

From the Dean



Deans Bayern, Kahn, Landau, Ryan and Williams

Summer is usually a time when FSU Law faculty members focus on their scholarship, and this summer was no different. But in addition to researching and writing, professors also have been preparing for a fall semester that will include more robust Zoom courses and in-person classes with new protocols to ensure the health and safety of members of the law school community. Summer is also the time when we traditionally appoint and reappoint faculty associate deans. I hope you will join me in thanking the following faculty members who are serving in important leadership roles this academic year:

- Shawn J. Bayern, Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Jeffrey H. Kahn, Harry M. Walborsky Professor and Associate Dean for Business Law Programs
- David E. Landau, Mason Ladd Professor and Associate Dean for International Programs
- Erin Ryan, Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs
- Kelli Alces Williams, Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property and Associate Dean for Research

I would especially like to thank Shawn Bayern, who is now in his second year as associate dean for academic affairs. He had the unenviable task of creating a fall 2020 course schedule that adheres to social distancing policies and accommodates student and faculty preferences for remote learning and teaching. His tireless work on countless academic affairs issues helps advance the law school while conducting our affairs as safely as possible.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

2020 Alumni Magazine Hits Mailboxes

Our 2020 *Florida State Law* alumni magazines have been printed and mailed to alumni. You can view the online version or download the PDF from the [law school's website](#). This year's magazine includes a cover story about FSU Law alumna Debby Kearney ('81). Other alumni featured include Abb Payne ('01), Kareem J. Spratling ('06), and Bruce ('93) and Wendy Wiener ('93). In addition to the College of Law's annual report, there is also a piece on resilience and creativity in the wake of COVID-19, a Q&A with Professor Elissa Philip Gentry, and other news and accomplishments from the year.



Alum Profile: Jeffrey A. Ward ('76)

Jeffrey A. Ward recently retired from the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after more than 31 years of service there. He also recently self-published a book, *Bow Wow Needs a "Real" Lawyer! A Public Defender's Life*, about his 44-year career in criminal defense. Ward spent 37 of those years as a public defender in Miami and Minneapolis, and was in private practice in Miami for seven years. Ward's book details his "Top Ten List" of memorable cases, mostly murders, and mentions Ward's time at FSU Law, including the tremendous influence of FSU's clinical programs on his career.



"Criminal defense is not for the faint of heart; the same might be said of my book, which is only available at [wearereallawyers.org](#). It is a gritty, graphic, unfiltered and irreverent look behind the scenes of criminal trial work and our defenders of the Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel—serious material discussed with a sense of humor."

Student Profile: 3L Alexa Castellano

Desired Practice Location: Gainesville, Tallahassee or the Tampa/St. Petersburg area
Expected Graduation: May 2021
Field of Law Sought: Criminal law, also interested in personal injury and appellate law



Originally from Tampa, Alexa Castellano earned a bachelor's degree *cum laude* in criminology from the University of Florida. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. Castellano is planning to complete a criminal litigation externship during the spring 2021 semester. During her 2L year, she clerked at Jansen and Davis, P.A., where she researched relevant case law related to current cases and defense options, drafted motions for state and federal court, including motions for downward departure from federal sentencing guidelines, Reverse William's Rule motions and motions to dismiss. Last fall, Castellano also participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Children's Advocacy Clinic. She advised and represented three juvenile clients, drafted motions and interviewed clients in cases of financial assistance, education and mental health. She also prepared for and advocated at Individual Education Plan meetings. During the summer after her 1L year, Castellano externed with Judge Robert A. Bauman of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Tampa. She observed detention, adjudicatory and delinquency proceedings, researched relevant case law and statutes before trial, and trained in and utilized JAWs and Odyssey programs.

Castellano is a notes and comments editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* and a member of the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*. She is a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society and serves as a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office. This summer and during the fall 2020 semester, Castellano is a teaching assistant for the FSU Juris Master Program. During her 2L year, Castellano also served as alumni coordinator for the Association for Criminal Justice, activities director for the Women's Law Symposium and alumni outreach chair for LitiGators. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Castellano, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

"I have a strong passion for criminal justice, policy and research. The practical skills I have gained at FSU Law, namely through the Public Interest Law Center and my work at a criminal defense firm, will enable me to serve as an effective advocate."



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