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From the Dean



Inaugural class of Florida Supreme Court fellows

We are delighted to share that six of our outstanding 3Ls were selected for the inaugural class of Florida Supreme Court Fellows! The court's fellows program provides third-year law students with hands-on experience and the ability to apply their legal knowledge to the work of the judicial branch. The fellows also interact with a wide array of court professionals and engage with other top student programs in Florida's government. Every member of the first class of fellows attends FSU College of Law! Pictured above (L-R) are fellows Caroline Dike, who is working for Justices Jamie Grosshans and Jorge Labarga; Nicholas Caron, who is working for Justice Charles Canady; Nicolette Jones, who is working for Chief Justice Carlos Muñoz; Kiernan O'Keefe, who is working for Ricky Polston; Juan Yang, who is working for Justice John Couriel; and Devin Gobin, who is working for Justice Renatha Francis. Please join me in thanking the court for offering this unique fellowship experience and in congratulating our fantastic FSU Law student fellows!

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Ranked Nation's #8 Best Value Law School

preLaw magazine has ranked Florida State University College of Law the eighth best value law school in the nation. The ranking, which is published in *preLaw*'s fall 2022 issue, weighs important student outcomes—bar passage and employment rates—against tuition, cost of living, and average indebtedness. According to *preLaw*, the rankings are “designed to recognize schools whose graduates have excellent chances of passing the bar and getting a legal job without taking on a ton of debt.” The national ranking reflects the strong employment and bar passage results of recent Florida State law graduates.



“We are thrilled to be ranked the nation's eighth best value law school, especially because employment rate is the highest weighted factor in calculating this ranking,” said Dean Erin O'Connor. “Preparing our students for successful legal careers is our top priority.”

Alum Profile: Erin G. Jackson ('00)

Erin Jackson is a founding shareholder of Johnson Jackson in Tampa, a boutique law firm specializing in management side labor and employment law. Jackson has been board certified by The Florida Bar in labor and employment law since 2006 and is also a Florida Supreme Court circuit civil mediator. Since 2019, Jackson has been recognized as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Florida. She was selected by the Tampa Bay Business Journal as a 2018 BusinessWoman of the Year Honoree, and Johnson Jackson was named by the Tampa Bay Business Journal as the Best Place to Work in 2019 for employers of its size. Jackson has served as president of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and as chair of the Trial and Litigation Section for the Hillsborough County Bar Association. She is the current president of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and serves on the executive board for the Glazer Children's Museum. Jackson was recently awarded the George C. Carr Memorial Award by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, recognizing excellence in federal practice and distinguished service to the Federal Bar Association. Jackson focuses her practice on helping employers understand and navigate employment laws. She has represented and counseled management clients in all aspects of labor and employment matters, including employment discrimination and civil rights litigation, EEOC and other administrative proceedings, wage-hour compliance investigations and litigation, union representation campaigns and elections, unfair labor practice proceedings, collective bargaining, arbitrations and mediations, appellate proceedings in state and federal courts, and personnel practices.



“The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is an organization that I hold in the absolute highest regard. Because of the commitment of our board and our nearly 400 members, we are able to host dozens of events each year that benefit our judiciary, the legal community, and the public. Over the years, I’ve had the great fortune of working with and learning from brilliant and talented federal judges and practitioners to plan valuable programming. To receive this incredibly meaningful award from a group that I have such respect for is a tremendous honor.”

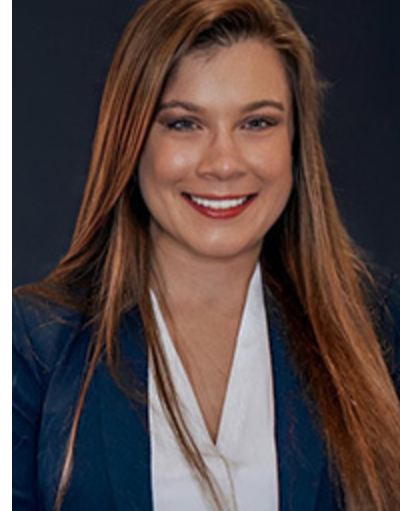
Student Profile: 3L Anna Lusk

Desired Practice Location: New England area; open to work in New York (especially New York City) or Boston, as well as Connecticut or Rhode Island

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Cannabis law or corporate law

Anna Lusk is originally from Dyersburg, Tennessee, and she attended The University of Tennessee at Knoxville for her undergraduate studies, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Since September 2021, Lusk has worked as a law clerk with Dean Mead & Dunbar in Tallahassee.



During her time there, she has worked in the area of cannabis law, drafting letters to the Office of Medical Marijuana Use to show compliance with medical marijuana facility statutes and regulations for cultivation, processing, and dispensing facilities for multiple medical marijuana treatment center clients. She also drafted a supplementary petition to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to request the release of alleged drug paraphernalia in accordance with recent updates to federal court interpretations, assisted the plaintiff's counsel in a constitutional challenge to statutes and regulations prohibiting medical marijuana patients from purchasing or possessing a firearm, and conducted research on the history of marijuana and gun regulations to support the plaintiff's constitutional challenge. Lusk has also worked in the areas of administrative and corporate law at Dean Mead. She performed research for a petitioner in a multi-party certificate of need case with significant discovery and assisted attorneys with entering a final order declaring a proposed rule to be an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority. Additionally, she prepared memoranda for claims for quantum meruit, tortious interference, unjust enrichment, and oral contracts for a contract dispute concerning a medical marijuana dispensary. During the summer before her 2L year, Lusk was a judicial extern with the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. In this role, she assisted with domestic violence proceedings and injunctions as well as with research in a tort case with substantial damages.

At FSU Law, Lusk has served as a research assistant in the Research Center since June 2021 and has performed pro bono work with the Farmworker and Immigration Rights Clinic. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Lusk after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at alusk@fsu.edu.

“Throughout law school, I’ve gained real-world experience in cannabis regulatory compliance, corporate law, and administrative law by working on a wide range of cases in these fields. I look forward to immersing myself in these fields after graduation!”

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