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From the Dean



(L-R) Panelists Alice Kaswan, Catrina Rorke, and Marc Hafstead.

Last week, we hosted national climate experts at the law school and virtually for a panel, “The Political Case For (and Against) Carbon Pricing.” The event was moderated by Shi-Ling Hsu, our D’Alemberte Professor, and featured Danny Cullenward, policy director at CarbonPlan and a research fellow at the American University’s Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy; Marc Hafstead, director of the Carbon Pricing Initiative at Resources for the Future; Alice Kaswan, professor and associate dean at the University of San Francisco School of Law; and Catrina Rorke, senior vice president for policy and research at the Climate Leadership Council. Panelists discussed three carbon pricing alternatives for reducing emissions: a carbon tax, a cap-and-trade program, and offsets. They debated whether to continue advocacy for an economy-wide carbon tax to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, addressing the economic, political, and environmental justice implications of carbon taxation. Among other issues, panelists covered why the economics and politics of carbon pricing have not aligned and how that has impacted national policy discussions. An [event recording](#) is available online.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O’Connor

Moot Court Team Wins National Competition



(L-R) Niko Athanas and Jack Boudet

For the second year in a row, the Moot Court Team won first place in the UCLA School of Law Cybersecurity Moot Court Competition, which took place virtually on March 12. In addition to winning the national competition, the team won the Best Brief Award. Twenty-two law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from the University of California, Berkeley; Georgetown University; George Washington University; and Emory University. Florida State competed against New York University in the final round. Judges for the final round were the Honorable Judge Wesley Hsu, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in California; Tracy Wilkison, acting United States Attorney for the Central District of California; and Garrett Gorlitsky, a former deputy attorney general for California. Winning team members were third-year law students Jackson “Jack” Boudet and Nicholas “Niko” Athanas. The team was coached to victory by FSU Law alumni Michael Kaney (’18) and Ben Taylor (’19).

“We are so proud of our student advocates and thankful for the efforts of their coaches,” said Dean Erin O’Connor. “This national win is especially impressive because of the competition’s format, in which the twenty-two participating teams were directly cut down to two finalists without any intervening knockout rounds.”

PILC Students Advocate for Children

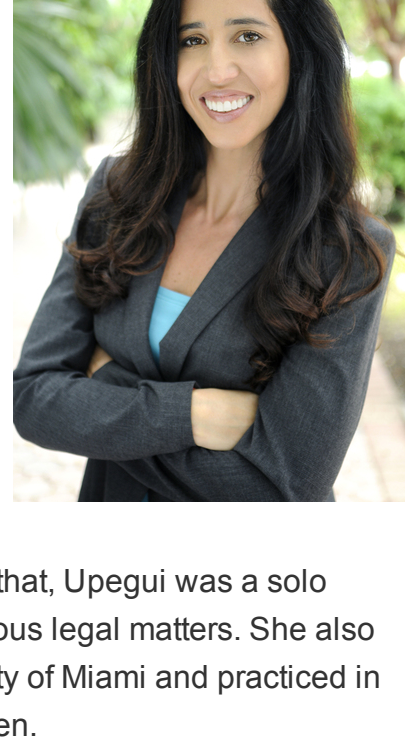


(L-R) Clinical Professor Ashley Hamill and 2L Sofia Azpurua

In February, three Public Interest Law Center students published opinion pieces in major newspapers across Florida. 2L Emily Wood published “[Florida Should End Solitary Confinement of Children](#)” in the Tampa Bay Times on February 28. 3L Precious Chavez published “[Remove Our Children From Solitary Confinement](#)” in the Tallahassee Democrat on February 27. 2L Olivia Ingram published “[Ban Solitary Confinement for Children](#)” in the Orlando Sentinel on February 24 and published “[Take a Stand Against Child Labor in Cocoa Fields](#)” in the Sarasota Herald Tribune on February 9. Earlier this semester, on January 24, 2L Sofia Azpurua testified at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Senate Bill 1808, which would reduce the reunification of unaccompanied immigrant children with their caregivers in Florida. She shared the story of a Cuban refugee who came to the U.S. as a child in the 1960s and who would have been turned away if this law had been in effect then.

Alum Profile: Sandra M. Upegui (’99)

Sandra M. Upegui recently became general counsel of the Public Library of Science (PLOS), a nonprofit, open access publisher empowering researchers to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication. In this new role, Upegui is responsible for overseeing all company legal matters, including the company’s global expansion, compliance, and contracting with strategic partners to support PLOS’ mission of expanding open science. She previously served as senior legal counsel at Dufry Group, a travel retail corporation, where she managed legal matters for global operations in Latin America, the Middle East, and Australia. Prior to that, Upegui was a solo practitioner and advised business clients on various legal matters. She also was an assistant general counsel at the University of Miami and practiced in the International Practice Group at Shutts & Bowen.



“I am excited about my new role with PLOS and am grateful for the diverse experience I have had—starting as an associate at Shutts & Bowen in the international practice group to my experience as in-house counsel at the University of Miami and the Dufry Group. All these great career experiences have led me to this amazing opportunity with PLOS, a non-profit with an important mission to expand open science globally.”

Student Profile: 3L Matthew Strong

Desired Practice Location: New York City
Expected Graduation: May 2022
Field of Law sought: Transactional business law or civil litigation

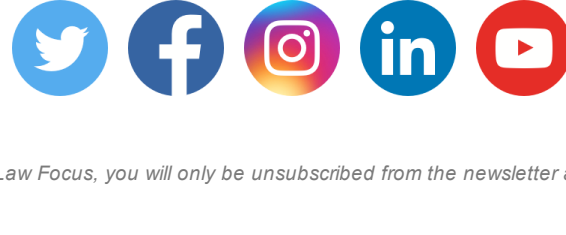


Matthew Strong, from Nashville, Tennessee, completed a Bachelor of Science in international affairs at Florida State University and will become a double 'Nole when he graduates from FSU Law in May. During the summer before Strong’s 3L year, he worked as a teaching assistant for Professor Richard Benham’s Contracts class. His primary responsibility as a TA was grading students’ quizzes, discussion boards, and exams, and he also held weekly office hours to meet with students to discuss contract law and provide feedback on their work. During the summer before his 2L year, Strong interned with Cheatham, Palermo, and Garrett in Franklin, Tennessee, where he worked under a divorce attorney. His tasks included organizing case files, drafting motions and memoranda, and writing complaints. He also assisted with preparing for and conducting mediations and depositions, and he attended a trial as well as several settlement conferences. Additionally, Strong helped create discovery documents and conducted research for his supervising attorney.

At FSU Law, Strong served as a staff editor for volume 21 of the *FSU Business Review* and was previously a member of the Business Law Society. His coursework focused on business/corporate law. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Strong after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at m1s14u@my.fsu.edu.

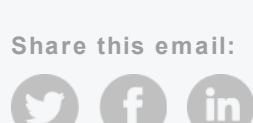
“Throughout law school, I discovered a passion for working with clients and attorneys. I’ve found working on projects with and for others to be immensely satisfying and rewarding. It’s been the perfect way to combine my interpersonal, writing, and research skills.”

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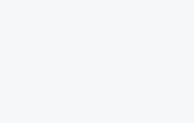
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