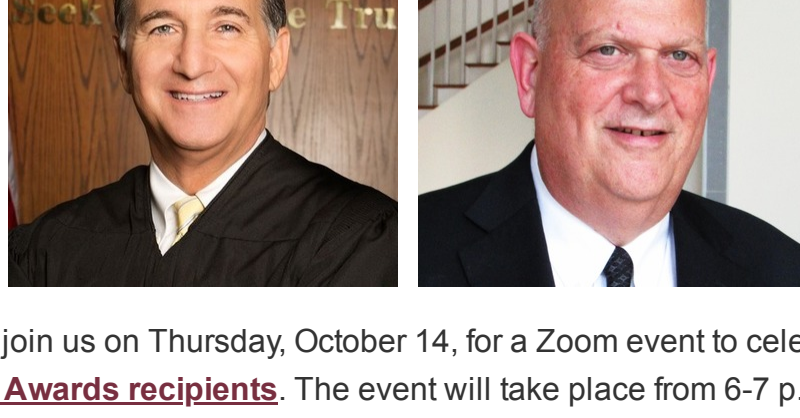
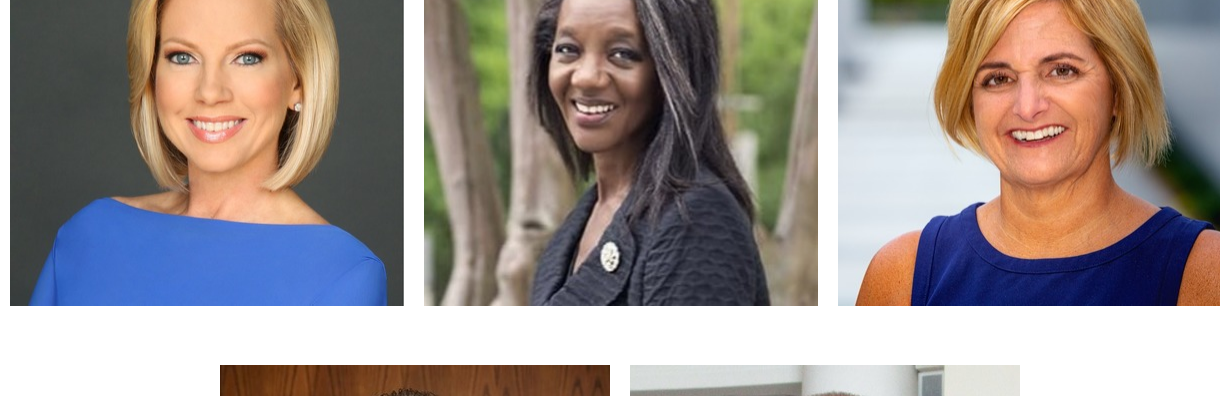


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## From the Dean



I invite you to join us on Thursday, October 14, for a Zoom event to celebrate our **2021 Alumni Awards recipients**. The event will take place from 6-7 p.m. and will include the presentation of awards and remarks by the award recipients and other guests. We will be honoring (pictured above clockwise from top left) Shannon Bream ('96) with the Distinguished Alum Award, Pamela Burch Fort ('77) with the Alumni Association Service Award, Senator Lorraine Ausley with the Class of '66 Award, Alan Abramowitz ('89) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award, and Judge Steve Leifman ('87) with the Exemplary Public Service Career Award. Each of these individuals has contributed in many important ways to the law school and the legal community. You can [register online](#) to attend the event and Zoom information will be provided upon registration. I hope you will join us as we celebrate our deserving award recipients!

*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

## Trial Team Again Ranked #15 Nationally



(L-R) FSU Trial Team members Halley Lewis, IV, Sidney Carter, Shaina Ruth, and Christopher Ramirez won the Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition in October 2020.

