A Year of Growth and Achievement

The past academic year was a rich one, with many developments and advancements at FSU Law. Our incoming 1L class was both incredibly talented and very diverse, with a median undergraduate GPA of 3.61. Our 2017 graduating class earned bar passage rates higher than we have seen for many years. And our advocacy teams, Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and Student Bar Association (SBA) won regional and advocacy awards. Our Moot Court Team won first place in the Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup National First Amendment Competition and the 2017 Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition. Our SBA was awarded the national Student Bar Association Award for the sixth time in 10 years. And our BLSA was named Regional Chapter of the Year. We are so very proud of our students and graduates!

We strive to provide the best possible student services in addition to a first-class legal education. To that end, we ushered in a brand new Career Services and Professional Development Office, headed by FSU Law alum Dean Debra Henley (’88), with more full-time staff and a new mission statement that focuses on employer outreach and individual student counseling and mentoring. A new Academic Programs Office led by Dean Maribel Roig, who joined us from Puerto Rico in January, was created to guide student course selection and to offer writing and other academic support. The office will provide enhanced support to our 3Ls and graduates as they prepare for the bar exam. Our Student Affairs Office, led by Dean Nancy Benavides, has instituted a semester-long professionalism program to help students begin to form their professional identities and to prepare for some of the challenges of law practice. The Raising the Bar Professionalism Program also offers a Bridge to Practice mentorship program for our graduating 3Ls.

Our faculty continues to be deeply engaged in important research and dedicated teaching. This year, we welcomed Lauren Scholz (Privacy, Technology and Commercial Law, from Harvard and Yale Law) to our faculty. Two of FSU’s eight university graduate teaching awards went to FSU Law faculty members Paolo Annino and Justin Sevier. Several faculty members published books and/or appeared in national media outlets. Professor Jennifer LaVia led our new Veterans Legal Clinic, in collaboration with local veteran service providers. When several students joined us last fall from the University of Puerto Rico Law School, closed for months after Hurricane Maria, the faculty reworked their courses so that our visiting students could receive credit toward their degrees without falling behind our FSU Law students who had started their courses weeks earlier.

2017-2018 was also a year of special events and celebrations. Professor Chuck Ehrhardt joined us at the Champions Club in September to celebrate his 50 years at FSU, with literally hundreds of alumni, students, faculty and retired faculty present. Our Environmental Law Program, now ranked 10th in the nation, hosted several esteemed legal scholars, an annual conference and a standing-room-only mini-conference on the psychology of climate change. The Florida Bar hosted a lunch talk on mental health and wellness, with our own Professor Larry Krieger as the keynote speaker. We held at least half a dozen alumni receptions across Florida and in Washington, D.C. In May, we graduated our 50th class at FSU Law, with an inspiring speech by FSU Law alum and Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson (’87). These are but a few of our high points for the year.

We look forward to the next academic year, where we anticipate another strong incoming class and the addition of three new faculty members: Michael Morley (Voting Rights, Federal Courts and Remedies, from Barry Law), Sarah Swan (Criminal Law, Torts, Local Government Law and Family Law, from Columbia Law), and Carla Laroche (Criminal Justice, Gender Justice and Family Law, from Southern Poverty Law Center). Our Veterans Legal Clinic can expand its services due to increased legislative funding and our Public Interest Law Center will receive external funding to focus more on Children and Families Immigration Law, a collaborative with the University of Florida.

In July, we will launch a $2 million scholarship campaign, Pave the Way, designed to help reduce student debt burdens while attracting the strongest and most diverse future FSU Law students possible! I hope you will consider contributing to scholarships this year. I can think of no better way to “pay it forward” than to help provide opportunities for future FSU Law students. Please join us in Paving the Way!

Erin O’Hara O’Connor
Dean and McKenzie Professor
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Celebrating Professor Ehrhardt

By Christi N. Morgan

Two thousand-seventeen marked Professor Charles W. “Chuck” Ehrhardt’s 50-year anniversary at FSU Law. In 1967, he packed all of his possessions into his red 1964 Ford Mustang and drove to Tallahassee to become the fourth professor to join the faculty. During his time at the College of Law, Ehrhardt has taught thousands of students. His booming voice is a sound many of them will always fondly remember. Although he planned to stay in Tallahassee for only two years, over the next half-century, he helped transform the College of Law from a young, ambitious law school into one of the nation’s top programs. If there is ever any question about the history of the law school, Ehrhardt usually has the answer and an entertaining story or two to accompany it.

In September, we celebrated Ehrhardt’s countless contributions to the law school and the larger FSU community. Approximately 250 students, alumni, faculty, retired faculty and
Ehrhardt addresses attendees at the September 2017 reception in honor of his 50-year anniversary at FSU Law.
staff gathered at the Champions Club
to commemorate Ehrhardt’s 50-year
anniversary.

“I think it is fair to say that the law
school would not be nearly as strong as it
is, nor would our reputation in the com-
nunity be anywhere near what it is today
without Chuck Ehrhardt’s 50 years with
us,” Dean Erin O’Connor remarked
during the September celebration.

