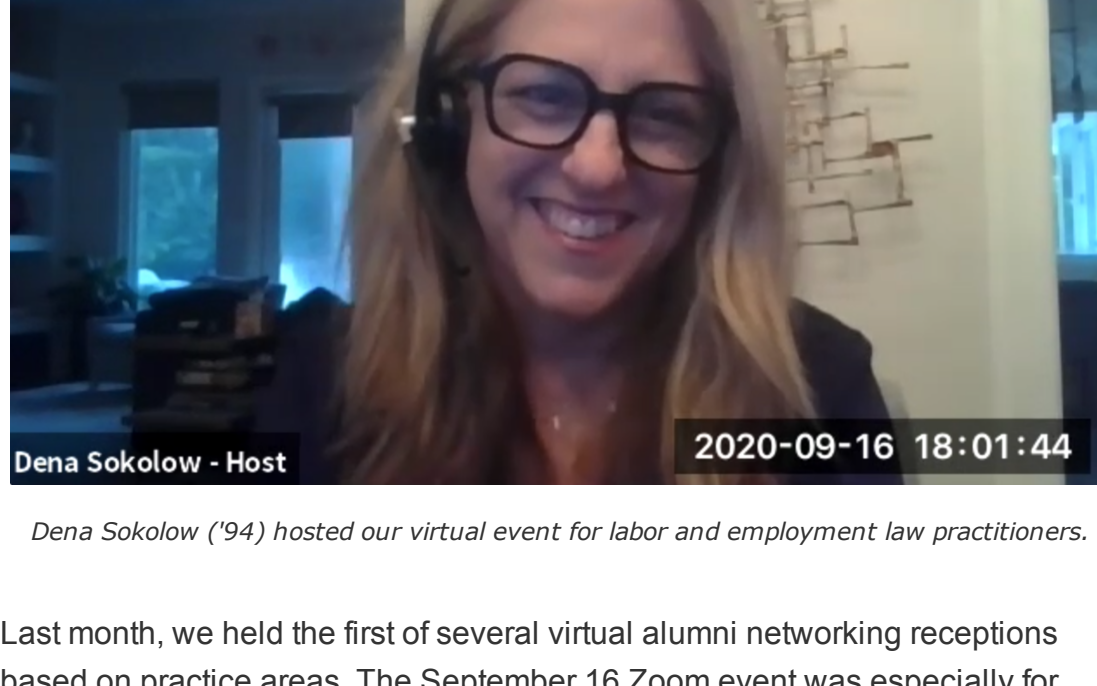


From the Dean



Dena Sokolow ('94) hosted our virtual event for labor and employment law practitioners.

Last month, we held the first of several virtual alumni networking receptions based on practice areas. The September 16 Zoom event was especially for alumni who practice labor and employment law and was hosted by alumna Dena Sokolow ('94), a shareholder at Baker Donelson in Tallahassee. This inaugural practice area reception was an opportunity for graduates to connect with other alumni to exchange ideas and discuss the current climate of their area of practice. Among other things, we enjoyed a robust discussion about how the pandemic has impacted attorneys' practices, and participants were able to share information about how they are dealing with extremely quick changes in the law and the business world. Twenty alumni with varied practices from Florida, New York, North Carolina and Virginia participated. In addition, several current students joined the meeting to learn more about labor and employment law and to network with alumni attorneys. We are looking forward to our next virtual networking event scheduled for October 21, which is for bankruptcy law practitioners and will be hosted by alumnus Jason Burnett ('88), managing shareholder at GrayRobinson's Jacksonville office. Alumni will be receiving an email with more information about this event next week. Several more practice area receptions are planned for the 2020-21 academic year and we hope to "see" many of you at future events!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Hosts "Remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg" Virtual Event



Professor Courtney Cahill during the "Remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Legacy Lives On" virtual session

On Wednesday, September 30, the FSU Law Office of Student Advancement, along with student groups If/When/How and Women's Law Symposium, hosted "Remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Legacy Lives On" via Zoom. More than 100 people attended the event. Professors Courtney Cahill and Mary Ziegler discussed the impact of Justice Ginsburg's work in the area of sex equality and what she meant to them personally, before opening the floor to comments and questions. Cahill, the Donald Hinkle professor, writes at the intersection of Constitutional law and sexuality. Ziegler, the Stearns Weaver Miller professor, specializes in the legal history of reproduction, the family, sexuality and the Constitution. Since Justice Ginsburg's death on September 18, Ziegler has authored op-eds for CNN, The Atlantic, The Washington Post and The Boston Globe, among others. She was also a guest on NPR's "Consider This" podcast, "PBS NewsHour" and "Good Day New York."

