

From the Dean



We are excited to invite you to join us for the law school's Homecoming 2022 festivities, which begin on Friday, September 30, with an FSU Homecoming Pig Roast from 6-10 p.m. for all alumni. The event is sponsored by Sean Pittman ('94) and Pittman Law Group, and it will provide an opportunity to connect with fellow law school alumni, other university alumni, and community leaders. On Saturday, October 1, all alumni are invited to our Alumni Board meeting, and all alumni and their families are invited to the Law Alumni Tailgate Party on the law school's James Harold Thompson Green prior to the FSU v. Wake Forest football game. Events will conclude on Sunday, October 2, with a 50-Year Alumni Brunch celebrating the Class of 1972, sponsored by class members F. Palmer Williams, Kirk Brown, George Cappy, Mary Clark, Ken Connor, David Fletcher, David Fonvielle, Bill Gary, Wayne Hogan, Tom Johnson, and Charles Tunnichiff. You can visit our website to [learn more about the festivities and register](#). I look forward to seeing you and your families!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Rima Nathan ('19)

Rima Nathan recently joined FSU Law as a clinical professor and director of the new Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic. Nathan previously practiced in the areas of complex civil litigation, trials, and appeals, and she served as a judicial clerk to Justice Jorge Labarga of the Supreme Court of Florida. She is teaching Aging and the Law during the fall 2022 semester and will launch the Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic for students in the spring 2023 semester. While a student at FSU Law, Nathan served as a research assistant to Professor Annino in the Public Interest Law Center's Children's Advocacy Clinic and worked as a student attorney at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Nathan served as an article editor for the *Florida State University Law Review* and was an award-winning member of the FSU Law Moot Court Team. Nathan now serves as a coach for the Moot Court Team. She also was a member of the FSU Flying High Circus as an undergraduate and law student at FSU.

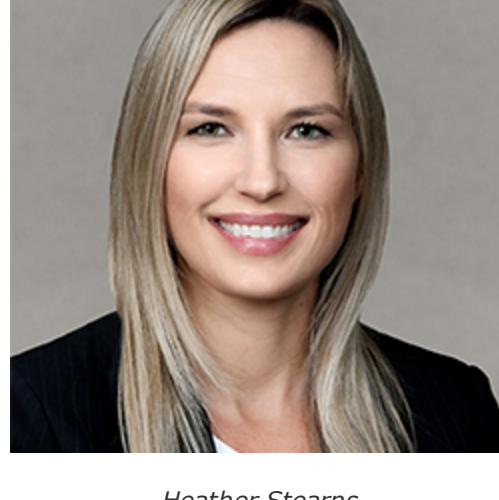


“I am so grateful to be returning to the FSU Law community to build a program that will empower elders and enable students to gain hands-on experience and valuable knowledge of the diverse legal issues facing our aging population. I love how passionate our students are about supporting this vulnerable population and look forward to engaging with policy leaders across the country to develop holistic legal systems for elders.”

Alum Profile: Fred E. Karlinsky ('92) and Heather L. Stearns ('02)



Fred Karlinsky



Heather Stearns

Two alumni recently were reappointed to the nine-member Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Ron DeSantis. **Fred E. Karlinsky** ('92) was reappointed for a term ending July 1, 2026. He has served on the commission since 2014, previously as co-chair and now as chair. Karlinsky is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, practicing in the Fort Lauderdale and Tallahassee offices. He is co-chair of the firm's Insurance Regulatory and Transactions Practice Group. Karlinsky represents insurers, reinsurers, and a wide variety of other insurance-related entities on their regulatory, transactional, corporate, and governmental affairs matters. He is a recognized authority on national insurance regulatory and compliance issues and has held leadership positions in many insurance trade organizations. He also has led many industry-driven legislative and regulatory initiatives, and has spoken and presented to insurance executives and governmental officials all over the world. Since 2008, Karlinsky has served as an adjunct professor at FSU Law, where he teaches Law & Risk Management. He also serves as chair of the law school's Board of Visitors.

Heather L. Stearns ('02) was reappointed for a term ending July 1, 2024. She was first appointed to the commission in 2018. Stearns is president of LIBERTY Dental Plan of Florida, Inc., in Tallahassee. She oversees all lines of business for the Florida market. Stearns previously served as vice president of government relations for LIBERTY. Before joining the company in 2018, Stearns served as chief of staff for the Florida Department of Children and Families. She also worked for the Executive Office of the Governor of Florida as special counsel to the chief inspector general, deputy general counsel to the governor, and general counsel to the Division of Emergency Management.

Student Profile: 3L Lauren Reed

Desired Practice Location: Central Florida, specifically Orlando or Tampa; also open to remote work at employer's discretion

Expected graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Interested in legislative or policy work, specifically helping children and/or animals



Originally from Sunrise, Florida, Lauren Reed graduated summa cum laude from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in legal studies and minor in sociology. This academic year, starting in October, Reed will be a legislative fellow with the Florida House of Representatives. She will be assigned to a House committee, subcommittee, or leadership office, where she will work on assignments such as research, bill drafting and analysis, oversight activities, and other policy-related tasks. During the summer, Reed participated in a clerkship with the Animal Legal Defense Fund in their Legislative Affairs Program. She researched policy issues related to animals, analyzed state legislation, and prepared correspondence for staff. She also prepared written testimony and letters of support for various topics pertaining to the Animal Legal Defense Fund's mission, and she proposed, drafted, edited, and updated content on priority campaigns. During the spring of her 2L year, Reed was an intern at Best Friends Animal Society in their legislative advocacy department, where she monitored, tracked, and analyzed legislation impacting companion animals, prepared reports for staff on various topics, including pending legislation, and assisted staff in mobilizing membership on key legislation initiatives. She also attended the Best Friends Annual Conference in July 2022. The summer after her 1L year, Reed was a student advocate with FSU Law's Children's Advocacy Clinic. In this role, she communicated with foster families, case managers, guardians ad litem, and other individuals involved with clients' cases. Additionally, she researched methods to resolve client matters and advocated for children in the dependency system during court proceedings. Reed has also served as a teaching assistant for FSU Law's Juris Master Program since the fall of 2021. As a teaching assistant, she assists her supervising instructor with grading weekly discussion posts and other assignments, and prepares materials for the course, including assignment rubrics.

At FSU Law, Reed was a co-founder and is currently president of Law Students Practicing Wellness, a student organization devoted to advocating for mental wellness support for law students. She is also the vice president of the Public Interest Law Students Association and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and is the social media chair for student organization If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice. Additionally, she is a student ambassador with the Admissions Office and a staff editor for the *FSU Business Review*. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Reed after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at lreed3@fsu.edu.

“While attending FSU Law, I have learned so much from professors, employment opportunities, extra-curriculars, and classmates. I hope to use this knowledge to advocate for a better world for everyone in it — people and animals alike.”