



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

October 6, 2017

### From the Dean



We are thrilled to announce that thanks to the generosity of many alumni and friends, the College of Law fund in Professor Ehrhardt's name has reached the professorship level! We are grateful for everyone who has honored Chuck with a gift to his named fund. Alumni – we hope to continue to increase the fund, so when our Phonathon callers reach out to you, please consider earmarking your gift to the Ehrhardt Endowment for Excellence if there is not another fund you prefer. On a related note, if you were unable to attend Chuck's 50th

anniversary celebration, you can [visit our website](#) to see photos and watch videos, including a tribute video, from the event. Thank you to the hundreds of alumni, students and friends who helped us celebrate Chuck! We know it meant so much to him to have you there!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: Hundreds of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends gathered on Friday, September 22 to celebrate Professor Ehrhardt's 50-year anniversary with the law school.*

## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2015



In 2015, John Thrasher ('72) served his first year as president of Florida State University. Named to the position in November 2014, Thrasher is the first FSU College of Law alum to serve in that role. In March 2015, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the law school hosted leading legal scholars and political scientists from around the nation for a symposium titled, "The Law of Democracy at a Crossroads." That spring, we also hosted scholars from around the world for the Fourth Annual Global Conference of the Younger Comparativists Committee of the American Society of Comparative Law. In 2015, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) won first place in the National Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, after winning the regionals in both moot court and in mock trial. BLSA also brought home a National Chapter of the Year Award. In the summer of 2015, the law school completed a 10-month web overhaul and launched the final phases of a brand new website at [law.fsu.edu](http://law.fsu.edu). In October 2015, the Mock Trial Team won two national competitions in two weeks. First, they won the championship at the National Trial Advocacy Tournament sponsored by the University of Florida. Then, a different team of students won first place in the National Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition sponsored by the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and University of California Hastings College of the Law. Also in 2015, two much-loved and respected senior faculty members retired. Donna Christie, the Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor, and Elwin Griffith, the Tallahassee Alumni Professor, retired after serving at FSU Law for 34 years and 29 years, respectively.

*Pictured above: The 2015 Voting Rights Symposium focused on three election law cases that had been recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court and brought legal scholars and political scientists from around the country to FSU.*

## Alum Profile: Jason B. Burnett ('88)

Jason B. Burnett is a shareholder and director of Northeast Florida litigation at GrayRobinson, P.A. in its Jacksonville office, where he specializes in commercial litigation and bankruptcy. He has substantial experience representing debtors in Chapter 11 cases and also represents creditors, trustees and committees in all aspects of cases under Chapters 7, 11 and 13 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Additionally, Burnett has represented creditors, assignors and assignees in state court assignments for the benefit of creditors. Before entering private practice, he clerked for the Honorable George L. Proctor, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Middle District of Florida. Burnett regularly lectures on bankruptcy issues and was one of seven Americans chosen to review and comment on post-communist Bulgaria's bankruptcy code. Burnett remains very engaged with the law school, currently serving on the alumni board of directors and chairing the board's alumni recruitment committee. He has also hosted networking events for students and alumni in Jacksonville and visited the law school to meet with students.



*“FSU in 1985 – Robert Palmer’s 'Addicted to Love' music video comes out, Back to the Future is at the theater and gas is around a \$1 per gallon. Professor Yetter is teaching me Crim Law, Professor Gey is teaching Con Law and Professor Ehrhardt for Evidence. Life was good. The legal philosophy and friendships gained from that time have made every year since even better.”*

## Student Profile: 3L Janaye Garrett

**Desired Practice Location** : Florida; Would move anywhere in the U.S. for the right opportunity

**Expected Graduation** : May 2018

**Specialization** : environmental law

**Field of Law Sought** : appellate or environmental/administrative law; also enjoys criminal law

Originally from Lake Mary, Florida, Janaye Garrett earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Central Florida. She will graduate in May 2018 with the Environmental Law Certificate in addition to her J.D. During her law school career, Garrett was a member of Phi Alpha Delta, serving as treasurer her 2L year. She was also secretary of the Environmental Law Society. Garrett has been a member of the *Florida State University Law Review* since fall 2016 and has served as an articles editor since January. She will have her student note published in Volume 44 of the *Law Review*. This year, Garrett is also the administrative editor for the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. During her 1L year, Garrett interned with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The summer after her 1L year, she was a criminal appeals intern for the Florida Office of the Attorney General. During her 2L year, Garrett clerked at Hopping Green & Sams and last summer, she was an upper-level judicial extern for the First District Court of Appeal. Garrett is currently externing with the Florida Power & Light Company, where she utilizes various legal research platforms to keep general counsel updated on recent legal developments to assist in federal litigation. She also researches environmental, land use and energy law issues to aid in the development of innovative utility expansion across Florida. If you are interested in hiring Garrett after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



*“Florida State University College of Law has provided me with more opportunities than I could have imagined during my law school career. The expert faculty and externship program have set me on the path to achieve my professional and personal goals.”*



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