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## From the Dean



Judge Patricia A. Seitz talks to FSU Law students.

On March 30, the Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, a senior judge of the United States Court for the Southern District of Florida, joined us for a special visit to engage with our students and faculty members. Judge Seitz attended Professor Chuck Ehrhardt's Evidence and Professor Wayne Logan's Criminal Procedure: Adjudication classes. She spoke to students on the journals and Moot Court Team over lunch, had tea with Women's Law Symposium students and local alumni, and attended the *Florida State University Law Review* banquet. Judge Seitz also met with faculty members of the Judicial Clerkship Committee.

During the lunch and tea sessions, Judge Seitz made inspirational remarks to students. Among other topics, she discussed the importance of being grateful and positive, overcoming obstacles, embracing opportunities, building relationships, finding role models, and balancing work and life. She also talked about how exciting it is that there are far more women in the profession compared with when she was in law school, and about her experiences as The Florida Bar's first female president.

Judge Seitz was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton, confirmed, and commissioned in 1998, and she took senior status in 2012. Before joining the United States Court for the Southern District of Florida, she served as director of the Office of Legal Counsel for the Office of National Drug Control Policy; practiced for more than 20 years at Steel, Hector & Davis, LLP, where she was the first woman lawyer hired by the firm; was an adjunct professor at the University of Miami; and was the first female law clerk for Judge Charles Richey of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

## Admitted Students Visit Campus



Students mingle during the Preview Day ice cream social.

Last week, admitted students from around the nation visited campus for Admitted Student Preview Day, where they heard from the FSU Law community about the world of opportunities available to them at FSU College of Law. After joining alumni and current students on Thursday evening for a reception and student organization fair at the FSU Doak Campbell Stadium, admitted students spent the following day learning more about the advantages of attending FSU for law school. Friday's programming included welcoming remarks by Dean Erin O'Connor; a mock class with Jeff Kahn, the Harry M. Walborsky professor and associate dean for business law programs; an alumni panel featuring Rebecca Bandy ('05), Ginger Boyd ('00), Daynica Harley ('21), and Kenneth Pratt ('99); tours of the law school led by current student ambassadors; a tour of the Florida Supreme Court featuring Justice Carlos Muñoz and alumnus Justice Alan Lawson ('87); a session on "What Makes Lawyers Happy" with Clinical Professor and Co-Director of Clinical Externship Programs Larry Krieger; and an ice cream social with members of the faculty. The law school community is looking forward to welcoming many of the attendees back this fall as members of the Class of 2025.

## Alum Profile: Ashley Hayes ('11)

**Ashley Hayes** was recently promoted to partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon. Hayes practices in the firm's Tampa office and is a member of the Product Liability Group, where she focuses on defending companies in product liability actions and complex litigation, with an emphasis on smoking-and-health cases. Hayes is a member of the firm's Engle-progeny team, and works on other tobacco litigation. In addition, she has substantial commercial litigation experience and represents corporate clients in both defense and prosecution of complex business litigation matters, including breach-of-contract matters, business tort defense, financial recovery actions, and counterclaim defense. Hayes also serves as treasurer of the firm's Junior Women's Management Council and is the former diversity and inclusion advocate for the Tampa office. Prior to joining Shook, Hardy & Bacon in 2016, Hayes was an associate at de Beaubien, Simmons, Knight, Mantzaris & Neal, LLP, where she focused on commercial litigation. Hayes is also involved in pro bono work as an attorney ad litem for Crossroads for Florida Kids, and is a member of the Junior League of Tampa and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers.



***"I am honored and excited to be promoted to partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, and to take the next step in my career as a litigator. My practice has always been fast-paced and complex, and has given me the privilege to work with—and against—some exceptional attorneys. I'm grateful for the foundational legal skills that FSU College of Law provided me, and the colleagues, mentors, and friends that have challenged me and supported me throughout my legal career."***

## Student Profile: 3L Sarah Brazill

**Desired Practice Location:** Orlando, Florida

**Expected Graduation:** May 2022

**Field of Law Sought:** In-house corporate counsel

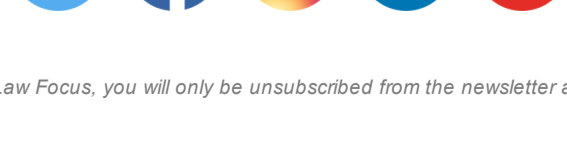
Sarah Brazill is from Eustis, Florida. She attended Florida State University for undergraduate studies, majoring in philosophy, and she will graduate from FSU Law in May as a double 'Nole with the Business Law Certificate. Last semester, Brazill was an in-house legal intern with NASCAR. She drafted and negotiated major contracts involving sponsorships/partnerships, land use, and employment. She also resolved trademark disputes to remove infringing products and actively participated in conference negotiations for letters of default to settlement. In addition, she collaborated with the marketing, risk, tracks, business, and HR departments to supply materials and guidance, and she provided legal support to subsidiaries, assisting with questions, contracts, communications, and document retention. In the summer of 2021, Brazill was an in-house legal intern with Green Point Research, where she engaged in all legal aspects of the cannabis industry, including incorporating a subsidiary and working on the marketing and international sales of products. She also communicated internally and with various state agencies to ensure labeling, ingredient, testing, marketing, and permit compliance, and she established a processing facility, working on its contracts, permits, certifications, manuals, and environmental compliance. From August 2020 to August 2021, Brazill worked as a legal assistant at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. There, she reviewed all orders released by the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission for Florida, compiled and presented monthly reports for senior management regarding changes in law and administrative performance, proposed new legislation, and provided legal guidance and training. During the summer of 2020, Brazill was a judicial intern at the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida, where she reviewed motions and drafted relevant memoranda and recommendations. She authored published orders for both civil and criminal cases and gained experience in numerous areas, including contracts, Florida civil procedure, criminal law, and torts. She also participated in plea and settlement negotiations, hearings, and sentencing.



At FSU Law, Brazill has been a member of the Student Bar Association, Women's Law Symposium, and Animal Legal Defense Fund. Outside of law school, she participated in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Hemp Committee and Council meetings, and as an undergraduate, she founded the Animal Society at FSU. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Brazill after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [slb17d@my.fsu.edu](mailto:slb17d@my.fsu.edu).

***"Through my work at NASCAR and a growing cannabis company, I have learned that corporate counsel often involves a tightrope walk between business and legal affairs. Compliance is important, but the role of in-house counsel is not to constrain the company or their creativity. If your company is seeking a team player who encourages innovation to further corporate expansion, you have found your in-house attorney."***

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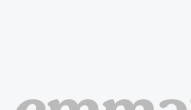
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