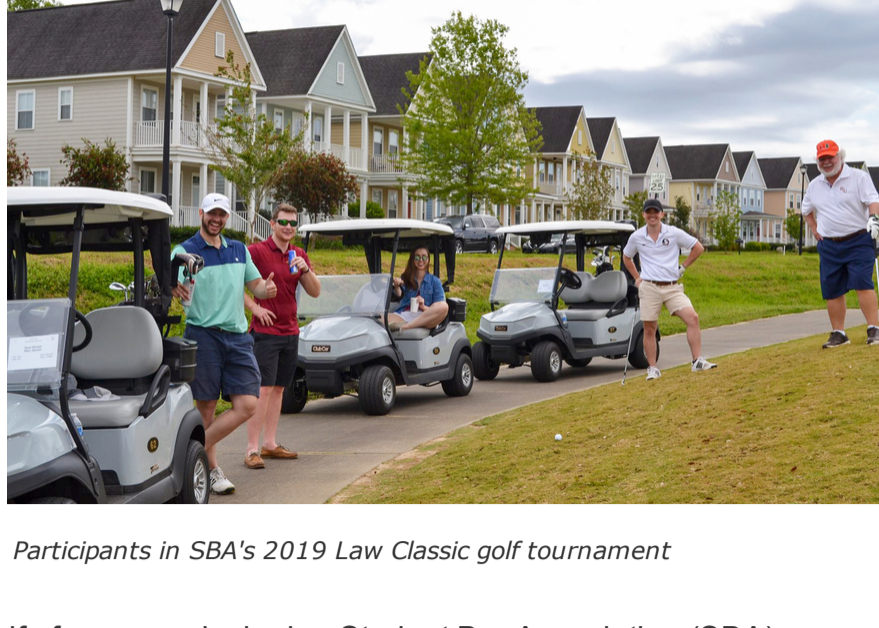


From the Dean



Participants in SBA's 2019 Law Classic golf tournament

On behalf of our award-winning Student Bar Association (SBA), we would like to invite alumni and students to SBA's upcoming Journey to Justice 5K and Fourth Annual FSU Law Classic golf tournament. The 5K is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, at Langford Green by FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium. Through the event, which will benefit the Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee, SBA students hope to bring together the FSU Law community to promote physical and mental health, and expand the ways in which SBA provides activities for students to release tension. [Visit SBA's website](#) for more information and to register. SBA's Fourth Annual Law Classic is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, at the Killearn Country Club in Tallahassee. The golf tournament has been very successful in bringing together students and alumni in previous years and you can [register online now](#) for this year's event, which will feature a shotgun-style start and will include lunch. Anyone interested in more information about participating in the tournament or sponsorship opportunities can email [SBA Vice President Kaitlyn Kelley](#), or [SBA President Breanna Raspopovich](#). Congratulations to our SBA students on organizing these ambitious events!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: David Bedingfield

[David Bedingfield](#), a barrister in London, is a visiting professor at the FSU College of Law for the spring 2020 semester. He is teaching Immigration Law and Comparative Family Law. Bedingfield has developed courses in advocacy techniques, and has lectured extensively regarding international movement of children, the adoption and placement of abused children, and human rights in the family law context. Bedingfield has also published extensively both in the United Kingdom and the United States, where he previously practiced before moving to the U.K. in 1990. His textbook, *The Child in Need: Children, the State and the Law*, was called an "essential purchase for child care professionals." His book *Advocacy in Family Proceedings* is now in its second edition. *The New Law Journal* deemed the book "excellent. . . filled with illustrations and examples from sitting judges and other practitioners regarding effective advocacy techniques."



Bedingfield was appointed a recorder in 2009, and sits in family, civil and criminal cases. His chambers include approximately 90 barristers, all working in the area of family law, with a large international public law and abduction team involved in jurisdictional disputes regarding children who are the subject of public law litigation. Bedingfield is a graduate of Emory Law School and he earned his undergraduate degree from Florida State University. Prior to his move to the U.K., he practiced law in Atlanta for seven years.