Before a packed room, Dean
O’Connor presented Ehrhardt with
a book of submitted memories titled,
“From Our Heart to Ehrhardt,” and
Florida Supreme Court Justices Ricky
Polston (’87) and Alan Lawson (’87),
Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom (’89), of
Florida’s Second Judicial Circuit, and
Dean Emeritus Donald J. Weidner
shared their memories of Ehrhardt.
More than $100,000 in guest and
alumni contributions transformed Eh-
rhardt’s endowment for excellence into
a professorship in his name.

While a law professor at FSU, Eh-
rhardt made many contributions to
Florida’s legal community and to the
university at large. He is the undisputed
authority on Florida evidence and his
book on the subject is a must-have
resource for students, attorneys and
judges around the state. He regularly
speaks to judges by phone when they
have difficult evidence questions while
presiding over cases. Ehrhardt has also
taught thousands of lawyers and judges
during CLE and CJE courses.

When discussing Ehrhardt’s teaching
of evidence to judges, Sjostrom said, “He
is as respected and beloved in that role
as he is by a first-year law student who is
in awe as we all once were. His lectures
never get old, his mastery is total, his
honesty is never in doubt. It is a privilege
every time I get to hear him speak on
Florida evidence.”

Sjostrom also said he was pleased that
Lawson used time during his Florida
Supreme Court investiture ceremony to acknowledge Ehrhardt’s contribution to the proficiency of the Florida judiciary and presented Ehrhardt with a framed photo of the occasion.

Lawson used his time at the podium to speak directly to Ehrhardt about his passion for teaching and students. “As a student, I felt that,” Lawson said. “It was clear. There is not one person here who didn’t sense that you cared deeply, not only about the law, not only about teaching, but also about every student who you taught. You wanted to make us different. You wanted to launch us into a career and prepare us for the career that we were going to have. You really did that. You made a difference for me, you made a difference for all the people who are here.”

Echoing Sjostrom and Lawson’s sentiments, Polston said, “It’s hard to think of anybody, an academic or a practicing lawyer, who has had a greater impact on the practice of law throughout the state of Florida than Chuck Ehrhardt.”

In the fall, Ehrhardt also was honored for his 50 years of service with the 2017 Bernard F. Sliger Award, the highest award given by the FSU Alumni Association. In addition to serving the law school, his love for FSU athletics translated into Ehrhardt chairing FSU’s Athletic Board for nearly 20 years. As the Bernard F. Sliger Award recipient, Ehrhardt rode in the 2017 Homecoming Parade, where members of the FSU Law community cheered along the parade route to show their gratitude.

“Chuck was a very, very big supporter of FSU athletics,” said Weidner at the September celebration. “On the side, for 20 years, Chuck represented Florida State before the ACC and NCAA. He was actually president of the ACC – a tremendous service to Florida State University.”

Ehrhardt was the final speaker at the event held in his honor. “I have had mixed feelings since this honor has been put on the schedule,” he remarked. “I’ve been a little embarrassed. I did not know what to make of it, but I do now. This has been wonderful. The reward in teaching is the success of a student. As I look around this room tonight and look at all the people who have been so successful, that’s my reward. If I’ve had a small part in that, I’ve served my purpose.”
Edmond E. Koester: Dedicated Innovator and Adventurer  
By Christi N. Morgan

As a shareholder at Coleman Yovanovich Koester in Naples, Edmond E. Koester handles high-end litigation matters, ranging from complex antitrust to construction defect cases and anything in between. At any given time, he has between 60 and 120 pending cases.

“I specialize in trying cases, in being very organized and in being very careful, passionate and loving to win for my clients,” said Koester. “If you look at any of my cases, whether it’s the recent trial in Orlando involving a surgeon and patent litigation and licensing litigation, I’m all in. I learn absolutely everything I can about the orthopedic products we’re talking about. I learn everything about the FDA’s role in what we’re doing. I learn everything about the business. I hire top-quality experts. I build a good team with the plan of really winning.”

Koester handles each case with a very specialized, careful approach – sometimes hiring lobbyists to affect change, sometimes addressing issues directly with regulatory bodies and sometimes relying only on litigation in the courtroom. Years ago, he even went so far as to take the Montana Bar Exam to become a member of the State Bar of Montana since the state does not allow traditional pro hac vice motions and one of his clients had a case there. “I got a nice ruling from the Montana Supreme Court on an employment case,” remarked Koester.

Koester has been with private firms
since graduating in 1996 and joined his current firm in 2002 so he could run his own litigation practice. A defining component of Koester’s practice is his use of innovative technology to display evidence quickly and to earn credibility.

Koester said having all of the video depositions, the documents and the text of evidence instantaneously available allows him to show a judge a particular portion of a case that supports his argument on a big screen and the ability to impeach a witness without any delay.

“Jurors and judges expect when their time is being taken, that the person before them is going to be infinitely prepared to not waste their time and they do not like to trust people as much as they like to trust fact,” he said.

Koester’s passion for harnessing technology began when he was a young lawyer. “I always wanted to win. I read a lot of books on persuasion, on human nature and on psychology. It seemed to me, the only way to effectively persuade somebody was to show repetition of truth and to do it quickly, and technology was the only way to achieve that,” Koester said. “So then I spent a huge amount of time learning about computers, learning about Bluetooth bar code guns, learning about tablets, and practicing how I could be in the courtroom naturally without being tethered to my computer and using the computer so that the jury and judge would not be distracted.”

