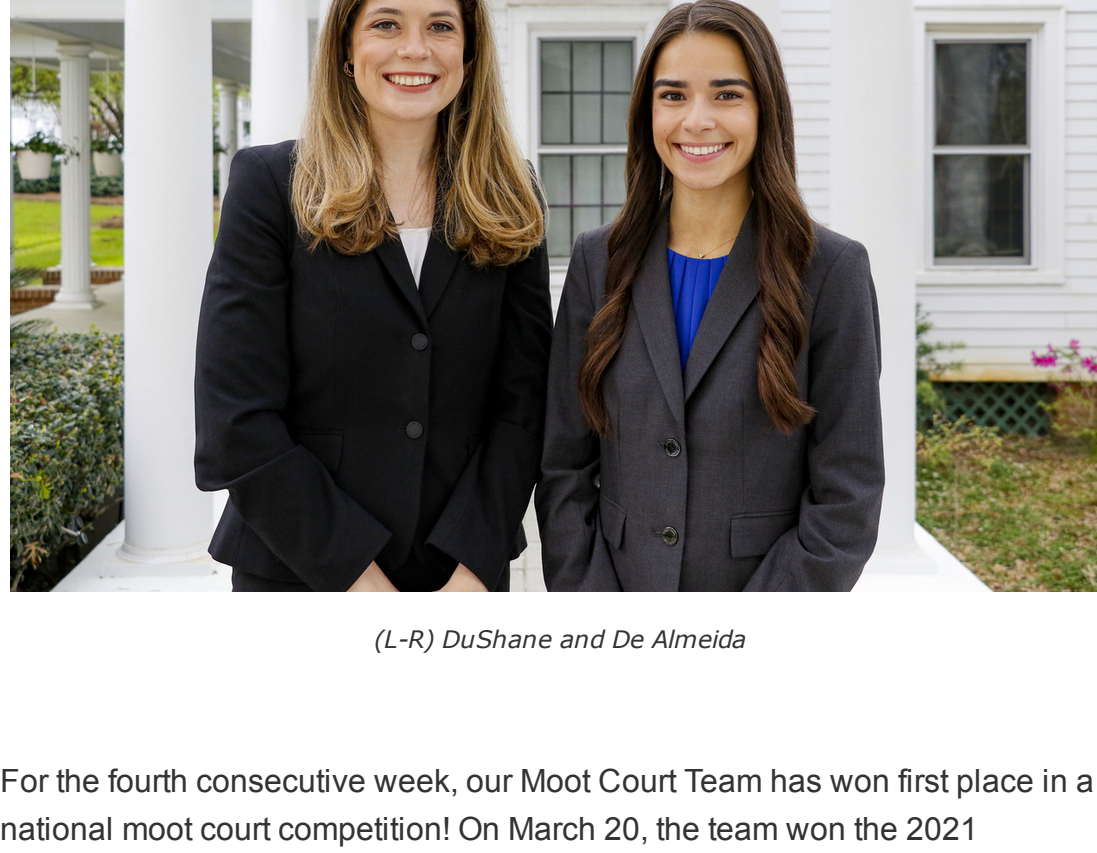


## From the Dean



(L-R) DuShane and De Almeida

For the fourth consecutive week, our Moot Court Team has won first place in a national moot court competition! On March 20, the team won the 2021 Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup National First Amendment Moot Court Competition, which took place virtually March 19-20 and was hosted by Columbus School of Law. This was our team's fifth win of the competition season.

Twenty-five law school teams from 16 states participated in the competition, including a team from the University of Wisconsin, which Florida State beat in the final round.