"I am incredibly impressed with the quality of the students, faculty and staff at the law school. I am looking forward to teaching, but more importantly I'm looking forward to learning a great deal this term. I am keen to discuss with students and faculty how judges in England and Wales hear and decide cases, and keen to learn more about what has occurred in U.S. law in the 30 years I've been away."

Alum Profile: Mark D. Hobson ('92)

[Mark D. Hobson](#) is an experienced securities, corporate and transactional lawyer, currently licensed in Colorado and Florida, and an equity partner working in the Miami and San Francisco/Silicon Valley offices of Halloran Farkas + Kittila LLP (HFK), a national law firm focusing on corporate and complex commercial matters. HFK has offices in San Francisco/Silicon Valley; Washington, D.C.; Delaware; Miami; Jackson, Wyoming and, as of January 2, 2020, New York City. Hobson started his career in São Paulo, Brazil, working first in private practice before going in-house at Banco Citibank, N.A. Hobson relocated in 1998 to Miami, where he worked in the Miami office of two Florida business law firms before establishing his own firm in 2014. In December 2018, Hobson joined up with HFK and established its Miami office, but he also works with Mike Halloran each month in the San Francisco office.



Hobson is part of HFK's team of transactional lawyers representing, among others, Delaware entities in sophisticated corporate financing deals and complex transactions under Delaware law and U.S. securities laws. HFK's clients include VC funds, PE funds, hedge funds, and their managers or general partners; angel investors; family offices; investment bankers; brokers-dealers; investment advisers and investment companies, among others. Hobson is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Law Section (BLS) and The Florida Bar Business Law Section. He currently serves as managing editor of the "Business Law Today" publication of the ABA for the practice areas of corporations, LLCs, and partnerships, after having served for five years as the editor-in-chief for the newsletter of the ABA BLS Middle Market and Small Business Committee. Hobson also is a member of the ABA BLS Offering and Trading of Tokenized Securities Task Force, the ABA BLS Private Placement Broker Task Force, and the ABA BLS Short Form M&A Documents Task Force. In addition to earning his J.D. from FSU Law, Hobson earned an LL.M. in International, European & Comparative Law from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

"As a young lawyer, the best gift one can give you is an opportunity to pay your dues. Find that opportunity. It exists. Best of luck in finding yours."

Student Profile: 3L Ryan Nicholas

Desired Practice Location: Washington, D.C.

Expected Graduation: May 2020

Field of Law Sought: Environmental, land use or local government law



Originally from Gainesville, Florida, Ryan Nicholas will become a double 'Nole when he graduates from FSU Law in May 2020, having also earned his bachelor's degree in economics from FSU. Currently, Nicholas is clerking at Sniffen & Spellman, P.A., where he conducts research on employment, education and labor litigation issues. Last fall semester, Nicholas externed at the Florida First District Court of Appeal under Judge M. Kemmerly Thomas. There, he researched, edited and drafted legal summaries on civil and criminal issues. Last summer, Nicholas was a summer honors law clerk at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of General Counsel in Washington, D.C. He worked in the Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office, where he supported agency actions, researched potential challenges to rulemakings and worked with legal issues regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. During his 2L year, Nicholas clerked at Bryant Miller Olive, where he researched legal issues involving local government public finance, municipal bonds, impact fees, corporate law, tax law and utility regulation. During his 1L summer, Nicholas worked at Clarion Associates, a land use consulting firm in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he helped local governments modernize development regulations, improve community procedures and guidelines, and incorporate environmental sustainability measures.

Nicholas currently is vice president of the FSU Law Moot Court Team. In March 2019, Nicholas and his partner won the 2019 William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition at Howard University. Nicholas is a staff editor for the *Florida State University Law Review*, a member of the First District Appellate American Inn of Court and previously served as the 2018-2019 law student liaison for the American Bar Association Section of State and Local Government Law. During his 1L year, Nicholas was also on the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team. If you are interested in hiring Nicholas after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"I feel so thankful to be a part of the FSU Law community. I've been able to learn from incredible faculty, take advantage of the endless opportunities the law school offers and make friends that I will cherish for the rest of my life."



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