

From the Dean



(L-R) Martin, Von See, Czekanski and Waldick

We are delighted to report that our FSU Law Moot Court Team won first place in the Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup National First Amendment Moot Court Competition! Twenty-four law school teams participated in the competition, which took place March 23-24 in Washington, D.C., including teams from some of the nation's top law schools. Florida State beat South Texas College of Law Houston, which is ranked by *preLaw Magazine* as one of the nation's best law schools for moot court, in the final round of competition at the Newseum. Winning team members are 3Ls Brenda Czekanski and Jenna Von See. FSU College of Law alumni Jonathan Martin ('15), assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Financial Services, and Ian Waldick ('16), a staff attorney at the Florida Supreme Court, coached the team to victory. Martin and Waldick previously won a national moot court competition together in 2015 when they were law students at FSU. We are all so proud of our impressive student advocates and thankful for the efforts of their coaches!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Kyle B. Sill

Kyle B. Sill is an adjunct professor teaching International Sales and Arbitration this semester. He is also the coach for the FSU Vis Moot Team. He recently traveled with the team to Vienna, Austria, for the 25th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, where the team met with record success. Sill is a senior law clerk for the Honorable Susan L. Kelsey of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. He previously served as a law clerk for the Honorable Scott Makar and as a senior law clerk for the Honorable Nikki Ann Clark, both of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. Sill has taught as an adjunct professor at Florida Coastal School of Law and Florida State College at Jacksonville. He was also a senior lecturer of law at the Université d'Auvergne, Faculté de Droit, in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Sill's most recent scholarship and presentations have focused on appellate law, advocacy and persuasion. He holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Central Florida and a J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law, where he graduated *summa cum laude*.



“Coaching and teaching are simply the best ways to hone actual knowledge of any legal subject. You truly do not know something until you can figure out how to teach it and convey it to different audiences: students, judges, arbitrators—whomever.”

Alum Profile: Melanie Kalmanson ('16)

Melanie Kalmanson serves as a staff attorney to Justice Barbara J. Pariente on the Florida Supreme Court, where she assists with legal research and analysis on a variety of cases and issues by preparing legal memoranda and case summaries. While in law school, she served as an executive editor on the *Florida State University Law Review* and as the professionalism chair on The Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division Board of Governors. Also in law school, she published several student notes focusing on constitutional and family law, specifically issues affecting children. She remains extremely engaged with FSU Law and currently counsels law students who are interested in post-graduation judicial clerkships as a J.D. Advisor for the Career Services Office. She also is an alumni advisor for the law school's Raising the Bar Professionalism Program and often returns to the law school to share her expertise with students. Most recently, she volunteered to speak to students in March as part of a “Why Mentoring Matters” panel.



“Opportunities to give back to FSU Law, which provides each graduate with a comprehensive and meaningful education, are the best part of life after graduation. Working with students is rewarding and keeps me engaged. Together, students and our network of impressive alumni will continue pushing FSU Law forward!”

Student Profile: 3L Amanda Mezer

Desired Practice Location: Tampa Bay area, Orlando or Tallahassee

Graduation Date: May 2018

Field of Law Sought: Has a variety of interests, including but not limited to, corporate law, entertainment law (especially as it relates to musical theatre), appellate law and public health law



Mezer and her service dog Cozy

Originally from Tampa, Amanda Mezer earned a bachelor's degree in communication with a minor in health policy administration from Wake Forest University. She also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina Grillings School of Global Public Health. When she graduates with her J.D. in May 2018, she will also earn the Business Law Certificate. Mezer currently serves as an executive editor of the *Florida State University Business Review* and was a previous editor of notes editor. She is also a member of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. Mezer has served as 1L representative and secretary of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society, as vice president and secretary of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society, and as 1L representative of the Health Law Society. She is also president of J.D. Activities Without Stress and a member of Phi Alpha Delta, Student Bar Association, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division – Law Student Division and the Women's Law Symposium. Mezer currently works at the FSU College of Law Business Law Clinic, where she has interviewed clients and researched copyright and trademark law in both the U.S. and U.K. Last summer, she clerked at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. After her 1L year, Mezer was a judicial intern for the Florida Second District Court of Appeal, where she researched family, criminal and property law issues. Also, from August 2016 – January 2018, Mezer interned for Disability Rights Florida, where she researched federal and Florida laws regarding service and emotional support animals. Mezer has Type I diabetes for 19 years and obtained her service dog Cosette “Cozy” the summer before her 2L year. Cozy can sense Mezer's blood sugars and alerts her when her blood glucose level is too high or too low—she attends all of Mezer's law school classes. If you are interested in hiring Mezer, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

“FSU College of Law has truly helped me grow as an individual and also has allowed me the opportunity to achieve both professional and personal goals. I enjoyed being in school, but I look forward to taking the skills I have learned from FSU Law and using them in my legal career. Since getting Cozy, I have been able to excel even more and I am excited to have her assistance, as I progress into the professional world.”

PALM BEACH ALUMNI RECEPTION
WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 FROM 6-7:30 PM AT THE PALM BEACH YACHT CLUB
PLEASE EMAIL ALUMNI@LAW.FSU.EDU TO RSVP BY APRIL 11

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER AWARD
NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018
EMAIL NOMINATIONS & QUESTIONS TO: LAWDEAN@LAW.FSU.EDU

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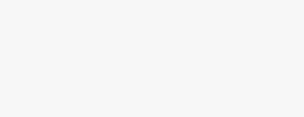
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