Cahill started her remarks with what she called Justice Ginsburg's huge, but often overlooked contribution to equality in America, an idea that relates to exceptionality.

"As a lawyer at the ACLU Women's Rights Project, which she co-founded, Ginsburg incrementally wove this idea of exceptionality into sex equality law by insisting in case after case after case that law does and must protect the exceptional person—the unusual man or unique woman," said Cahill. "I don't think this seems radical now, in large part because Justice Ginsburg mainstreamed it, but it was very radical in the 1970s when she was bringing these cases given that the court didn't strike down a sex discrimination statute under the Equal Protection Clause until 1971, which was more than 100 years after the Equal Protection Clause was passed and about a half a century after the 19th Amendment was passed."

Cahill went on to say, "If as an advocate Justice Ginsburg introduced this idea that sex equality law does and must respect and protect exceptional individuals, as a justice she really cemented it into an essential feature of anti-discrimination law."

Ziegler said that one of the things most striking to her about Justice Ginsburg's legacy was that she herself was an outsider and that her jurisprudence was informed by her personal experiences. "Throughout her career she was told no because of her gender or because of religion and that, I think, informed everything she did thereafter," said Ziegler. "The second most striking thing about her legacy was that Ginsburg understood that discrimination was harmful to outsiders and insiders alike."

A recording of the event is [available online](#).

Alum Profile: Lazaro P. Fields ('17)

Lazaro P. Fields is an assistant United States attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida, where he investigates and prosecutes cases involving allegations of narcotics trafficking, money laundering, violent crime and fraud. Prior to becoming a federal prosecutor, Fields practiced at Colson Hicks Eidson in Coral Gables, Florida, focusing in the areas of commercial litigation, personal injury and class action litigation. He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Federico A. Moreno of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. During law school, Fields was appointed by then-Governor Rick Scott as a gubernatorial fellow, where he worked at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Lottery; he also worked for the Judiciary Committee of the Florida House of Representatives. Prior to law school, Fields was a legislative aide to then-State Representative Carlos Trujillo ('07). Fields was very involved as a student at the law school, including participating on the Moot Court Team, and he now serves on the FSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.



"Representing the United States as a member of the Department of Justice has been the most professionally rewarding and humbling experience. I'm eternally grateful to the incredible faculty and staff at the FSU College of Law, as well as our wonderful alumni base that continually supports its alma mater."

Student Profile: 3L Troy Longman, II

Desired Practice Location: Tampa, Jacksonville or Tallahassee areas; open to the entire state of Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Field of Law Sought: Would like to practice insurance defense, workers' compensation, business law or investment management



Originally from Port Huron, Michigan, Troy Longman earned a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in criminal justice from Ferris State University. He will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. Since the beginning of his 2L year and through this summer, Longman clerked at the Florida Department of Financial Services Division of Workers' Compensation. He reviewed petitions submitted by employers challenging penalties assessed by the department. By the end of his clerkship, Longman was handling the majority of his own cases — communicating with opposing counsel, working on settlement negotiations, conducting depositions and participating in hearings at the Florida Department of Administrative Hearings. During his 1L summer, Longman clerked at Zausmer P.C., a large insurance defense firm in Farmington Hills, Michigan. This experience sparked his interest in insurance defense. Longman primarily worked on the Walmart corporation defense team defending personal injury cases, but he also spent time with trucking accidents and even wrote an article for the firm to send to clients regarding proposed changes to trucking law and insurance minimums.

Longman is a member of the Phi Delta Phi Honors Society and is a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office. He was formerly treasurer of Phi Alpha Delta. Additionally, Longman serves on the board of directors for the National Hemophilia Foundation, a large, national non-profit organization serving people with inherited bleeding disorders. While serving on the board, Longman says he has gained a tremendous knowledge on board governance and non-profit organization. If you are interested in connecting with Longman or hiring him after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"My experience at Florida State University College of Law, both working and in class, has provided me with a legal education built to transition into the practice of law. The outstanding faculty and my fellow students have made me strive to be my best while making my law school experience extremely enjoyable."

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We need your support for student scholarships!

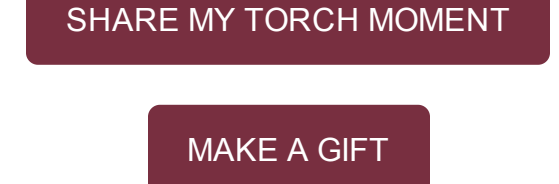
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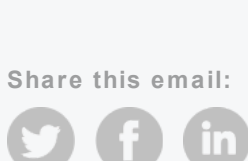
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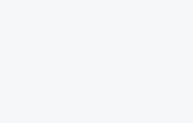
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