

From the Dean



(L-R): David Fonvielle ('72), Dean Erin O'Connor, Lolia Fernandez ('17), Justin Karpf ('16), Ashley Coyle ('17), Jordan Fonvielle Antohi, Andy Thomas and Andrei Antohi

In December, we had the pleasure of hosting a luncheon for our newest Fonvielle Public Defender Service Award recipients. The Fonvielle Public Defender Service Award was established in 2004 by alumnus David Fonvielle ('72) to support FSU Law alumni who are serving as public defenders in the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. It rewards graduates who have completed at least one year of service with the Second Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender, where Fonvielle began his legal career. The following honorees are all assistant public defenders in the Second Judicial Circuit: Ashley Coyle ('17), Lolia Fernandez ('17) and Justin Karpf ('16). The luncheon was a wonderful opportunity to talk to the recipients about their careers and to recognize their commitment to public service. In addition to the honorees and David Fonvielle, we were joined at lunch by Public Defender Andy Thomas, Jordan Fonvielle Antohi and Andrei Antohi.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Tahirih V. Lee

Professor Tahirih V. Lee is a leading U.S. scholar on Chinese law and legal history. Her publications include the four-volume anthology, *Chinese Law: Sociological, Political, Historical and Economic Perspectives*, and dozens of law review articles and edited volume chapters on Chinese law and legal history, especially related to judicial work and dispute resolution. Lee has chaired committees of the Association of American Law Schools and the American Society for Legal History. She teaches Chinese Law, International Business Transactions, Comparative Law, Civil Procedure and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Additionally, Lee has developed International Trade Transactions, a course taught with the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (formerly the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade). This is the first law school course to link American students and Chinese students in simulated trade transactions. Before joining the FSU Law faculty in 1998, Lee taught at the University of Minnesota Law School. She has also been a visiting professor at the Notre Dame Law School and at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Lee previously was a Pew Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies and an associate at the Harvard Fairbank Center for East Asian Research. She also clerked for the Honorable David Bryan Sentelle at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Lee received her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was a Coker Fellow and a review and comments editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. Lee earned her Ph.D. in history from Yale University.



“Chinese law impacts the lives of over a billion people every day, including here in the United States. I’m interested in how that law came to be. The court cases from the early twentieth century that I found in China reveal integration into the global economy and a sophisticated understanding of the instrumental use of law.”

Alum Profile: Michael D. Redondo ('10)

Michael D. Redondo is a senior associate at Lash & Goldberg, LLP in Miami, where he focuses on sophisticated litigation. He has represented Fortune 500 companies and privately held entities in complex commercial disputes, products liability suits, federal and state securities class actions, and healthcare and varied regulatory investigations. He is involved in several professional groups, including the American Bar Association and the Cuban American Bar Association, and previously chaired the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division Minorities in the Profession Committee. Prior to joining Lash & Goldberg in 2017, Redondo practiced at firms in Texas and Florida, including Holland & Knight for almost six years. Redondo remains engaged with the College of Law, assisting with recruiting efforts and serving as an interviewer in the Optional Interview Program.



“My practice focuses in the area of complex litigation, including products liability actions, class actions and commercial contract disputes. I represent both large corporate clients and individuals as either plaintiffs or defendants in state and federal court, as well as in a variety of arbitration forums. What differentiates me is my relentless pursuit of efficient, decisive resolutions for my clients as quickly as possible.”

Student Profile: 3L Kelsey Early

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee, Atlanta or Tampa, but open to other cities and states

Expected Graduation: May 2019

Specialization: International law

Field of Law Sought: International, energy, family and immigration law; appellate practice and litigation.



Raised in New Mexico and Texas, Kelsey Early holds bachelor’s degrees in Spanish, international studies and political science. When she graduates from FSU Law in May 2019, she will earn the International Law Certificate. Early is currently a law clerk at Pennington Law Firm, where she primarily researches international trade and healthcare law. During the summer after her 2L year, Early clerked for the Honorable James R. Wolf of the First District Court of Appeals, where she wrote bench memos on appellate issues to assist judges in issuing opinions. Throughout her 2L year, Early was a teaching assistant for Professor Patricia Matthews’ Legal Writing and Research class. During the summer after her 1L year, Early participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center’s Family Law Clinic, as well as the Summer Program in Law at the University of Oxford, which deepened her understanding of immigration, human rights and environmental legal issues. If you are interested in hiring Early after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

“I cannot thank my professors and peers at FSU Law enough for fostering my curiosity in the law and helping me develop my advocacy skills.”

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