

From the Dean



Debbie Kearney ('81) (right) accepts the 2019 Exemplary Public Service Career Award

We are now seeking nominations for our Exemplary Public Service Career Award, which recognizes alumni who have dedicated their careers to public service and have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, leadership, humility and professionalism, as well as the highest regard for ethics. The award aims to honor public servants whose dedication to the profession may otherwise go unnoticed. Additional considerations include:

- Length of the nominee's public service career
- Impact of the nominee's public service career (number of people served, significant legal achievements benefitting a large number of people, etc.)
- Nominee's demonstrated ability to inspire others
- Nominee's genuine concern for others, as displayed in various facets of the nominee's personal and professional life

Please send nominations to the committee at lawdean@law.fsu.edu by September 17, 2020. All nominations should include the nominee's name and an explanation of how they meet the award criteria. You may send additional documentation, including links to sources of information about the nominee. The award winner will be recognized later this year. In addition, a painted portrait of the award recipient will be displayed at the College of Law. Many thanks to those who endeavor to help us recognize extraordinary public servants by sending nominations!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

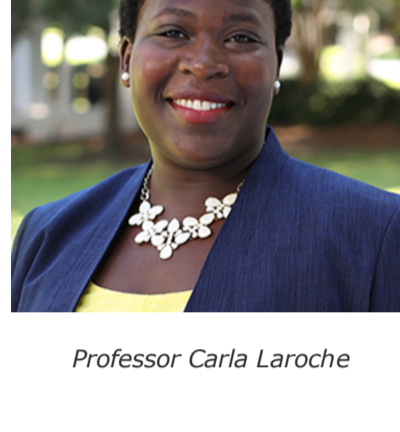
New COVID-19-Related Course Offerings for Fall 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the catalyst for two new course offerings this fall—a COVID-19 and Law course and the COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic. The three-credit COVID-19 Veterans Clinic course is being offered by the Public Interest Law Center (PILC). Student participants will handle cases for veterans related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of housing, consumer and stimulus check assistance. The course is being taught remotely, but client meetings may be virtual, in person or a combination, depending on client and student preferences and the technological comfort and capability of clients.



Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott

Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott ('07), director of the PILC Immigration and Farmworker Project, will be directing the COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic. Adjunct instructor Jamie Braun ('08) will be focusing on case management for the clinic. After conversations with community partners, the clinic is expecting a significant number of cases, especially when the governor's moratorium on foreclosures/evictions is lifted. The clinic is partially funded by The Florida Bar Foundation.



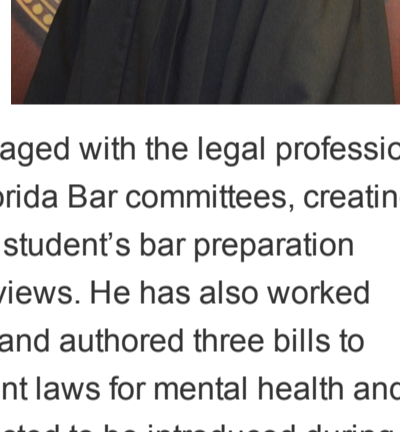
Professor Carla Laroche

"We are thrilled to launch the new COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic this fall, which aims to serve veterans facing civil legal issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," Scott said. "We are grateful for the support of The Florida Bar Foundation, which enables us to provide students with valuable hands-on experience while meeting a critical community need."

In addition, COVID-19 and Law is a new three-credit course taught by FSU Law Clinical Professor Carla Laroche, director of the PILC Gender and Family Justice Clinic. This new upper-level writing course focuses on the fact that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal profession will need to address questions about healthcare, employment, limited access to the courts, restrictions of civil rights and liberties, the spread of virus in prisons, the disproportionate harms to people of color, and the interaction between a pandemic and public protests. Through weekly readings, class discussions, student presentations and seminar papers, students will examine COVID-19's current and lasting effects.