In addition to utilizing high-quality technology, Koester also prides himself on honest lawyering and working hard to end up on the victorious side of cases. A significant amount of Koester’s time is spent in his firm’s “war room,” strategizing with his team on big white boards. He works hard to develop the associates at his firm so that they may thrive and carry on his high-quality practice when he one day retires. He also takes phone calls from younger lawyers outside of the firm who have questions about ethics and practicing as a way to reciprocate what was done for him.

Koester enjoys helping people and cares deeply about his clients. “Meeting and interacting with all of my wonderful clients and hearing their life stories and helping them in their time of need is very nice to be part of. Many of my clients have become my best friends. They are wonderful people.”

His approach to lawyering has resulted in a great deal of repeat business. In addition to litigating, Koester also serves as general counsel to large businesses. In all instances, he earned that role after representing them well on their litigation matters.

Away from the office, Koester approaches the rest of his life with the same energy and dedication to excellence that he applies at work.

“I want the absolute, every little bit I can get out of life,” Koester said. “I love adventure, I love anything that helps change your perspective, helps broaden you and helps you feel life.”

He is an avid reader, especially enjoying written works about past presidents, evolution, science and human nature. Koester also combines his passions for adventure and fitness by competing in triathlons and mountain biking. Staying fit and reading help him remain mentally sharp, which Koester believes is important for his practice and in being a good familial leader.

His family includes his son Carter, who is a high school junior, his daughter Sloan, who attends Coastal Carolina University, and his long-term girlfriend of seven years, Taber Tagliasacchi. Their adventures include visiting Patagonia and camping along the Inca Trail in Peru. Koester’s favorite place on Earth is his home in his birth state of Michigan, where the family boats, kayaks, mountain bikes and skis.

Koester still spends time with retired attorney and judge Bill Crane – the man who inspired him to be a lawyer when he was growing up in Saginaw, Mich.

“I wanted to be a lawyer since I was about nine years old, because my best friend’s dad was a lawyer and I spent a lot of time with their family and I saw him in court many times,” said Koester. “He also was an avid supporter of politics and we stuffed envelopes for candidates and those sorts of things, and it stuck with me. He and his wife spend every February here with me at my house in Naples. He is the singular reason I’m a lawyer.”

Koester also credits Crane with having the most energy of anyone he has ever met. Undoubtedly, there are others who feel the same way about Koester and the energy he devotes to his clients and living life to the fullest.
Capital Counselor Thomas J. Spulak

By Christi N. Morgan

Washington, D.C. attorney Thomas Spulak ('82) began developing his expertise in government advocacy well before law school. During his formative years and in college, Spulak came to the realization that not everyone was protected equally. By the time he graduated with his B.A. from the University of Miami, he had worked for two summers at the Dade County Manager’s Office and was interested in government as a way to protect people on a broad scope. With a yearning to help more people, Spulak took a job working for U.S. Congressman Claude Pepper in Miami after graduation.

“My job there was in constituent service and I liked it, but I was frustrated because people who were less able to take care of themselves were having more difficulty getting from the government what they were entitled than people who were well off or who could hire a lawyer,” Spulak said. “At that point, I said, ‘I’m going to go to law school and be more directly involved.’”

Spulak naturally ended up in Florida’s capital city for law school and was able to take advantage of his location. He continued building an impressive resume during law school, working for a federal bankruptcy judge and also for a Florida senator who was chairman of the reapportionment committee during the 1982 redistricting process.

After graduation, Spulak ran Congressman Pepper’s re-election campaign while studying for and passing the bar exam. He had been practicing at a crimi-
nal defense firm in Miami for about six weeks when he received an offer too good to deny – a job as an attorney for the U.S. House Rules Committee in Washington D.C. Spulak has worked in the nation’s capital ever since. His experience includes serving as general counsel and staff director for the rules committee, practicing at Shaw Pittman, and serving as general counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives. In each position, he was able to work on meaningful policy to improve lives.

For the past 13 years, Spulak has been a partner at King & Spalding. His practice allows him to stay connected to Congress by representing corporate clients who interact with governmental entities. Much of his practice is devoted to counseling Fortune 50 companies on strategy and how to abide by the many regulations that govern lobbyists and donors. This includes issues related to ethics, election law and campaign finance. For his foreign clients, Spulak also counsels them on complying with the Foreign Agent Registration Act. Because his clients operate in many different jurisdictions, Spulak also maintains a team of approximately 25 lawyers and government affairs professionals. “I find that to be extremely rewarding,” he said. “My biggest goal in that role is to earn and retain the respect of my partners and also of the people on my team. It forces me to stay on my toes and stay on top of the issues that are important to the firm.”

Spulak credits FSU Law with providing him many opportunities that ultimately led to his practice at King & Spaulding. He also attributes his marriage to studying at Florida State. “So many good things happened to me because of going to Florida State and one of them was meeting my wife when I was in my last year of law school,” Spulak said about his wife, Patti. “She was in her last year of undergraduate. I met her through a classmate and we were seniors at the University of Virginia and is a banker at Morgan Stanley in New York City. They also have 21-year-old twins, John and Sarah, who are seniors at the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Miami, respectively.

In his spare time, Spulak enjoys golfing, playing the guitar and crossword puzzles. He also is devoted to non-profit service. Spulak is chairman and president of the Claude Pepper Foundation and chairman of the Hospice Foundation of America, which aims to increase knowledge about hospice, end-of-life and grief care.

