

From the Dean



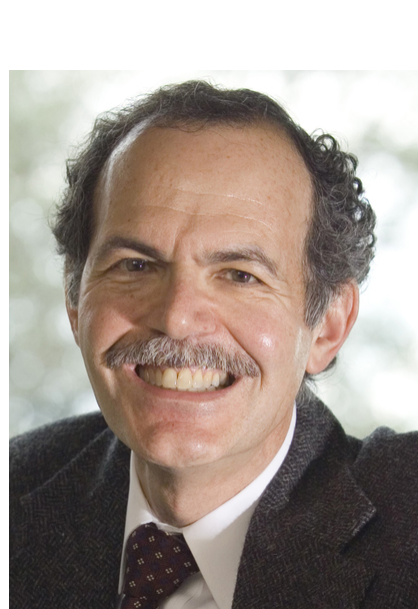
Sixty-two talented students from around the country joined us this year for our Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program.

Next Friday, we will conclude our 2018 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program and say farewell to the 62 undergraduate students who joined us on campus for four weeks. It was a pleasure to meet these bright and ambitious students and to mentor them into the study of law and the legal profession. Since 1992, more than 1,000 students from around the U.S. and abroad have participated in our program. This year's cohort attended daily legal writing and constitutional law classes, learned about the law school application process, met with attorneys in various practice areas, presented oral arguments, and visited the Florida Supreme Court. Students also toured the Florida Capitol, where they debated and passed a mock amendment, and had lunch with program benefactor Wayne Hogan ('72), whose generous support makes it possible for approximately 60 students to attend the program each year at no cost. Thank you to Wayne and to the many additional alumni who networked and shared their expertise with our summer program students!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Nat S. Stern

[Nat S. Stern](#), the John W. & Ashley E. Frost Professor, is a national expert on constitutional law and the author of many articles on the topic. He teaches Constitutional Law, American Legal History and a Supreme Court Role-Playing Seminar, and serves as faculty advisor and coach to Florida State Law's nationally competitive and award-winning Moot Court Team. Recognized with several teaching awards, Stern is one of the College of Law's most popular teachers and was selected by students to receive this year's Open Door Faculty Award at the 2018 commencement ceremony. As he has done for many years, Stern is currently teaching in the Donald J.



Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program. Stern also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1998-1999. Prior to joining the Florida State University faculty in 1981, Stern was as an associate in the Atlanta law firm of Arnall, Golden & Gregory. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Brown University and a J.D. from Harvard University.

"Teaching at this law school has been a joy ever since I began 37 years ago. Students here have always been deeply engaged and enthusiastic. I've also had the good fortune to be involved in three programs—Moot Court, Summer for Undergraduates and Summer at Oxford—that have given me the opportunity to interact with students on a more personal level than is generally afforded in a larger lecture class. Also of great benefit to me has been the culture of teaching sustained by past and present deans and colleagues."

Alum Profile: Russel M. Lazega ('96)

[Russel M. Lazega](#) is the founding member of Florida Advocates, a 14-attorney boutique law firm with offices in Dania Beach, North Miami, Tampa and Winter Park (also serving the panhandle). He represents policyholders, property owners, medical providers and other insureds in disputes with their insurers. Lazega's firm authors legal textbooks for Thomson/Reuters Publishing on Florida automobile insurance law, workers' compensation law and property insurance law, and has handled more than 75,000 insurance cases throughout Florida, including trials and appeals from the circuit court to the supreme court level. Lazega also has presented on insurance law to the Florida Senate, Florida House of Representatives, the governor and the Florida Conference of County Court Judges, and lectures throughout the state on insurance issues. Before entering private practice, Lazega worked for the Florida Department of Insurance, prosecuting insurance companies and agents accused of violating the Florida Insurance Code. Lazega's memoir, *Managing Bubbie*, has also recently been awarded the 2018 IndieReader Discovery Award for Biography/Memoir and has been picked up by European film financier Umedia to develop into a motion picture.



"What kind of lawyer are you? Most lawyers can learn the law in their field but loving who you work with and who you represent is what makes for a great lawyer. At Florida Advocates we're passionate about — of all crazy things...insurance — because we love our team and the people we help."

Student Profile: 2018 Grad Cassandra Paniagua

Desired Practice Location: Anywhere in Florida

Field of Law Sought: Would like work in an area of law that allows her to continue advocating for disadvantaged populations; prefers elder law, immigration law, family law or disability law



Cassandra Paniagua graduated from FSU Law in May 2018. Originally from Clewiston, Fla., Paniagua earned a dual bachelor's degree in criminology and sociology with a minor in communication studies from the University of Florida. She participated in the Public Interest Law Center for the summer after her 1L year until graduation. Paniagua worked at the Children's Advocacy Clinic, representing children in a variety of cases ranging from disability to immigration to education. She also had the opportunity to work on the Healthcare Access Project, where she was part of a team that drafted a brief for a Medicaid class action suit. Paniagua participated in the Alternative Spring Break program during her 2L year and was an assistant coordinator during her 3L year. She also clerked for Disability Rights Florida, where she worked on cases involving Florida's Medicaid iBudget Waiver, which grants services to certain qualified individuals with developmental disabilities. Most of the cases she worked on involved preventing the reduction in necessary services or fighting the denial of services. Paniagua also clerked for the Law Office of Michael C. Gold, where she focused on immigration work, helping clients complete naturalization paperwork. Paniagua received the distinguished pro bono certificate. She is bilingual and fluent in Spanish. If you are interested in hiring Paniagua, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

2018 ANNUAL FLORIDA BAR CONVENTION
AT THE HILTON ORLANDO BONNET CREEK

6/13: FSU LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
6/14: FSU LAW ALUMNI RECEPTION

FOR MORE INFO OR TO RSVP:
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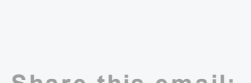
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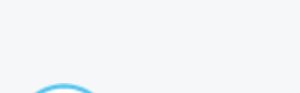
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