

## From the Dean

On Monday, February 5, students will begin calling FSU Law alumni during our Spring 2018 Phonathon. Please answer the call! If you have not already given to this year's annual fund, a gift in any amount makes a difference. For alumni and friends who are especially dedicated to organizations or other law school programs, you can earmark your gifts accordingly. As in the past, funds for scholarships are important as we seek to attract the best and brightest students. This year, we also have a specific need for funds to support students participating in our VIS Moot Court Team, our Alternative Spring Break Program and the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic. [Please consider giving](#) as your contributions make so many enriching activities possible at the College of Law. Thank you to everyone who has already made a gift!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

## Faculty Profile: Justin T. Sevier

Professor [Justin T. Sevier](#)'s teaching and research interests include the law of evidence, corporate decision making and the role of behavioral science in the legal system. His scholarship has been published in top law journals, including the *Georgetown Law Journal*, the *Iowa Law Review* and the *Boston College Law Review*, and in peer-reviewed publications, including *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*. In 2017, Sevier received the Open Door Faculty Mentor Award from our graduating third-year students. Before joining the Florida State law faculty in 2015, Sevier served as an associate research scholar at Yale Law School and as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. He clerked for Judge Carlos T. Bea, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and practiced corporate litigation at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York City. He is a member of the New York State Bar. Sevier holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he graduated magna cum laude. This fall, he will complete his Ph.D. in psychology at Yale University, where he also holds a Master of Science and Master of Philosophy.



*"In addition to teaching my students the current state of the law, I encourage them to consider how others outside the legal field view the law. Those interdisciplinary perspectives, valuable in their own right, contain unique insights for the law's improvement and development."*

## Alum Profile: Gary D. Beatty ('86)

After 30 years as a prosecutor with the Brevard County State Attorney's Office, Gary D. Beatty retired in 2017. During his accomplished career, Beatty prosecuted more than 150 jury trials and was widely recognized as an expert in search and seizure law. Beatty recently received the 2017 Space Coast Public Service Hall of Fame Norm Wolfinger Award. The award recognizes "innovative and effective individuals whose efforts have made positive influential differences in improving local, state or federal systems of justice." Beatty is board certified in criminal trials, and served on The Florida Bar Criminal Procedure Rules Committee for nine years and the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee for six years. Beatty is the current president of the Thailand-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood (TLCB), an international non-profit charity founded by veterans of the "secret war" in those countries during the Vietnam conflict—where he served as a medic with the United States Air Force Special Operations. The TLCB builds schools, water purification systems and sustainable agri-businesses in remote rural villages of those countries.



*"I was fortunate to find an area of the law that I enjoyed. Working as assistant state attorney, I was able to focus on the law without having to worry about a business bottom line—and got some bad people off the streets!"*

## Student Profile: 3L Omar Erchid

**Desired Practice Location:** Tampa or Tallahassee  
**Graduation Date:** May 2018  
**Specialization:** Real estate law, transactional or litigation  
**Field of Law Sought:** interested in civil practice; real estate, construction or family law; also interested in immigration law



Omar Erchid is Tampa born and raised. He earned a B.A. in journalism from the University of South Florida and will graduate with his J.D. in May 2018. Erchid's experience includes working as a judicial extern for the Honorable Robert A. Foster in general civil matters at the Thirteenth Judicial Court of Hillsborough County in Tampa the summer after his 1L year. There, he drafted a recommendation of guilt for a bar complaint case presided over by Judge Foster. During his 2L year, Erchid clerked at the Florida Office of the Attorney General in Tallahassee, where he worked in the Revenue Litigation Bureau, focusing primarily on property and sales tax disputes. Since May 2017, Erchid has clerked at Boyd & Durant, P.L., a private firm in Tallahassee specializing in real estate and family law matters. In this role, Erchid has performed transactional and litigation work in real estate. He has been involved with several cases from beginning to end of trial in both family and real estate matters, and has drafted a plethora of pleadings in each field. He has also prepared a presentation—"What Would the Reptiles [RPPTL] Say?"—for the managing partner to discuss the intersection of real estate and family law in dissolutions of marriage at a meeting of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Erchid volunteers at the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, where he provides translation services (he is fluent in Arabic) and assistance in immigration cases for indigent clients. Erchid is also co-founder and president of Students Organize for Syria (SOS) at FSU, a student organization that serves to shed light on the plight of civil war and engage students to help with the humanitarian crisis both locally and abroad. SOS at FSU provides tutoring and English as a Second Language sessions for refugees of all backgrounds in Tallahassee. SOS at FSU also holds annual clothing and medical supply drives to send much-needed materials to refugee camps overseas. In his spare time, Erchid enjoys reading, traveling and golfing. If you are interested in hiring Erchid after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

*"From even my first days as a 1L, I was impressed by the resourcefulness of the FSU Law community, particularly the faculty, career services office and my fellow students. But what has further impressed me since is witnessing that this network doesn't just stop at the Tallahassee community—rather it extends all throughout the state and beyond. I anticipate continuing this tradition as a proud alum."*

**TALLAHASSEE ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT**  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018  
5:30-7:30PM

FEATURING  
**FSU PRESIDENT JOHN THRASHER ('73)**

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