“We work very closely with Florida State,” Spulak said about the Claude Pepper Foundation. “We’ve given Florida State – either ourselves or through the matching program – over $10 million. There is the Pepper Institute, which is in the Department of Social Sciences, there is the Pepper Center, there is a wonderful building that houses the Claude Pepper Museum and all of his papers that are used nationally and internationally for scholarly research. We feel like not only are we making a great contribution to Florida State, but also to the people who are served by the professors and others who do great work and research.”

Remaining involved in the university keeps Spulak connected to Florida, where he always thought he would return to practice.

“My blessing is my curse,” joked Spulak about the fact that he will likely never again practice in his home state. “By building my practice such that it is, which I am very happy for, the only place where you can do it is from Washington. I developed a practice that I always wanted to have. It is a blessing.”

"I am extremely fortunate to be in the position I am and to have the practice I have. At this point in my career, I’m able to really combine everything that I’ve done and seen,” said Spulak, who has represented some clients for more than 20 years. “Because I do have a background in lobbying, I find that helpful to me in my practice. If a client says, ‘Can we do this?’ the real value that a lawyer brings if the answer is no is to be able to say, ‘But you can do it this way.’”

Drawing on his experiences working in Congress, lobbying and now being a counselor, Spulak is able to problem solve and provide the framework for action. “If all you did was understand the law, but not understand in practice what a client is trying to achieve, you wouldn’t be as useful,” he said.

As a group leader at his worldwide firm, Spulak also manages a team of approximately 25 lawyers and government affairs professionals. “I find that to be extremely rewarding,” he said. “My biggest goal in that role is to earn and retain the respect of my partners and also of the people on my team. It forces me to stay on my toes and stay on top of the issues that are important to the firm.”

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The Spulaks have three adult children. Mary, age 24, graduated from the University of Virginia and is a banker at Morgan Stanley in New York City. They also have 21-year-old twins, John and Sarah, who are seniors at the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Miami, respectively.

In his spare time, Spulak enjoys golfing, playing the guitar and crossword puzzles. He also is devoted to non-profit service. Spulak is chairman and president of the Claude Pepper Foundation and chairman of the Hospice Foundation of America, which aims to increase knowledge about hospice, end-of-life and grief care.

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The path to practicing law did not go exactly as planned for Jami A. Coleman, but the end result is exactly where she is meant to be. Growing up in Germany as one of seven siblings, Coleman aspired to be just like The Cosby Show’s matriarch.

“Clair Huxtable was this beautiful, graceful woman that I so admired,” recalled Coleman, who was born in Germany and moved often due to her father’s military career. “She was a lawyer – a family law attorney – and had five beautiful kids and this successful husband doctor. They were like the perfect family and she was this powerful woman. I wanted to be like her.”

Coleman envisioned going to Georgetown Law and being a powerful corporate attorney. In high school, she participated in debate teams and held leadership roles. Then, she became pregnant with her first child at the age of 17 and her priorities shifted. While juggling being a single mom, working at The Florida Bar and attending Florida State University, Coleman remained steadfast in her goal to practice law.

Filing her first tax return as a young mother and getting back much more than she expected was a defining point in Coleman’s journey.

“It was more than half of what I made for the whole year. I thought, ‘Why am I getting all this money back?’” recalled Coleman. “It turns out there is the Earned Income Tax Credit specifically for low-income families and individuals, and that piqued my interest. From that point on, I knew the type of lawyer I was going to be. I was going to learn how to help people with their taxes.”

Coleman submitted law school applications to almost 100 schools over the course of three years, but initially received only rejection letters. She finally obtained a coveted acceptance letter from FAMU Law on her second try.

“I saved those rejection letters for a long time because it really motivated me to show the schools that I was worthy of being a lawyer and that I could be an asset to their school,” Coleman said.

Despite having a full-time job and being a mother to two children during her 1L year at FAMU, Coleman performed well. She then utilized her 1L credentials to transfer to Florida State Law, where she was closer to her supportive family.

Never one to abandon a goal, Coleman earned her LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center after graduating with her J.D. in 2008.
Above everything else, helping people

A lot of people are afraid of the IRS,
Tallahassee, where she devotes her
2018, also continues to assist people who
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

“I loved it because you got baptized
by fire,” Coleman said. “I was actually
hands on with the clients. Working for
low-income clients is probably the best
experience I have had because they are
so eternally grateful. That experience
helped me develop relationships, learn
how to interact with people and I got
one-on-one interaction with the IRS.
A lot of people are afraid of the IRS,
but on the other end of the phone is
a person who has the same challenges
that you have.”

Coleman worked at the clinic for sev-
eral years before transitioning to private
practice full time. In 2017, she became
a partner at Williams & Coleman in
Tallahassee, where she devotes her
practice primarily to helping businesses
and individuals with a wide variety of
tax-related issues. She also handles busi-
ness, estate planning and probate cases.
Above everything else, helping people
is Coleman’s passion.

“The people I encounter and the re-
lationships are the best part of my job.
I do not think it is an accident that the
people who walk through my door are
coming to me for assistance. I have cases
that keep me up all night and cases that I
pray about because I care so much about
the people I am helping.”

