



FSU LAW

Focus

January 19,
2024

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From the Dean



(L-R) Markell, Miller, Brubaker, Johnson, and Specie

Next Friday, January 26, our FSU Business Review will host their second annual symposium at the law school. “Perspectives in Bankruptcy Law” will bring together prominent bankruptcy judges, practitioners, and academics to discuss topics including the causes of and trends in insolvency, historical development of bankruptcy law, and current and developing substantive and procedural bankruptcy issues. Distinguished presenters will include Illinois College of Law Professor Ralph Brubaker, FSU Law Professor Steve R. Johnson, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law Professor Bruce A. Markell, University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law Professor Robert W. Miller, and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida Chief Judge Karen K. Specie. In addition, select FSU Law students will present during the symposium. Alumni, students, and others with an interest in bankruptcy law are invited to attend the event in person or virtually. You can [register for the event and learn more](#) about the symposium schedule, presenters, and sessions on our website.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Students Serving as Florida Supreme Court Fellows



Florida Supreme Court justices and fellows

We are thrilled to share that seven of our outstanding 3Ls were selected for this year's class of Florida Supreme Court Fellows! The court's fellows program provides third-year law students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and to apply their legal knowledge to the work of the judicial branch. The fellows interact with a wide array of court professionals and engage with other top student programs in Florida's government. Pictured above (back row, L-R) are fellows Vivekka Suppiah, who is working for Justice Renatha Francis; Thomas Kelly, who is working for Justice John D. Curiel; Jordan Manahan, who is working for Justice Charles T. Canady; Derwin Sanchez, who is working for Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz; Victoria Heuston, who is working for Justice Jorge Labarga; and Alexa Ravencroft, who is working for Justice Jamie R. Grosshans. Pictured second from right is Eric Wagner, who is working for Justice Meredith Sasso. Thank you to the court for offering this special fellowship experience, and congratulations to our fantastic FSU Law student fellows!

Alum Profile: Clementine Uwabera ('14)

Clementine Uwabera was recently promoted to partner at Stafford Rosenbaum in Madison, Wisconsin. She is an experienced litigation and government attorney who focuses on municipal defense, insurance defense, products liability, commercial disputes, personal injury matters, and wrongful death claims. Uwabera is admitted to practice in Florida, Wisconsin, the Western District of Wisconsin, the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Before joining Stafford Rosenbaum in 2020, Uwabera was a civil litigation attorney at King & Markman in Orlando and an assistant public defender at the Ninth Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender. Uwabera recently became president-elect of the Dane County Bar Association, where she also serves on the board of directors. She also is a member of the Wisconsin Association for Justice, the American Bar Association, and The National Black Lawyers, which selected her as a Top 40 Under 40 honoree for 2023.



“I am thrilled to be a new leader in a firm with such a rich history! Stafford Rosenbaum celebrates its 145th anniversary this year and has experienced a growth explosion over the past few years, demonstrated by the addition of several new attorneys and practice areas, and achieved through our commitment to innovation, efficiency, and adaptation to changing client needs. This is a very exciting time to become a partner and be a first-hand witness to our firm’s ongoing success and adherence to the values established 145 years ago.”

Student Profile: 3L Charles “Chase” Preston

Desired Practice Location: Tampa/St. Petersburg area

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Environmental, business/corporate, and real estate law

Charles “Chase” Preston is from Naples, Florida, and he earned his bachelor’s degree in finance from Florida State University. Throughout Preston's 2L and 3L years, he has worked as a law clerk at Rayboun Winegardner, which specializes in real estate, HOA work, and estate planning, and offers full-service business planning. Preston’s work there has primarily involved performing legal research, corporate contract drafting, and trial preparation. During the summer after his 2L year, Preston worked as a law clerk at Wicker Smith in Tampa.



Working mainly in premises liability and medical malpractice matters, Preston gained experience in many aspects of civil litigation. His work consisted of conducting legal research and drafting pleadings, motions, and discovery documents, and he also attended a variety of hearings, depositions, and mediations.

At FSU Law, Preston is a member of the Florida State University Law Review, the Moot Court Team, and the Journal of Transnational Law and Policy. He also has a forthcoming article in FSU Law’s Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law titled “Water Pollution Management: Why Florida Should Employ a Nonpoint Solution for a Nonpoint Problem.” As a moot court competitor, Preston has received a Best Brief award and a Top 10 Brief award. Additionally, during his 1L spring semester, Preston competed in the Tulane Professional Basketball Negotiation Competition simulating contract negotiations for current NBA players in front of NBA executives, agents, and analysts. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Preston after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at cdp17@fsu.edu.

“I am a competitive person, and I’m excited by challenging work. I work well in a team, but also am very comfortable working independently. Ideally, I hope to be able to use my business background from my undergrad finance degree in the context of environmental and real estate/land use law.”



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