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From the Dean

During the upcoming academic year, we are introducing exciting courses related to technology and the law. This fall, we are offering a course that will introduce law students to the intersection of law and technological innovation, exploring the legal implications and challenges posed by emerging technologies. Students enrolled in our Law and Technological Innovation course will gain a comprehensive understanding of how the law interacts with technological advancements and learn to analyze and address legal issues arising from disruptive technologies. The course will cover a range of topics, including intellectual property, privacy, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the regulation of emerging technologies. We are delighted to welcome Katya Fisher, who serves as executive vice chairman of Constructor Group, to teach Law and Technological Innovation at the law school this fall.



In the spring, we will offer Artificial Intelligence and the Law, taught by alumnus Ben Odom, who serves as vice president – business and legal affairs for NASCAR, and Rich Harper, who is partner-in-charge of the New York Office of Baker Botts, L.L.P. The seminar will equip students with the knowledge and skill set to address the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and the law. It will focus on a variety of AI-related legal issues, ranging from which governmental agencies are and will likely be regulating AI to a discussion of data privacy, intellectual property rights, and contract and tort liability issues arising from the use of AI.

These new courses are being offered in conjunction with the establishment of our Law & Technology Institute, which will provide opportunities for academics, practitioners, and students of various disciplines to collaboratively examine the promises of evolving technologies outside the law, while also highlighting the role of law and legal ethics in our digital world. More information about this new institute, including ways alumni can get involved, will be covered in future issues of the newsletter.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Alumni Association Installs New Leaders



The FSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors recently installed new officers for 2023-2024. The following alumni (pictured above, clockwise from top left) have volunteered to lead the working board:

President – Lauren V. Purdy ('11)

Gunster
Jacksonville

Immediate Past President – Jason B. Burnett ('88)

GrayRobinson, P.A.
Jacksonville

President Elect – Kareem J. Spratling ('06)

Bryant Miller Olive
Tampa

Secretary – Tara R. Price ('12)

Shutts & Bowen
Tallahassee

Additionally, many alumni are returning for another year of service on the Board of Directors, and several alumni are joining the group. You can view a full list of the board's members on the [College of Law website](#). Board members represent a wide range of class years, cities, and practice areas, and they assist FSU Law with critical programs and initiatives. The law school appreciates the generosity and support of everyone who is serving on the 2023-2024 Board of Directors. Their engagement benefits FSU Law students in many ways.

Alum Profile: Travis A. Voyles ('17)

Travis A. Voyles began serving as the Commonwealth of Virginia's secretary of natural and historic resources in March, after serving as acting secretary for one year. As secretary, he serves on the governor's cabinet overseeing five state agencies and working to advance the governor's top environmental priorities. He also serves as the chief resilience officer for the state and is part of the governor's leadership team on energy and economic development issues. He previously served as oversight counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he led the committee's work on environmental, energy, economic development, and infrastructure issues. He also served in multiple appointed roles at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including acting associate administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and director of oversight, and he worked for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.



“I have been extremely fortunate to work at the federal and now the state level on issues that I have been interested in for most of my life. Whether working with farmers and developers to improve water quality or ensuring expanded access to parks or hunting and fishing opportunities, I have been able to apply my legal and policy background to an ever-growing range of natural resource issues. I am incredibly proud of the experiences I have been able to have since my time at FSU Law.”

Student Profile: 3L Joseph Alvarez

Desired Practice Location: Tennessee or North Carolina; would consider neighboring states

Expected Graduation: December 2023

Field of Law Sought: Civil litigation

Joseph Alvarez, from Miami, Florida, attended Florida State University for his undergraduate studies and earned a B.S. in Political Science and Commercial Entrepreneurship. Since May, Alvarez has served as a law clerk with Coppins Monroe, P.A., working on various aspects of civil defense for state and federal courts. During the spring 2023 semester, Alvarez externed with the Public Employees Relations Commission, where he worked with hearing officers on labor law and administrative law issues. He worked on various final orders and one of the largest Hearing Officer's Recommended Orders in the commission's history. Beginning in June of 2021, Alvarez worked at Legal Services of North Florida as a dual law clerk, handling matters including domestic violence injunctions, landlord/tenant disputes, and disaster recovery. Alvarez's greatest accomplishment in this role was working with his supervising attorney, Giovanni Bush ('16), to help a woman execute a rent-to-own agreement and ensure her lot was repaired and refurbished after it was damaged by Hurricane Michael.



At FSU Law, Alvarez is a student ambassador with the Office of Admissions and a member of the Cuban American Bar Association and Hispanic Law Student Association. He spent the 2022 summer semester participating in the law school's Summer Program in Law at Oxford, and upon his return, he joined the Jessup Moot Court team as a student coach. Alvarez transferred to FSU Law from Florida Coastal School of Law, where he was a member of the Mock Trial Team and began the Music and Business Law Society, serving as co-founder and treasurer. Alvarez is certified in all forms of research offered by WestLaw and LexisNexis. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Alvarez after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn page](#) or email him at jma16h@fsu.edu.

“I specialize in research and legal strategy and have made strides in developing litigation skills during my studies and work experience. My main priority is to develop as much firsthand litigation experience as possible.”

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