



FSU LAW

Focus

November 17,
2023

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From the Dean



Columbia Professor Michael Gerrard

On Thursday, November 9, FSU Law's Center for Environmental, Energy & Land Use Law presented its Fall 2023 Distinguished Environmental Lecture. The event featured a thought-provoking talk by Michael Gerrard, the Andrew Sabin professor of professional practice and director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University Law School. During his talk, "Urban Flooding: Legal Tools to Address a Growing Crisis," Gerrard discussed the "growing crisis of flooding," how

the law addresses flooding now, and how the law should address flooding going forward. His talk included data about past flooding events caused by rain, information about systems that engineers design to deal with storm water flooding, details about current federal, state, and local policies on flooding, and information about different funding mechanisms. A [recording of the lecture](#) is available on our website.

Gerrard has pioneered cutting-edge legal tools and strategies for addressing climate change. He writes and teaches courses on environmental law, climate change law, and energy regulation. He has written or edited 14 books and previously chaired the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. Before entering academia, Gerrard practiced law in New York for three decades and was rated the leading environmental lawyer in New York and one of the leaders in the world. We were delighted to host such a prolific scholar at FSU Law and to be able to introduce him and his work to our students.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Students Argue Before Justices in Moot Court Final Four Competition



(L-R) Moot Court Final Four Competitors Ray Emmerson, John Barry, Allison Laudadio, and Zachary

On Wednesday, November 8, four second-year law students competed in the 2023 Moot Court Final Four Competition at the Florida Supreme Court. The students presented oral arguments on a fictitious First Amendment case before all seven justices of the Florida Supreme Court—an incredible opportunity for our students! The case, *City of Kensington, et al., v. Jon Henrikson*, dealt with the issues of whether a statute was unconstitutional under the First Amendment for being impermissibly vague and overbroad, sweeping in a substantial amount of protected speech, and failing to specify the intent requirement, as well as whether Henrikson was improperly arrested for the content of his protected speech, in violation of the First Amendment. John Barry and Ray Emmerson represented the petitioner, and Zachary Homeijer and Allison Laudadio represented the respondent. Following the Final Four Competition, the Moot Court Team held a reception at the law school for the competitors, justices, and competition attendees, where Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñiz announced Laudadio's selection as Best Advocate. Congratulations to our talented students on a job well done, and thank you to Shutts & Bowen LLP for sponsoring the competition! A [recording of the competition](#) is available on the FSU Law Facebook page.

Alum Profile: Robert C. Large ('07)

Robert C. Large joined Florida State University as chief compliance and ethics officer in October. In this role, Large is responsible for establishing, maintaining, and promoting an effective compliance and ethics program designed to prevent, monitor, detect, and respond to noncompliance and recommend corrective actions. In addition, he works to advance an ethical university culture that supports a safe and respectful learning, working, and living environment. Prior to joining FSU, Large was senior associate counsel at Kansas State University. His previous experience also includes serving as associate general counsel at FSU, chief legal counsel at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, an attorney-advisor with the U.S. Department of Defense, and an assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Education.



“I am honored to return to Florida State and to

continue the great work of promoting high levels of institutional integrity in the university's academic and research enterprises.”

Student Profile: 3L Kevin Griffin

Desired Practice Location: Any location; would especially enjoy being near the coast

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Environmental law; ocean and coastal environmental law

Kevin Griffin is from Defiance, Missouri, near St. Louis. He attended Florida State University for his undergraduate studies, graduating summa cum laude with a B.S. in psychology. When he graduates from FSU Law this spring, he will also earn the Environmental Law Certificate. During the summer before his 3L year, Griffin was a summer legal intern with the Seventh District of the United States Coast Guard, working with the staff judge advocate. In this role, Griffin worked with a group of Coast Guard judge advocate generals and performed a wide array of tasks. Griffin primarily worked in the Prevention Law branch, assisting attorneys with environmental and administrative issues. His tasks involved researching the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and federal regulations regarding voyages to Cuba. He also worked on response law issues, helping attorneys advise Coast Guard Field Units on drug smuggling and migrant interdiction operations. During the spring of his 2L year, Griffin was a legal intern with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where he worked with the litigation group and coral reef program. With the litigation group, Griffin drafted motions, attended hearings, and witnessed depositions. He wrote internal guidance documents with the coral reef program, conducted administrative law research, and learned about Florida's environmental rules. During the fall and spring of his 2L year, Griffin volunteered with the Leon County Teen Court, working with high school students to craft a case and present an oral argument. Griffin also served as a judge for several cases and ruled on evidentiary motions.



At FSU Law, Griffin is a notes and comment editor for the FSU Law Review, a staff editor for the Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law, and the Environmental Law

Society secretary. He is also a 3L representative for the Student Bar Association and served as a 2L representative for the group last year. Additionally, Griffin's student note, "Seas the Day: Finding the Treasures of Ratifying the Law of the Sea Convention," will soon be published by The Sea Grant Law and Policy Institute. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Griffin after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at kjg18b@fsu.edu.

"I strive to be as helpful as I can. I always want to learn new processes, take on tasks, and help elevate my team to be their best!"

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