



# FSU LAW

## Focus

February 23,  
2024

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## From the Dean

**Shawn J. Bayern**, our Larry and Joyce Beltz professor of torts and associate dean for technology, recently published *A Research Agenda for Organizational Law* (Edward Elgar 2024). The book presents a critical overview of the current state of organizational law. It demonstrates that legal organizations are much more generative than widely recognized, with the capacity to enable new configurations that combine several legal transactional techniques. In the book, Professor Bayern considers the implications of this flexibility for monitoring, regulation, and reform, examines the effects of modern transactional creativity on the rest of the legal system, suggests how organizational statutes might be harmonized, introduces non-traditional uses of modern organizations like LLCs, and proposes novel ways to regulate organizations.



“It might surprise people to learn how exciting research into LLCs can be,” said Bayern. “Organizations are not as limited as they used to be, and there are possibilities for zero-member LLCs and other new types of forms that enable creative transactions. These possibilities interact with new regulatory requirements, like the Corporate Transparency Act, in interesting ways.”

Professor Bayern’s research focuses on common law, primarily in contract law, tort law, and organizational law. He has published numerous books and scholarly articles in top journals. Please join me in congratulating him on the publication of his latest book!

## 2024 D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellow Selected

Congratulations to 2L Nicholas Lower, who was selected as the 2024 D'Alemberte-Ellis fellow! Lower will be recognized for this achievement at the **D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights** on February 29, 2024. The D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellowship serves students who have significant interest in human rights. It provides FSU Law students supplemental financial support to help them gain practical experience in the area of human rights through international legal work that will broaden their horizons and help them develop into future lawyers and global citizens. Lower will serve this summer as an intern in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, commonly known as the Cambodia Tribunal or Khmer Rouge Tribunal. Professor Darby Scott, who oversees the D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellowship, wrote in her recommendation letter for Lower that he is a deep thinker who is both passionate and hard-working. We wish Lower all the best in his internship.



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## Alum Profile: Steffen LoCascio ('16)

**Steffen LoCascio** is an associate in the Tampa office of Carlton Fields. LoCascio focuses on construction defect litigation and complex commercial construction disputes, including the representation of contractors, subcontractors, and design professionals. Prior to joining Carlton Fields in 2022, LoCascio was a shareholder at Kubicki Draper. His honors include being named a Florida Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine and being selected for the Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch list in the categories of construction law, construction litigation, and personal



injury litigation – defendants. LoCascio is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and serves on the alumni board for Tampa Connection.

*“When I think back on my time at FSU Law, the lasting friendships made and the tight-knit community really stand out. Having a faculty committed to student success is what sets FSU Law apart from other institutions. I had so many wonderful professors who provoked thoughtful discussions and debates. One experience I cherish was the ability to extern full time as a felony prosecutor at the State Attorney’s Office. The ability to gain direct litigation experience in law school taught me the foundations of trial advocacy and has helped shape my career. On top of the educational experiences, the friends my wife and I made while at FSU Law remain some of our closest. It was a fun three years, and I look forward to giving back each year to ensure the current students have the same experiences I did.”*

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## **Student Profile: 3L Omar Guzman-Toro**

**Desired Practice Location:** Tallahassee, Florida

**Expected Graduation:** Summer 2024

**Field of Law Sought:** Wants to work in public policy; does not intend to practice law

Omar Guzman-Toro is from Miami, Florida, and he completed his undergraduate studies at Florida International University, where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.

Last spring, Guzman-Toro was a student advocate with FSU Law's Children's Advocacy Clinic, where he provided holistic representation to minor clients. During the summer and fall of 2022, he interned with the Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit. He worked in the Felony Division, conducting legal research and writing, and his work included drafting responses to motions, including motions to dismiss, motions to suppress evidence, and motions to withdraw pleas, as well as two motions to perpetuate testimony, a memorandum on the dismissal of criminal charges in a media case, and a challenge against a claim of statutory immunity. He also reviewed evidence, calculated restitution, drafted case summaries, contacted victims, and liaised with local law enforcement agencies. During the summer of 2022, Guzman-Toro was a judicial intern to the Honorable Robert T. Watson, of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, where he conducted legal research on felony crimes and drafted a proposed order. During the spring of 2022, Guzman-Toro was an intern with the Community Equity Lab within the University of Miami School of Law's Center for Ethics & Public Service. In this role, he performed fact investigation, legal research and writing, and community rights education on civil rights and fair housing issues, and he drafted memoranda on the City of Miami Parks & Recreation Department's permitting processes. Prior to beginning law school, Guzman-Toro worked as a congressional staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives, managing a legislative portfolio in the areas of energy, natural resources, and agriculture for a member of Congress; analyzing legislation; and providing administrative support for two congressional committees. He also worked for several years as an English teacher in South Korea.



At FSU Law, Guzman-Toro is a member of the Hispanic Law Students Association and the Transfer Students Organization. While at his previous law school, he was recognized with a HOPE Pro Bono Challenge Outstanding 1L Award for being the first-year student with the most recorded pro bono hours, and he was also selected to participate in the American Bar Association's Judicial Intern Opportunity Program. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Guzman-Toro after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at [oag19d@fsu.edu](mailto:oag19d@fsu.edu).

*“I am fascinated by how laws are written and ratified. I look forward to diving back in to the world of public policy.”*

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