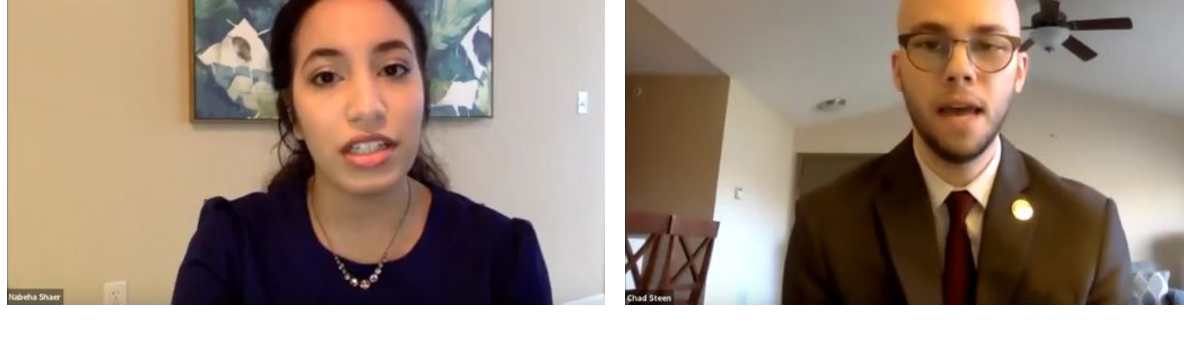
Winning team members are third-year law students Gabriela De Almeida and Hannah DuShane. In addition, third-year student Julia McDonald participated in the brief writing portion of the competition. De Almeida was also named Second-Best Oralist for her performance in the preliminary rounds and DuShane received a perfect score in the "knowledge of law" category from all three judges in the final round. In 2020, De Almeida and DuShane also won first place in the Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Moot Court Competition.

FSU Law alumni Jonathan Martin ('15), who practices at Bishop & Mills in Tallahassee, and Ian Waldick ('16), who practices at Oertel, Fernandez, Bryant & Atkinson, P.A. in Tallahassee, coached the team to victory. Martin and Waldick previously coached an FSU team to a national championship in the same competition in 2018 and won a national competition together as students in 2015.

On March 13, FSU Law's Moot Court Team won the 2021 UCLA School of Law Cybersecurity Moot Court Competition. On March 6, the team won the 2021 Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition. On February 27, they won the 2021 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law. Florida State also won first place in the 2020 Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition in November 2020. Please join me in congratulating our talented students and their dedicated coaches!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

## Students Present Before International Commission as Part of New Lawyering a Movement Course



(L-R) 3Ls Shaer and Steen presenting before the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the United States

This semester, FSU Law offered Lawyering a Movement: #JusticeforGeorgeFloyd, a new course taught by nationally renowned civil rights attorneys and FSU Law alumni Benjamin Crump ('95) and Jasmine Rand ('09). The six-week short course evaluated the intersection of criminal law, civil law and social justice advocacy through the lens of the police killings of George Floyd and others. Students were challenged to conceptualize the role of the attorney outside of the courtroom and learned how attorneys strategically utilize media, social media, the arts and partnerships to advance social-justice movements, to accomplish specific legal goals and to advocate for systemic reform.

As part of the course, third-year law students Nabeha Shaer and Chad Steen advocated for Michael Brown's family in their case before the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the United States for the purpose of providing information the United Nations. The hearings were a process by which witnesses could present accounts of the unjustified killings of Black people by police officers in the United States before an international panel of human rights experts.

In addition to presentations by Rand, Crump and Michael Brown's mother Lezley McSpadden, Shaer presented on the number of injured protestors and the attacks on media following the killing of Michael Brown in 2014. Steen presented on systemic reform laws that have been enacted since Michael Brown's death and stated, "despite all of this, since 2017, police in America have shot and killed at least 893 Black individuals with at least 226 of those shootings happening just last year."

A video recording and transcript of the hearing on the case of Michael Brown [can be found online](#). "It has been a true honor to be entrusted with this type of work, particularly by Michael Brown's mother," said Shaer. "I am so grateful to FSU Law for securing this necessary class with these phenomenal professors and leaders."

