



FSU LAW

Focus

February 9,
2024

[Get Involved](#) [Submit a Class Note](#) [Join FSU Law Connect](#) [Make a Gift](#)

From the Dean



U.S. Attorney Markenzey Lapointe speaks to FSU Law students.

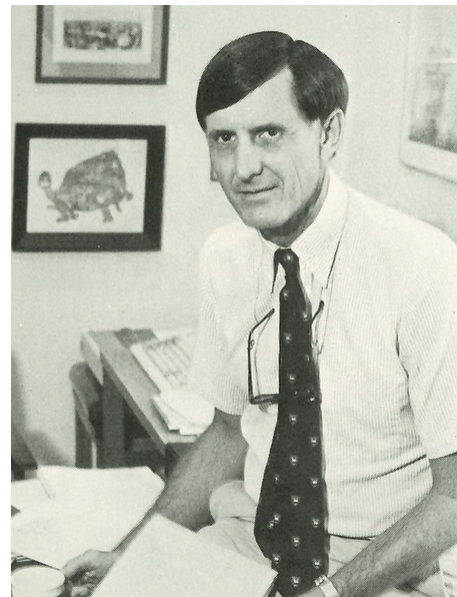
Although it is early in the spring semester, we have already hosted many alumni and other attorneys for events with our students. On January 26, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Markenzey Lapointe ('99) talked with students as part of a special lunch session coordinated by our Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. Lapointe, who leads an office of more than 500 attorneys and support professionals, discussed his career path, offered advice for students, and answered questions. Last week, students had an opportunity to network with dozens of FSU Law alumni during an alumni career advisor fair hosted by our Office of Career Services. Almost 30 alumni representing more than 15 practice areas participated in the event. On January 19, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Thomas Palermo ('01)

met with students during a special teatime event. Palermo talked about his experiences as a circuit judge and federal prosecutor. Our Student Bar Association hosted several alumni during their Third Annual Civic Engagement Fair at the end of January. During the fair, students met with representatives of numerous professional associations to learn about getting involved with the groups. And earlier this week, Scott Smith ('98) had lunch with students during an event hosted by our Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. Smith, a successful personal injury attorney with Smith, Ball, Baez & Prather, shared strategies on forging a path to happiness and success beyond law school. Alumni engagement is critical to our students' success, so we are extremely grateful for these and many more alumni who regularly make themselves available to meet with FSU Law students.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Former Professor John Larson (1936-2024)

FSU Law was saddened by the passing of Professor Emeritus John W. Larson on January 25, 2024. Professor Larson began teaching at the College of Law as an associate professor in the fall of 1972 after teaching for several years at the University of Iowa College of Law. Professor Charles Ehrhardt, who was one of Larson's law school classmates, noted that Professor Larson was one of several faculty members, including Dean Mason Ladd, who came to FSU from the University of Iowa. During his more than 30 years at FSU Law, Professor Larson's courses included Small Business Organizations, Procedural



Discrepancies, Fundamental Financial Concepts, and Business Associations, and he supervised bankruptcy court externs. Professor Larson co-published an article with Dean Don Weidner on the Revised Uniform Partnership Act in *The Business Lawyer* in 1994, served as co-chair of the 1999-2000 Accreditation Self-Study Committee, was an advisor for the J.D./MBA joint degree program, and served for several years as associate dean for academic affairs. Additionally, he was an assistant reporter for the Revised Uniform Partnership Act, and he participated in a Caribbean Law Institute initiative in Guyana, speaking on insolvency, in 1994. Professor Larson made many valuable contributions to the FSU College of Law community, for which we are very grateful. Our thoughts are with Professor

Larson's family and friends during this time. The funeral for Professor Larson will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee on February 17, 2024, at 11 a.m.

"John Larson was a wonderful guy who was always positive. He was the epitome of Midwestern decency. It was my pleasure to work with him on the Revised Uniform Partnership Act (1994). Outside of school, he was a superb tennis player and family man," said Dean Emeritus Don Weidner.

Alum Profile: R. Stephen Coonrod ('88)

Steve Coonrod is managing partner of the Tallahassee office of McConaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver & Stern, P.A. Coonrod focuses on workers' compensation defense and litigation management, and he has been certified by The Florida Bar in workers' compensation law since 1998. His clients include a broad range of private and governmental entities, and he serves as litigation manager for the Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association. Coonrod is a member of the board of directors for the Workers' Compensation Institute, previously chaired the Workers' Compensation Board Certification Committee of The Florida Bar, and served on the executive council of The Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Section. He also frequently speaks on workers' compensation law topics. Coonrod recently participated in the law school's Alumni Career Advisor Fair, where he gave practice and career advice to law students.



“Speaking with aspiring lawyers regarding their futures at the law school’s career advisor event was a genuine pleasure. I have so many great memories of my years at FSU and appreciation for what the practice of law has meant for me and my family.”

Student Profile: 3L Katherine Jens

Desired Practice Location: Madison or Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or Southeast Wisconsin generally

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Real estate, land use, or municipal



Katherine “Katie” Jens is from Racine, Wisconsin, and she completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration. From May of 2022 through November of 2023, Jens served as a student volunteer with Legal Services of North Florida, where she researched legal issues for indigent clients and advised them of their legal rights and potential remedies. The issues she worked on included landlord/tenant disputes and homeownership matters. During the summer before her 3L year, Jens worked as a law clerk with Pruitt Zabkowicz S.C. in Racine, Wisconsin, where she drafted estate planning documents, including wills, trusts, and powers of attorney, and property purchase documents, including offers to purchase and deeds. Jens also witnessed approximately 50 signings of estate planning documents, and she drafted and reviewed elder law documents, including state Medicaid and Medicaid compliant annuity applications.

At FSU Law, Jens is a staff editor with the Florida State University Business Review, and she was named Staff Editor of the Year for 2022-2023. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Jens after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at katie.jens16@gmail.com.

“I have enjoyed broadening my real estate experience and knowledge at FSU Law through many different classes, including Environmental Law. I believe my experiences in a wide range of topics can help bring new viewpoints in any real estate or similar law practice.”



JOIN NOW

We are inviting all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a new platform exclusively for the FSU Law community. Alumni can keep in touch with the College of Law and other alumni, post jobs, and access career development tools. If you haven't already joined FSU Law Connect, please join today to help us increase engagement and connection.

[ABOUT US](#) | [ACADEMICS](#) | [ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID](#) | [OUR FACULTY](#) | [ALUMNI](#) | [CAREERS](#) | [STUDENTS](#)



If you unsubscribe from the FSU Law Focus, you will only be unsubscribed from the newsletter and not other emails from FSU Law.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

425 West Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL | 32306 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.