

## From the Dean

If you know someone who is considering law school, please tell them about FSU Law and encourage them to apply! Our Admissions Office is available to answer any questions prospective students might have about the law school and application process. Our Viewbook is also an excellent resource that contains information about our programs, faculty, students, location and even our alumni. It is no secret to us that our alumni network is one of our many strengths, so our Viewbook sheds some light on just how valuable alumni are as resources and mentors for students. Anyone can [download the Viewbook](#) from our website or [request a printed copy](#). For students who are trying to decide between graduate school and law school, effective February 1 we will be accepting the GRE in addition to the LSAT, so they can apply with either test score. Please have interested students [contact our Admissions Office](#) to learn more about what makes us the best law school in Florida and to [schedule a visit](#).



- Dean Erin O'Connor

## Faculty Profile: Melissa O. Hanson

Legal Writing Professor [Melissa O. Hanson](#) teaches Legal Writing and Research I and II, as well as Federal Courts. She is also the track director for the Legal Risk Management and HR Compliance concentration of the new online Juris Master program for non-lawyers and created the course materials for the Employment Law and Employment Discrimination courses for the J.M. program. Hanson was recently selected as a recipient of the 2016-17 University Graduate Teaching Award for excellence in teaching. Prior to joining FSU Law in 2014, Hanson spent 11 years as a career law clerk to two federal judges, U.S. Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson and U.S. District Judge Brian J. Davis, both of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. In addition, she spent seven years at Foley and Lardner, where she specialized in labor and employment litigation. Hanson graduated second in her class from the University of Florida College of Law, where she served on the *Florida Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



*"I believe the most important thing I can do as a teacher is to prepare my students for practice in the 'real world.' Nothing is more rewarding than hearing from a student that one of our class exercises helped with an assignment during summer employment."*

## Alum Profile: Diego "Woody" Rodriguez ('95)

Diego "Woody" Rodriguez is general counsel for Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), the ninth largest school district in the country with more than 200,000 students. He advises the Orange County School Board and the superintendent for OCPS on education-related legal matters, including public records disclosures, labor relations and employment law matters, student expulsions, land use and zoning matters, compliance with ethics and election laws, general transactional matters and construction and finance issues. Prior to joining OCPS in 2010, Rodriguez was in private practice, representing several Orange County governmental entities including the Supervisor of Election's Office. Since 2006, Rodriguez has been board certified in City, County and Local Government Law. He has always been involved in local bar associations, serving as past president of the Young Lawyers Section, the Hispanic Bar Association and becoming the first minority to serve as president of the Orange County Bar Association in 2009. Rodriguez also remains engaged with the law school – last spring he co-hosted a special lunch for current and admitted students, judges and alums as part of a Judge Shadow Day in Orlando and he headed up the 20-year reunion for the Class of 1995.



*"I have remained involved because I am truly grateful for the difference the FSU law school made in my life. The opportunities that I now have for my family and to serve in my community are a direct result of those experiences. Whether it is with service or money, I cheerfully support the law school and consider it a small price to pay it forward, much like others did for me."*

## Student Profile: 3L Regan Urquhart

**Desired Practice Location:** Central Colorado  
**Graduation Date:** Summer 2018  
**Specialization:** Criminal law  
**Field of Law Sought:** would eventually like to work in criminal immigration



Originally from Cochran, Ga., Regan Urquhart earned a B.A. in international affairs and a B.S. in sociology from the University of Georgia. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in international affairs at FSU and will complete her J.D. and joint degree this summer. Urquhart is a member of the Women's Law Symposium, the Association of Criminal Justice and the Transfer Student Organization. During her law school career, Urquhart worked as a summer associate at the Immigration Advice and Rights Center in Sydney, Australia. Last spring, Urquhart was a legal assistant at the Law Office of Anabelle Dias, P.A., a criminal defense firm in Tallahassee. While there, she gained experience researching a variety of criminal issues, such as evidence suppression and double jeopardy. On multiple occasions she met with clients in county jails and this experience helped her realize her interest in criminal law. Last summer, Urquhart was a judicial intern for the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review at the Krome Immigration Detention Center in Miami. This spring she is working with the Public Defender's Office in Tallahassee. During her remaining time in law school, Urquhart plans to concentrate her studies in criminal and immigration-related courses. Outside the classroom, Urquhart is a Guardian ad Litem and is always looking for innovative ways to give back to the community. If you are interested in hiring Urquhart after graduation or helping her to make connections in Central Colorado, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*"The education I have received from the joint J.D./M.A. in International Affairs program has equipped me with the tools necessary to represent indigent communities. I am confident that I will be able to utilize my experiences, particularly in Australia and Kenya, to represent this vulnerable group."*

**SPRING 2018 ENVIRONMENTAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
3:30-4:30 PM  
*FEATURING*  
**TOM MERRILL**  
THE CHARLES EVANS HUGHES PROFESSOR  
AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

**MORE INFO**



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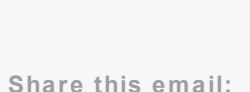
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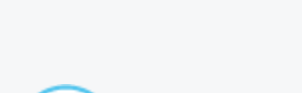
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