Crump is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law. As the attorney to the families of Michael Brown, George Floyd and many others who have died during interactions with police, Crump has become a central figure in America's civil rights and justice reform movements. Rand is the founding attorney of Rand Law, L.L.C., a Miami-based civil litigation firm. She is known for her civil rights work, representation of the Michael Brown family, and current work as the international legal and media strategist for the George Floyd legal team.

## Alum Profile: Maxwell J. Dauerman ('12)

Maxwell J. "Max" Dauerman is an executive relationship manager at Ultimate Kronos Group (UKG), a leading human capital management provider in Weston, Florida. Dauerman provides clients with engaging human resources, payroll and talent management solutions to help businesses succeed. He has assisted hundreds of organizations in surpassing their business goals. Dauerman previously practiced law at Young, Berner, Karpf & Gonzalez; Ritter Chusid; and Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer.



He remains engaged with FSU Law and currently serves on the law school's Alumni Association Board of Directors as chair of the Development Committee. Dauerman is committed to his community, serving as chair of the Ghost Light Society supporting the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and on the steering committee of Walk Like MADD & MADD Dash Fort Lauderdale, the nation's largest and fastest growing fundraiser for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

*"Even though my professional journey has taken me away from the day-to-day practice of law, the lessons learned throughout my studies at FSU are invaluable to any career path one could take. It's so rewarding to contribute to the FSU Law community, to both continue to stay engaged with my peers and to serve as a resource for the next generation of FSU law students."*

## Student Profile: 3L Vanessa Marquez

**Desired Practice Location:** South Florida area, specifically Miami  
**Expected Graduation:** Spring 2021  
**Specialization:** Criminal law  
**Field of Law Sought:** Criminal law, civil rights law or immigration law



Vanessa Marquez was born and raised in Miami. She earned a degree in English with a minor in communication from FSU and will become a double 'Nole when she graduates from FSU Law in April. Marquez has had a long-standing interest in criminal law and has completed nearly every criminal law course offered by the law school. Last semester's Intro to Legal Studies and Research class. During her 2L summer, Marquez clerked for the Innocence Project of Florida, where she conducted legal research and drafted memoranda for staff attorneys, suggesting possible avenues of relief for potential clients and evaluating claims of innocence. During the summer after her 1L year, Marquez interned for the Honorable Lourdes Simon, of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. She assisted the judge with orders, drafted legal memoranda and conducted legal research on a variety of criminal, law related topics. Although the majority of her work experience has focused on criminal law, Marquez says she is incredibly passionate about civil rights law and would also love the opportunity to work in that field. This semester, she participated in the new Lawyering a Movement: #JusticeforGeorgeFloyd class taught by Benjamin Crump ('95) and Jasmine Rand ('09), and says that not only has her passion for civil rights grown, but her knowledge and understanding of the field has increased exponentially.

During law school, Marquez has been a member of the Student Bar Association, the Cuban American Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta, the Association of Criminal Justice and the Women's Law Symposium. She was also a member of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, where she served as 1L representative, and the Trafficking in America Task Force, where she was secretary during her 2L year. Additionally, she served as a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office and has been a student mentor and LSAT tutor to undergraduate students who are interested in attending law school. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Marquez after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#) or contact her at [vm14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:vm14e@my.fsu.edu).

*"At the end of the day, what matters most to me is having the opportunity to help others. Whether that be through criminal law, civil rights law or any other field of law, I want to use my academic and professional training to serve others. I am very excited to see what opportunities the future holds for me."*

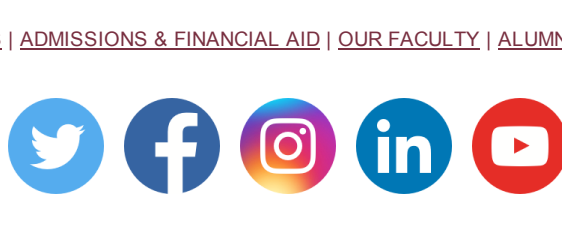
GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

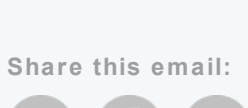
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