Alum Profile: The Honorable Alvan Balent, Jr. ('10)

Alvan Balent, Jr. was appointed general magistrate for probate matters for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida in July 2018. Prior to his appointment, Balent served as an assistant general counsel for the Eleventh Circuit, where he worked on a wide variety of cases, such as Miami's same-sex marriage decision, but his primary focus was probate and mental health law. He also served as an appeal referee adjudicating unemployment compensation cases at Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity. Balent has been very engaged with the legal profession throughout his career, serving on a number of Florida Bar committees, creating a pro bono scholarship award that pays for a law student's bar preparation study materials, and publishing in several law reviews. He has also worked closely with the Honorable Steven Leifman ('87) and authored three bills to comprehensively reform Florida's civil commitment laws for mental health and substance abuse treatment—these bills are expected to be introduced during the 2021 session of the Florida Legislature. He was also a member of The Florida Bar's Leadership Academy, Class III, and Leadership Florida Connect, Class 9. Balent recently was selected as a 2020 Notable Nole and will be recognized at a virtual awards ceremony in October. The award is presented by the FSU Alumni Association and recognizes young alumni who have made exceptional achievements and significant contributions to their profession, community/society or the university.



"In the 10 years since I graduated from FSU Law, I consider myself very fortunate to have had numerous professional successes, the most fulfilling of which was being selected as a general magistrate. While I always wanted to be on the bench, I have found Baker and Marchman Act proceedings to be both challenging and rewarding. I also know it was my time at FSU that prepared me for my legal career."

Student Profile: 3L Samuel Ostrow

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Field of Law Sought: Interested in employment law, government law, public policy/lobbying, political work (speechwriting), administrative law



Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Sam Ostrow earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Alabama. He will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. This summer, Ostrow clerked for Sniffen & Spellman, P.A., where he assisted with legal research for case preparation, primarily on employment law issues, but also those related to firearm background checks, law enforcement cases and defamation. During the spring semester of his 2L year, Ostrow was a teaching assistant for the Legislation & Regulation course within the FSU Law Juris Master Program. During the 2020 Legislative Session, Ostrow clerked for Representative Ben Diamond. He assisted with statutory interpretation, policy analysis, message crafting, speechwriting, constituent services and briefing Representative Diamond on all pieces of legislation before the Judiciary Committee. During the fall semester of his 2L year, Ostrow externed for the deputy general counsel of the Florida Commission on Human Relations, where he worked on discrimination cases and whistle-blower issues, drafted determinations and notices-of-right-to-amend, and assisted with statutory interpretation "public accommodations" idiosyncrasies. The summer following his 1L year, Ostrow participated in both the Judicial Externship Program and the In-House Corporate Counsel Externship Program. From May–June 2019, he clerked for Judge Martin Fitzpatrick ('94) of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. There, he assisted with legal research and cases, primarily family law and injunction. Then, from June–August 2019, Ostrow was a government relations legal extern for L3Harris Technologies in Washington, D.C. He assisted with statutory interpretation and policy analysis, with an emphasis on 5G issues.

At FSU Law, Ostrow serves as president of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society, vice president of the Jewish Law Students Association and Secretary of the Aviation and Space Law Society. He is a member of the Career Services Student Advisory Board and participates in many intramural sports with fellow law students. If you are interested in connecting with Ostrow or hiring him as a third-year student or after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"The best thing about FSU Law, consistently, has been relationships built with faculty and staff. They truly care about the well-being of students, from recruiting incoming 1Ls to helping graduates secure employment. I look forward to continuing to cultivate these relationships and building new ones with my greater Seminole community for many years to come."



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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 July 31, 2020, we have raised \$1,854,012.65 toward our \$2 million campaign goal.

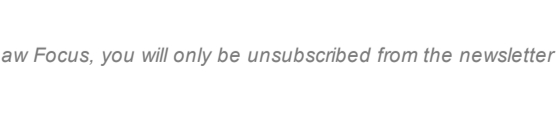
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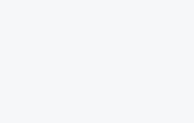
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