Coleman, who was honored as a
Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2017 and
2018, also continues to assist people who
cannot afford representation. She still
volunteers with Legal Services of North
Florida and provides pro bono assistance
to Legal Aid Foundation Tallahassee
– an organization for which she is the
immediate past president – and FSU
Law’s Veterans Legal Clinic. In 2017, in
honor of her pro bono work, Coleman
received the Tallahassee Bar Associa-
tion’s Thomas Ervin, Jr. Distinguished
Young Lawyer Award.

In addition, Coleman teaches tax
courses to undergraduates at Florida
A&M University and she mentors law
students and young lawyers. She often
returns to FSU Law to speak to students.
“I love Florida State and give back be-
cause the school instilled something in
me that I wasn’t even sure was there. I
gained mentors and developed lifelong
friendships. If I can provide some type of
guidance or be an asset to students, then
that is what I want to do because I really
feel that is what our purpose is. I know
I am not the only first-generation law
student or the only unconventional law
student. I know I can share those experi-
ences with other students and encourage
them that their present circumstances in
no way have to define their future.”

As a board member of the Tallahas-
see Bar Association, Coleman also
organizes an annual event for high
school students interested in the law.
“Every year, I take a group of about 70
high school students and expose them
to the practice of law. The event is cen-
tered around exposing students to the
diversity within the legal profession.
The students spend a day pretending to
be judges and lawyers, watching a first
appearance at Leon County Courthouse,
then taking a tour at the FSU College
of Law, participating in mock trial, and
then a speed-networking luncheon with
judges and lawyers in the community.”

Coleman may be able to relate to
young people in part because of her
two children. She spends much of her
free time with her 14-year-old daughter
Ariel, while her 18-year-old son Khari
is studying biomedical science at the
University of Central Florida. Coleman
also devotes her evenings and weekends
to connecting with other family mem-
bers and her many close friends – some
of whom she met at FSU Law and still
sees regularly. She and a group of three
other FSU Law alumni have reunions
every year at the Florida Classic.

“My biggest goal is to reach my full-
est potential, whatever that might look
like,” Coleman said. “I want to be able
to recreate myself in the next 10 years
and be something more than what I am
currently. I want to touch and help as
many people as I possibly can before I
leave this earth.”

from FSU. In 2009, Coleman returned
to Tallahassee to begin her tax law career
at the Legal Services of North Florida
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

Perhaps it is because of their influence
on me,” Coleman stressed. “I enjoy
being a mother – I think that’s the big-
gest accomplishment I will ever have.
Relationships with friends help you get
cemented and remind you of your pur-
pose and of what’s important, so when
I’m not working I’m trying to maximize
the time I have with family and friends.”

Coleman also is extremely involved
in Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
– where her father and mother serve as
deacons and deaconesses. Her parents,
James and Judy Coleman, provided
much inspiration and support to Cole-
man as she reached for her goals. Per-
haps it is because of their influence
that Coleman yearns to do even more to
assist others in the future.

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est potential, whatever that might look
like,” Coleman said. “I want to be able
to recreate myself in the next 10 years
and be something more than what I am
currently. I want to touch and help as
many people as I possibly can before I
leave this earth.”
Marcelo Llorente: From Politics to Practice to Family

By Christi N. Morgan

Growing up around politics, Marcelo Llorente realized that serving your community was a great calling. His Jesuit high school education further instilled in him a deep commitment to community service. Llorente aspired from a young age to become an attorney and serve in an elected office. Although it was his dream, Llorente never imagined running for office would come so early in his career. He first considered running while he was in his third year of law school at Florida State and clerking at Bryant Miller Olive.

“I remember during 2001, it was a redistricting year,” recalled Llorente, who graduated from FSU Law in May of that year and was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2002. “Being around the political and legislative environment, I realized the district I grew up in was going to be vacated by a legislator who could no longer seek reelection due to term limits.”

Because of the redistricting process, the seat was most likely going to switch to Republican and Llorente had been a Republican since registering to vote. He began determining what it would take to run and win, and officially entered the race in January 2002.

“I was humbled to receive a great deal of support from my community and was so privileged to be elected,” said Llorente about his first of four successful legislative campaigns. “I’m very proud of the work we did during the eight years in the Legislature, especially being as young as I was at the time and rising up through the leadership in the House – being appropriations chair and being able to work on important legislative and budgeting endeavors during challenging fiscal times for the state. It was a great honor and a unique experience that I will forever cherish.”

While serving in the Legislature, Llorente also practiced law at Bryant Miller Olive. He spent close to a decade with the firm, opening the Miami office in January 2002 and developing his public finance and governmental law practice. He also found a strong mentor in Randy Hanna, a 1984 FSU Law alumnus who was previously the firm’s managing shareholder.

“Randy has been an incredible part of my professional and political career,” said Llorente, who still calls Hanna his mentor. “His guidance and friendship have been invaluable.”

In August 2011, Llorente decided to be more entrepreneurial and opened Llorente & Heckler, P.A., where he continues to focus on public finance and also advises national and multinational companies through his government pro-
urement practice. The firm also handles the transactional needs of many other companies on a general counsel-type basis. In addition, Llorente is managing partner at LSN Partners – a consulting firm that specializes in business development and government relations. Llorente describes the businesses as running on parallel tracks.