For the second year in a row, the FSU Law Trial Team has been ranked 15th best in the nation! Additionally, FSU is one of only four public law schools ranked in the top 20. The 2021 Trial Competition Performance Rankings by the Fordham University School of Law Brendan Moore Trial Advocacy Center rank law school trial teams based on their results in national and select regional competitions. This remarkable achievement comes after team members won first place in the 2020 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition; were finalists in the 2020 In Vino Veritas National Mock Trial Competition and the 2021 National Trial Competition Regionals; and were semifinalists in the 2020 Hofstra Medical-Legal Competition, the 2020 Summit Cup Competition, and the 2021 American Association for Justice Regional Competition. During the 2020-2021 competition season, several trial team members also were recognized at competitions with individual awards, including Best Advocate and Outstanding Advocate honors. The Trial Team's success would not have been possible without the dedication of team advisor Tor Friedman ('05), the team's skilled coaches, and the countless other alumni and faculty members who help the Trial Team prepare for competitions. Congratulations to the student advocates and their coaches on this outstanding ranking!

## Alum Profile: Miguel R. Acosta ('07)

Miguel R. Acosta currently serves as an assistant United States attorney in the criminal division of the United States Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Georgia. He was appointed to this position in February 2019 and is primarily responsible for prosecuting federal drug, money laundering, and fraud offenses. Acosta began his legal career as a judge advocate in the United States Air Force after law school. While on active duty, he tried several cases as both a prosecutor and defense counsel, and he deployed to Iraq in 2009 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom to support detainee operations. After separating from active duty in 2012, Acosta was a law clerk for the Honorable Karla R. Spaulding of the Middle District of Florida. After finishing his clerkship, he worked at Gobel Flakes, LLC in Orlando, heading the law firm's federal litigation and appellate section for about five years. Since leaving active duty, Acosta served as a member of the Florida Air National Guard for about seven years, was activated for disaster response to Hurricane Irma in 2017, and was deployed to the southwest border of the United States in 2018 as a special assistant U.S. attorney to prosecute immigration crimes. He currently is a lieutenant colonel in the Georgia Air National Guard, heading the Savannah Air National Guard Base legal office.



*“As a federal prosecutor and member of the military, I've been able to serve my community and country while at the same time getting to experience some unique legal challenges and adventures. It would not have been possible without the solid foundation and direction I gained in law school at FSU.”*

## Student Profile: 3L Landus Anderson

**Desired Practice Location:** Tallahassee, Tampa, Washington, D.C., or Dallas

**Expected Graduation:** May 2022

**Specialty:** Business law

**Field of Law Sought:** Government affairs, business litigation and transactional, or economic development in traditionally underserved communities

Originally from Quincy, Florida, Landus Anderson earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, where he also played basketball. He is pursuing the Business Law Certificate at FSU Law and will graduate in the spring. Since May 2021, Anderson has worked as a law clerk at Stearns Weaver Miller in Tallahassee, where he works with the legislative affairs director, drafting legislation, creating advocacy plans, conducting legislative research, and regularly participating in client meetings. He also conducts legal research and document reviews, drafts memos and deposition summaries, and performs online newsletter updates. From August 2019 through May 2021, Anderson worked as a law clerk with Ben Crump Law, PLLC. There, he conducted research for high-profile civil rights litigation cases, including George Floyd's and Breonna Taylor's cases. He also helped with trial preparation and client communication by assisting with case intakes and rejection letters, and he drafted motions and assisted the firm's social media team. From June 2020 to April 2021, Anderson was a law clerk/legislative analyst with Pittman Law Group, where he provided policy research on behalf of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus and conducted reports on bills and committee meetings of state representatives. In addition, he researched ordinances, drafted motions and assisted with litigation preparation for various counties in Florida. During the summer of 2020, Anderson worked as a legal intern with the Florida House Minority Office, where he performed research and assisted in editing publications for state representatives, staff, and lobbyists, and for general distribution.



At FSU Law, Anderson is the president of the Student Bar Association, the executive article selection editor of the Florida State University Business Review, a Raising the Bar student advisor, and a research assistant for Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor Donald J. Weidner. As a 2L, Anderson served as vice president of the Black Law Students Association and as vice president of the FSU chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. In addition, he is a preeminent scholar. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Anderson after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#).

*“FSU Law helped me develop my true passion—a passion for adding value, and inspiring as many people as I can every day. Overall, I have a strong affinity for interacting with diverse communities of people. I plan to forge a career as a visionary for businesses and provide strategic legal problem solving for clients in the business law and government affairs arenas.”*

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