Landry

Originally from Dover, New Hampshire, James Landry earned bachelor's degrees from the University of New Hampshire in economics and business administration, with a concentration in entrepreneurship. He graduated from FSU Law in May 2017. Landry was president of the Business Law Society his 3L year and participated in the Business Law Clinic. He was also a member of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society. Landry's extensive work experience includes founding and serving as editor-in-chief of the sports and entertainment law blog, FromTheLegalField.com. He interned for the Law Offices of Lungo-Koehn & Collins in Medford, MA, during the summer after his 1L year. During the summer after his 2L year he worked remotely as an agent intern for Munsey Sports Management in West Palm Beach. In this position, he researched and prepared for upcoming negotiations during the Major League Baseball offseason. That summer, Landry was also a summer associate at the State of New Hampshire Bureau of Securities and Regulation, where he analyzed and researched complex securities law issues for a billion-dollar multistate lawsuit. He also prepared, reviewed and analyzed Securities and Exchange Act documents and collaborated with staff attorneys, attorneys general and Secretary of State Offices from various states on discovery research findings. During Landry's 2L and 3L years he served as lead university defender for FSU. He oversaw and advised the University Defense Team in managing clients and cases and litigated FSU Supreme Court cases that had major



implications on the defendants' futures with the school. Landry also clerked for Padgett Law Group in Tallahassee during his 3L year, where he drafted memoranda involving foreclosure and bankruptcy issues, serving as the only law clerk for the firm, which includes offices in multiple states. Landry is hoping to practice in New York City and sat for the New York Bar Exam in July. He would like to practice business law or finance. If you are interested in hiring Landry, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#) .

“I am not done learning just because I have graduated. I am always trying to absorb knowledge and grow, at work, as well as in my spare time by reading a variety of books.”

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