“Irrespective of whether our engagements are through LSN Partners or Llorente & Heckler, P.A., we are dedicated to providing strategic counsel to our clients in many jurisdictions across the country in order to maximize their opportunities for success,” Llorente said.

Llorente relishes the diversity of his practice – both in terms of his clients and the many industries they touch. “It’s exciting and challenging. We are afforded the opportunity to deal in different industries with C-suite executives and help guide some important corporate and business development decisions.”

While his office is in Miami Beach, Llorente’s clients operate around the nation.

“We have a national footprint and interact in many states, cities and jurisdictions across the country,” Llorente said. “Our boutique firm is uniquely positioned to assist clients across the country due to an extensive network of relationships in many states. It’s exciting to be able to access our relationships in order to address and assist client needs and pursuits.”

Although he often finds himself away from home for work, Llorente makes it a priority to be in South Florida with his family as much as possible. He and his wife of 18 years, Cristina, have three children – 14-year-old Isabella, 11-year-old Marcelo and 5-year-old Nicolas. The couple met while vacationing with their families on Miami Beach when they were 10 years old. They grew up spending summers together and now enjoy taking their children back to the same area for vacations.

The Llorente family also enjoys traveling outside of Florida. Every year, they welcome in the New Year skiing in Snowmass, Colo., and last summer they visited Hawaii. When they are at home in Miami, Llorente enjoys coaching Marcelo’s baseball team. A four-year letterman in baseball at Tulane University, Llorente has a deep love for the sport. He started playing when he was four years old – the same age that his son began playing. Coaching his eldest son’s team for the last five years and seeing his love for the game is not something Llorente takes for granted.

“Every minute I spend with him and now our youngest son on the field is precious,” he said. “Coaching them in little league is one of my life’s greatest joys and has allowed me to relive some of my little league days, which were invaluable for me. The relationships formed and lessons learned on the ballfield continue to directly impact my life in a meaningful way. In fact, there were countless doors I knocked on during my campaigns where the residents remembered my family and I from my childhood days at the leagues in Miami-Dade County Parks.”

Having a flexible schedule that allows Llorente to spend more quality time with his children is one of the primary reasons he opened his own firm. “You can prioritize your time. Today’s technology allows us to be connected to our clients around the clock whether you are physically sitting in the office or not. I try to make a conscious effort to be present and spend quality time with my family. Trying to balance family and work commitments is one of the greatest challenges, but it’s often most rewarding to be able to leave the office early or fly back in time to make it to a practice or a game and surprise the kids.”

Although Llorente is not currently a public servant, he still finds ways to give back. He serves on the board of directors for Easter Seals of South Florida and volunteers at FSU Law, where he also created a scholarship to benefit law students.

“I am thinking more and more about finding ways to give back to organizations that have been impactful in my life and to my community,” Llorente said. “Continuing to find meaningful ways to give back – whether it is to organizations or institutions like the College of Law or the high school I went to, those are things that are important to me – trying to pay it forward and pass on opportunities to other people.”
Fernando Tesón, the Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar, retired from the FSU College of Law in May 2018, after serving on our faculty for 16 years. During the spring semester, we sat down with him to reflect on his life and career.

**What made you decide to become a law professor?**

After high school I wanted to be a musician, so I decided to study in the school of music. After two years, with good judgement, I decided I would never be a good musician, so I went to law school. In law school, back in Argentina, I was lucky to become associated with a group of distinguished philosophers of law. I became immediately interested in academics from the beginning of my law studies.

When I graduated from law school, I wanted to travel so I joined the foreign service of Argentina. I spent four years there, then I decided to resign and go back to my first love which was academics. Even though I was married and had two young kids, I resigned. And I went to Northwestern to get my doctorate and from there I applied to work at law schools in the United States.

**For people who don’t know, could you explain your area of expertise?**

I have two areas of expertise. One is international law. The other is jurisprudence, which is the philosophy of law. I teach courses in those areas and my research is where those two converge. Most of my research is in the philosophy of international law and political philosophy applied to international relations.

I write about the theories of international law and I apply political theory to international relations and to international law. One of my main areas of research is humanitarian intervention, which is the use of military force to protect human rights. That’s the book that actually started my reputation. The most recent edition is 2005, but the first edition was published in 1988.

I also have books on global justice, war and political rhetoric.

**How did your experiences in Argentina impact your scholarship?**

I resigned after four years in protest against the human rights policies of the government of Argentina. But also because I wanted to be an academic.

My Argentine experience made me a staunch critic of dictators. That’s one of the things that actually distinguishes my scholarship. Many people have a more nuanced view of dictators. I think that dictators are dictators. They’re tyrants. I don’t make excuses for bad governments who oppress and immiserate their populations. That’s the main thing that remains with me.

**Tell us a little about why you wanted to join the law faculty at Florida State.**

I taught for 17 years at Arizona State in Tempe. That’s where I started and I liked it very much, but by the beginning of this century, I was eager for a change of scenery. Arizona State was fine, but the desert is a forbidding place, and I was...
a little tired of cacti and rattlesnakes. I wanted to see some real trees. And sometimes you want to change institutional environments as well. I was lucky that I got this offer as eminent scholar chair in 2002, and it was an offer I could not refuse. Sometimes in life, change is good.

