

From the Dean



Several of our fall 2017 College of Law graduates with Dean O'Connor at the graduation reception in December.

Happy New Year from the FSU Law family! We are all optimistic about 2018 and what we will accomplish. As we prepare for the spring semester, which will begin on January 8, I want to thank our faculty and staff for a successful fall semester and for their work to ensure we are ready to welcome students back to campus. We also want to congratulate the 37 students who graduated on December 15. This was the largest group to ever graduate during a fall semester. Prior to the commencement ceremony, we held a reception for them, their families and their friends in the Advocacy Center. It was a nice, intimate event and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and to wish them well as they embark on the next chapters of their lives. We know they will make us proud!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Mark B. Seidenfeld

[Mark Seidenfeld](#), the Patricia A. Dore Professor of Administrative Law, is one of the country's leading scholars on federal administrative law and author of one of the most cited administrative law articles: "A Civic Republican Justification for the Bureaucratic State," (*Harvard Law Review*). Seidenfeld focuses on how administrative law might be structured to facilitate agencies implementing deliberative democracy, with special attention to the law's effect on the behavior and accountability of government institutions. He also has written about issues of constitutional law and legislation that bear on the interactions between the president, the executive branch generally, Congress and the courts. He has taught Administrative Law, Constitutional Law (Structure of Government), Legislation & Regulation, various courses on particular areas of regulation, including Regulation of Electric Power, Health Law & Policy, and Environmental Law, and Law & Economics. In addition, Seidenfeld has served as associate dean for academic affairs and as associate dean for research at the FSU College of Law. He has been on the law faculty since 1987. He also has actively participated in the American Bar Association Section on Administrative and Regulatory Law, as a chair or member of several committees. Prior to entering the legal academy, Seidenfeld clerked for Judge Patricia A. Wald of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and served as assistant counsel for the New York State Public Service Commission. Seidenfeld holds a J.D. from Stanford University, where he was a senior law review editor and was elected to the Order of the Coif. He also has an M.A. in theoretical physics from Brandies University and a B.A. in physics from Reed College. In his career before law school, Seidenfeld worked as a research physicist and engineer at Intel, Inc., and is a co-holder of a patent for the process Intel used to manufacture the 80286 microprocessor.



"My philosophy toward teaching can be summed up by paraphrasing the great baseball manager and philosopher Casey Stengel, who once said: 'good pitching will always stop good hitting, and vice-versa.' I try to teach my students that, in law: 'rigorous analysis beats creative thinking every time, and vice-versa.'"

Alum Profile: Sandra Brown ('94)

[Sandra Brown](#) is a partner at the law firm of Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta, where she provides strategic business counseling to entertainment-related companies. Prior to joining Taylor English in 2017, Brown had practiced entertainment law in Atlanta for more than 20 years, nine of them at her own firm, where she represented award-winning artists, songwriters and music producers. Her experience includes negotiating a wide-range of sophisticated agreements involving the use of intellectual property in music, television, film and advertising, and representing many Grammy Award-winning artists and producers. Brown has remained extremely engaged with FSU Law. Most recently, she visited campus in March for a meet-and-greet with students.

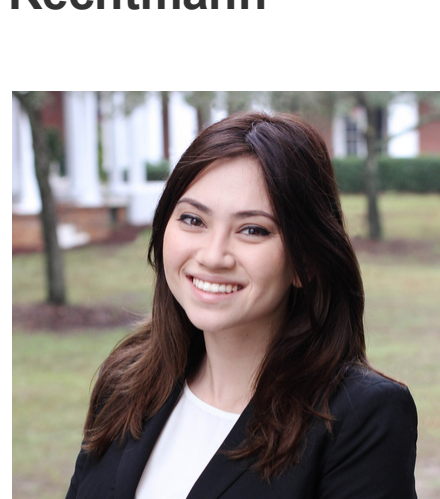


"I really enjoy mentoring and coaching students on how to pursue their career goals. Although entertainment law is more established than when I graduated from FSU College of Law, it is still very much a niche industry and it is difficult to gain entry. I have worked in this practice area since graduating from law school, but I recently joined Taylor English Duma, LLP as a Partner. I enjoy providing companies that use entertainment properties with not just legal advice, but overall business affairs advice which includes business development, marketing/brand development, licensing, strategic partnerships and alliances, and diversity initiatives."

Student Profile: 3L Candace Rechtmann

Desired Practice Location: Orlando or Tallahassee
Expected Graduation: May 2018
Field of Law Sought: public sector work—preferably criminal, either trial level or post-conviction

Originally from Davie, Fla., Candace Rechtmann earned her bachelor's degree in business management and international affairs from FSU. Rechtmann is an articles editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* and is a member of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. During her 1L year, Rechtmann was an LSAT prep instructor, followed by interning for Judge Stacey Schulman of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court. During her 2L year, she worked for the FSU Public Interest Law Center, where she researched and drafted pleadings, traveled across Florida to interview clients and argued in court on behalf of the center. Rechtmann also interned with the Innocence Project of Florida. Last summer, Rechtmann was a certified legal intern at the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, where she appeared in court on a daily basis, managed a misdemeanor docket and obtained a guilty verdict at her very first trial. Last semester, Rechtmann worked for a federal magistrate judge in the Northern District of Florida, where she worked on postconviction issues. If you are interested in connecting with Rechtmann, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



"I'm so glad I took advantage of several hands-on learning opportunities available through FSU Law, such as working in the Public Interest Law Center, or externships like the Criminal Litigation Skills program. When preparing for my future legal career, I believed that it was important to have a combination of both academic and real-world legal experience. It was exciting to apply the things I learned in the classroom to real cases, stand up and argue in court, and affirm that the law was the right path for me."

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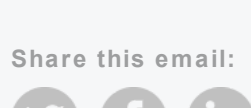
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