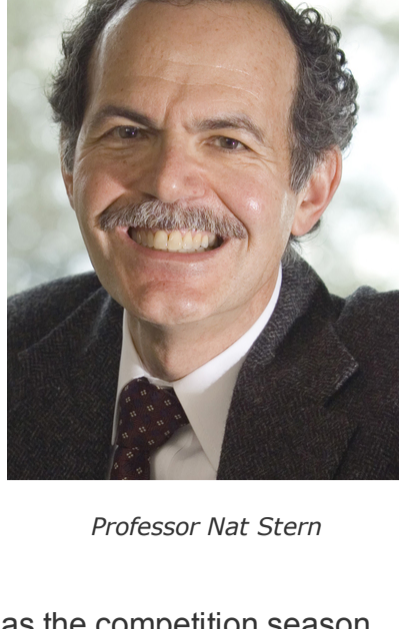


From the Dean

Congratulations to the talented student advocates on our Moot Court Team, which has been ranked the 14th best moot court program in the nation for the 2019-2020 competition season! Additionally, FSU Law was the top-ranked Florida law school this year. The rankings were released by the University of Houston Law Center's Blakely Advocacy Institute and are based on performance in national competitions, with larger competitions weighted more heavily. For 2019-2020, FSU Law's team won two national championships, finished as a runner-up and a semifinalist in one competition each, and won two best brief awards. These results are especially remarkable as the competition season was interrupted by COVID-19. Our Moot Court Team has been ranked among the nation's top moot court programs in previous seasons, with a ninth place ranking for 2009-2010 being our top performance. This year's ranking is in great part due to the dedication of many alumni, faculty members, and other attorneys and judges who served as coaches and judged practices for our students. Many thanks to everyone involved and a special thanks to John W. & Ashley E. Frost Professor Nat Stern, who has so ably served as faculty advisor to our Moot Court Team since 1993.



Professor Nat Stern

-Dean Erin O'Connor

"This year's high ranking reflects not only the exceptional talent and dedication of our team members, but also staunch support by my colleagues, the law school's administration, and many members of the legal community," said Professor Stern. *"I cannot resist noting how pleased I am that earlier obstacles to fully reporting the team's accomplishments have been resolved. For example, the team won four national championships and an international championship in 2011-12, yet only two national championships were reported to Houston."*

Alum Profile: The Honorable Paetra Brownlee ('09)

The Honorable Paetra Brownlee was appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court on May 1, 2020, and began her service on the civil division bench on May 28, 2020. Prior to her appointment, she was a partner at The Brownlee Law Firm in Orlando, where she dedicated her practice exclusively to appellate litigation. She has extensive experience in criminal and civil appellate law at both the state and federal levels. Brownlee previously chaired the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Ninth Judicial Circuit and, until becoming a judge, she was serving on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Fifth District Court of Appeal.



"I am both honored and humbled by my appointment to the Ninth Circuit Court. I have had an incredible amount of support from my family, friends and colleagues, and I am so grateful for that. I am also grateful to the governor for putting his trust and confidence in me. I am truly excited for the opportunity to serve."

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Viktor Lyusi

Desired Practice Location: Palm Beach, Broward or Miami-Dade counties

Field of Law Sought: Interested in commercial litigation, employment law, intellectual property and transactional work; has hopes of eventually segueing into the sports world

Viktor Lyusi is originally from Luhansk, Ukraine, but he considers Coral Springs, Florida, his hometown. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in Russian studies from the University of Central Florida. He graduated from FSU Law this May. During the summer after his 2L year, Lyusi worked two simultaneous internships, one with employment attorney Robert S. Norell in Plantation, Florida, and the other with sports attorney Darren Heitner in Fort Lauderdale. With Norell, Lyusi worked with claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. With Heitner, Lyusi's workload contained numerous commercial litigation issues, including breaches of contract, real estate acquisitions and intellectual property disputes. During his 2L year, Lyusi clerked remotely for Michael Lee, an intellectual property attorney in New York, where he gained exposure to trademark registration, trademark infringement litigation and various other IP concerns. During the summer after his 1L year, Lyusi clerked in the foreclosure litigation department of Greenspoon Marder.



During law school, Lyusi became interested in the art of negotiating player contracts thanks to the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society (EASL). This interest was heavily influenced by the Professional Football Negotiation Competition (PFNC) he attended at Tulane Law School in New Orleans. Lyusi attended the PFNC for three years, competing for two and coaching in his third. Lyusi also served on EASL's executive board as the 2018-19 secretary and 2019-20 president. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Lyusi, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"I'm very passionate about my interests and I want to end up somewhere where I am challenged. I know that I will work tirelessly to be a valuable asset wherever I land and look forward to starting my legal career after the bar exam!"

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Nathan Weinbaum

Desired Practice Location: South Florida

Field of Law Sought: Criminal law

Originally from Boynton Beach, Florida, Nathan Weinbaum earned a bachelor's degree in criminology with a minor in psychology from Florida State University. He became a double 'Nole when he graduated from FSU Law in May 2020. During the spring semester of his 3L year, Weinbaum worked as a certified legal intern in the Misdemeanor Division of the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit. He inherited a caseload of approximately 200 cases, all in different stages. In the few months before COVID-19 ended his internship prematurely, Weinbaum took several cases from intake to settlement and conducted two trials, the most recent of which he conducted entirely on his own—from jury selection to closing argument. The summer following his 2L year, Weinbaum interned at the State Attorney's Office for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in West Palm Beach, where he was assigned to the Felony Division. Weinbaum spent the summer helping attorneys with research, discovery and trial strategy. From 2018-2020, Weinbaum clerked for the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings in Tallahassee. He worked directly with workers' compensation judges in Miami-Dade County to approve or deny motions for attorney's fees in washouts and employer/carrier stipulations.



During law school, Weinbaum was a member of the FSU Law Trial Team. He participated in multiple competitions and received a Best Advocate Award at the Florida Justice Association Honorable E. Earle Zehmer Mock Trial Competition in 2018. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Weinbaum, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"I have a strong passion for litigation and criminal justice. As a criminology major in undergrad, I gained a fascination with the root causes of criminal activity, why people choose to commit illegal acts, and the best ways to rehabilitate society and the offender after the fact. My experience in both of the State Attorney's Offices I worked in only confirmed that this is the area where I would like to specialize."



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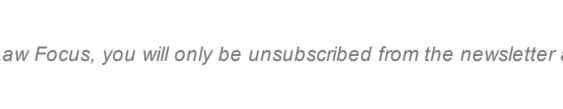
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