

From the Dean

The Florida Pro Bono Law School Challenge is underway and FSU Law students are currently in first place! Through the challenge's cutting-edge, interactive platform, more of our students have picked a pro bono case than students at the other Florida law schools. Each student is partnered with an alumni mentor who will manage their case, so we need FSU Law graduates to visit



FloridaLawSchoolChallenge.org to pick a case and be partnered with a student. Legal aid organizations from across the state have provided pro bono cases for the challenge, so there are numerous opportunities throughout Florida. According to The Florida Bar Foundation, which created the challenge, the hope is that lawyers can give students "an in-depth look at how a case is handled and the opportunity to meet various members of our legal community." This is the second year of the challenge—in 2019, students and attorneys who participated helped keep families together, obtain benefits for veterans and support survivors of domestic violence. Similar to last year, schools with the most student and alumni engagement in the 2020 challenge will be recognized at The Florida Bar Annual Convention in June. Earlier this week, the challenge's website showed that FSU Law alumni were in fourth place among Florida's 11 law schools, signaling that many of you have already signed up to participate since the challenge began on February 3. For those who haven't, we hope you will consider adding your expertise to this worthwhile initiative.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Donna R. Christie

Professor Emerita Donna R. Christie is a leading authority on legal issues surrounding ocean and coastal management law. She is teaching Coastal & Ocean Law this spring. Christie is a co-author of the leading casebook in the field, *Ocean and Coastal Law: Cases and Materials*, which was recently released in its 5th edition. She is also the author of numerous articles and reports exploring ocean policy, fisheries management and coastal management. She has been involved in ocean policy development at the state level for Florida as well as at the national level as a contributor to the National Ocean Commission. Her most recent interest has focused on beaches and beach access. Christie has served as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Natural Resources Law and the Section on Ocean and Maritime Law.



A driving force in the development of both FSU Law's environmental and international programs, Christie previously served as the director of the Policy Studies Clinic and associate dean for international programs. She was instrumental in establishing the LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers and numerous exchange programs with foreign universities, including programs in China, the Netherlands and Australia. She also directed FSU summer law programs in Oxford, Barbados and Prague, and taught at universities in Australia and China. Christie also served for three years as associate dean for academic affairs. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Georgia. Christie joined the FSU Law faculty in 1981 and retired from full-time teaching in 2015.

"I was very proud to be part of FSU Law as it grew into this incredible institution, and it was fun to return and teach this semester and see how it continues to flourish."

Alum Profile: Nicki Mohr Hall ('10)

Nicki Mohr Hall is an assistant state attorney at the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, where she serves as the deputy chief of the juvenile division. She oversees a team of 11 attorneys in juvenile court while continuing to prosecute major crimes in circuit criminal court. Mohr has been an attorney with the office since 2012 and she previously served as a lead trial attorney in the circuit criminal division. She began her career as an assistant public defender for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County from 2010–2012. In 2017, Mohr graduated from the Keble College International Trial Advocacy Course at Oxford. She is also active in her community and currently serves on the Junior League of Tampa's Leadership Council.



"Transitioning from being in the trenches of a felony trial division to overseeing about a dozen young attorneys just beginning their legal careers required a drastic shift in mentality for me this year, but I have loved every moment of it! Reaching a point in your career where you are able to impart your own experiences and advice to young lawyers has been one of my most rewarding professional achievements. To know that I am helping shape the future of our profession is a source of immense pride and professional fulfillment for me. I believe in the 'pull effect' of mentorship and leadership: the further I advance professionally thanks to those who took the time to teach me, the more obligation I feel as a mentor to pull others up as well."

Student Profile: 3L Oma "Zack" Nations

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee or Washington, D.C.

Expected Graduation: May 2020

Field of Law Sought: Government affairs and public policy



Originally from Melbourne, Florida, Zack Nations will become a double 'Nole when he graduates from FSU Law in May 2020. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and sociology from Florida State and worked as a criminal investigator at FSU for four years before entering law school. Currently, Nations is a legislative affairs intern at TECO Energy, where he assists TECO's State Government Team with tracking legislation, and conducting critical analysis of bills and amendments. He also briefs team members and elected officials on issues of concern for the industry as a whole. Last summer, Nations clerked for Ray Treadwell, general counsel for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. He worked on high-profile litigation in cases involving the restaurant and gaming industries, and drafted legislation for the agency regarding condominium law and policy. During his 2L year, Nations was a legislative intern for the Rules Committee in the Florida House of Representatives, where he conducted policy analysis, helped move legislation efficiently and coordinated the House Ceremonial Resolution Process. During the summer after his 1L year, Nations clerked for the Honorable Nina Ashenafi Richardson ('91) of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit.

Nations is a member of the FSU Law Trial Team and a justice on the Florida State University Supreme Court. If you are interested in hiring Nations after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"In the world of policy, it is often difficult to navigate successfully without relationships and mentors. FSU Law provides endless opportunities to meet and work with leaders in the federal, state and local governments. The relationships I have made by taking advantage of these opportunities have changed my life and career forever for the better!"



We need your support for student scholarships!

Visit law.fsu.edu/pavetheway to learn how you can change lives and pave the way for future FSU Law students while increasing the value of an FSU Law degree. As of February 3, 2020, we have raised \$1,646,183.36 toward our \$2 million campaign goal.

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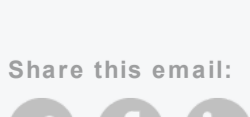
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