**How would you describe the atmosphere at the law school compared to other places you have taught or studied?**

In terms of the collegiality, it’s fantastic. There are no cliques. It’s just a truly congenial faculty. Moreover, it’s a very intellectually gifted faculty. At FSU Law, people enjoy ideas, and it’s a more intellectual faculty compared to our peers. Outside of the elite law schools, we are the most intellectual faculty, and we think we are even more intellectual than some of those. I have nothing but good things to say about the leadership. Don Weidner was a fantastic dean, and Dean O’Connor is doing a fantastic job. I know it sounds like propaganda, but I’m serious. It’s true.

**Can you tell us about your tango band?**

It’s kind of inactive now for three or four years, but we have performed here for years, all over town. It’s a lovely thing. It’s amazing the tremendous talent you can find in a city like Tallahassee. It’s a college town, and we have an excellent School of Music. All of my musicians are recruited from the FSU School of Music, so they are all classically trained, and I am the only one who is not a professional musician. All of them are very good. The last time we played was a year and a half ago, and it’s always a joy. But my first 10 years here, we would perform on average once a week around town. I’m too busy now to direct the band, but it’s been great.

And then my other hobby is bridge. I’m a competitive bridge player. I play in tournaments here and around the country whenever I can. It’s good because when I retire that’s something to do that will keep my mind agile.

**Can you tell us a little about your family?**

Sure! I’m married and have two sons from my first marriage. My wife Bettina and I have a daughter studying at Columbia University in New York. One of my boys lives in Bend, Ore., and the other one lives in Austin, Texas. We are a really close family. In that sense, I am very much a Latin American. My family bonds are tight and I have close family back in Argentina, where I go back every year. I have nieces and nephews and my brother that I love very much and I’m very close to—my family is the most important thing to me.

**Who has had the biggest influence on you?**

One person who has been a tremendous influence in my thinking is my co-author Guido Pincione. He’s a fellow Argentine and we have been friends since we were classmates in law school. He’s a professor of philosophy at the University of Arizona now. We traveled intellectually together since we were in our 20s, and we continue to collaborate and publish things together. He’s an intellectual leader, a very gifted philosopher.

**What are your plans for after retirement?**

I am retiring at the end of the spring 2018 semester and moving to Berlin, Germany. My wife is German and works for the German Foreign Office. I plan to continue writing and giving lectures. I also plan to indulge my hobbies: music, bridge, travel, wine and food.
During the fall 2017 semester, the College of Law welcomed five visiting law students from the University of Puerto Rico, where in September, Hurricane Maria forced an extended closure. Alumni, students, faculty and friends provided an outpouring of support for the students’ housing, books and supplies. Current students also stepped up to make the UPR students feel at home by offering to cook meals and serving as peer mentors. The Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida also provided assistance.

UPR students began arriving in Tallahassee in early October and on Monday, October 23, the law school held a reception in the Rotunda to officially welcome them to our community.

FSU was one of a small consortium of law schools that agreed to take the displaced students. FSU College of Law was uniquely positioned to assist the students in part because of Tallahassee’s brush with Hurricane Irma. FSU was closed for more than a week before and after the storm due to mass evacuation. That closure, and the fact that the school had a relatively late start to the fall semester, helped make it easier for the Puerto Rican students to catch up and finish the semester. Under an agreement with the University of Puerto Rico, which was approved by the American Bar Association, the students attended classes at Florida State for credit, without additional tuition expenses.

“We were all very excited to have the students come to FSU,” said Dean O’Connor. “During a natural disaster we can all text cash and give blood, but to actually meet and build relationships with the people we’re helping is very gratifying.”
In January 2018, the College of Law launched a Veterans Legal Clinic to provide free legal services to veterans. The clinic handles a wide variety of cases, including driver’s license reinstatements, family law cases, expunging criminal records, clemency applications and landlord/tenant cases.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide much needed legal services to veterans in our area,” said FSU College of Law Dean Erin O’Connor. “For our students, this will be an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of veterans and their families.”

Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, second- and third-year law students enrolled in the clinic assist veterans. Students gain valuable legal experience as they handle cases from start to finish.

“Students will develop many practical skills, including client interviewing and legal research, while working with some fascinating people who have served our country and who now need and appreciate our help,” said Veterans Legal Clinic Director Jennifer LaVia.

In advance of launching the Veterans Legal Clinic, volunteer law students, LaVia and other volunteer lawyers conducted weekly advice and referral sessions for veterans at the American Legion Post 13 in Tallahassee. They assisted 40-50 veterans per month since February 2017 through their weekly sessions. The Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative (TVLC), a group founded by Tallahassee attorney Dan Hendrickson who saw a need for and conceived of the Veterans Legal Clinic, organized the weekly sessions. TVLC sessions are now a source of referrals to the clinic. In addition, any veteran who is interested in participating may contact the Veterans Legal Clinic directly.

The Veterans Legal Clinic is part of the College of Law’s Public Interest Law Center, which has been providing legal services to the under-represented since 1991. The Public Interest Law Center also provides assistance through its Children’s Advocacy Clinic and Family Law Clinic.
On Monday, October 2, 2017, FSU paid tribute to President Emeritus and FSU Law Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, who served as dean of the law school from 1984 to 1989, with a new stained-glass window in Dodd Hall.

The 101-by-35-inch stained-glass window, located above the entrance inside the Heritage Museum, includes a portrait of D’Alemberte and four hand-painted black and white pendants drawn in a pen-and-ink style with porcelain enamel. A team of artists at FSU’s Master Craftsman Studio meticulously designed, cut and painted every piece of glass.

Each pendant spotlights a special time in D’Alemberte’s life and career: the Florida Capitol, where he served in the House of Representatives from 1966 to 1972; the FSU College of Law, where he led from 1984 to 1989 as dean and served as a professor for much of his career; the FSU College of Medicine, which was established in 2000 during his tenure as president and became the first new medical school in the nation in more than 20 years; and his treasured childhood home in downtown Tallahassee, where he was born in 1933.

During the unveiling, Florida State President John Thrasher (December ’72), who has known D’Alemberte more than 40 years, described his friend as a brilliant legal mind, a man of great integrity and a tireless force for justice.

“Sandy and I have developed a strong friendship based on our mutual love and respect for our state, our country and, of course, Florida State University,” Thrasher said. “Sandy has helped shape Florida State's identity as a university that not only educates students, but develops good citizens who contribute to society in meaningful ways. He has spent his whole life trying to make this world a better place.”
The Honorable Charles R. Wilson Visits College of Law

On Wednesday, October 25, 2017, United States Court of Appeals Judge Charles R. Wilson, of the Eleventh Circuit, visited campus as part of our Jurist in Residence Program that brings federal judges to campus. Judge Wilson had breakfast with students, answered questions in Professor David E. Landau’s Civil Procedure class, toured the law school, visited the Moot Court Final Four Showcase and met with faculty members.

Judge Wilson was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1999. After law school, Judge Wilson clerked with Judge Joseph W. Hatchett of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is a former assistant county attorney for Hillsborough County, Fla., and practiced law for five years in Tampa. He also previously served as a county judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County Court, as a United States magistrate judge for the Middle District of Florida and as U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

He is master emeritus of the Ferguson-White Inn of the American Inns of Court and a member of the advisory council of the University of Notre Dame Law School. Judge Wilson previously served as a member of the American Bar Association’s Council on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, as well as the American Bar Association’s Law School Accreditation Committee. He is a member of the Codes of Conduct Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Thank you to alumnus Kenneth Lawson (’91), who connected us with Judge Wilson and helped us welcome him to FSU Law.
The Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, visited campus on Monday, February 26, 2018, to meet with students and faculty members. Judge Tjoflat’s visit to FSU Law was part of our Jurist in Residence Program, which brings federal judges to campus. While here, he had breakfast and an afternoon high tea with small groups of students, spoke to Professor Wayne Logan’s Criminal Procedure-Adjudication class, toured the law school and gave remarks to the faculty over lunch.

Judge Tjoflat has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit since 1981 and previously served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from 1975 until that circuit divided into two circuits. He also served on the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

From 1973 to 1987, he was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Administration of the Probation System. The committee was charged with overseeing the performance of the nation’s probation and parole officers and with communicating to Congress the views of the federal courts on matters of crime and punishment. From 1975 to 1987, he was a member of the Advisory Corrections Council of the United States, which was charged with overseeing the operation of the federal prison system. Judge Tjoflat was also involved in the administration of criminal justice at the international level. He was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Sixth and Seventh United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders in 1980 and 1985.

Prior to his judicial service, Judge Tjoflat practiced law in Jacksonville. He also served for two years in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps during the Korean War, before earning his LL.B. at Duke University School of Law in 1957.

A special thank you to Professor Logan for helping us bring Judge Tjoflat to FSU Law.
Visit from The Honorable Virginia M. Hernandez Covington

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, our Jurist in Residence Program brought the Honorable Virginia M. Hernandez Covington, of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, to the College of Law. While on campus, she had breakfast with student leaders and attended Professor Chuck Ehrhardt’s Evidence class. She also met with faculty and attended an afternoon high tea with Women’s Law Symposium students.

Judge Covington received her commission as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida on September 10, 2004. Before her federal appointment, she served on Florida’s Second District Court of Appeal, having been appointed in September 2001. For most of her career, Judge Covington worked as an assistant United States attorney in the Middle District of Florida, doing both criminal and civil work.

Judge Covington holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tampa, where she received the Outstanding Female Graduate Award and an M.B.A. in 1977. She then earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1980, where she was an editor of *The Tax Lawyer*. She received an honorary law degree from Stetson University College of Law and is a recipient of the J. Ben Watkins Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession. She is a founder and past president of the Herbert G. Goldburg Criminal Law Inn of Court and a member of the Advisory Board of the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association. The Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Hispanic Advisory Council presented her with the Raymond E. Fernandez Award in 1999, for her outstanding contributions to the Hispanic community. In 2003, Judge Covington was named Tampa’s Hispanic Woman of the Year. The Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida named Judge Covington Jurist of the Year in 2006 and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, of which Judge Covington is a founding member, presented her with a Trailblazer Award in 2016. Judge Covington has taught numerous classes covering subjects such as trial advocacy, intellectual property issues, drug prosecutions, money laundering, asset forfeiture and human trafficking.
In November, FSU Law alumni returned to campus for the 2017 Homecoming Weekend festivities. Law school events began Friday, November 17, with the homecoming parade featuring Professor Chuck Ehrhardt, who was honored as the recipient of FSU’s 2017 Bernard F. Sliger Award, the highest honor given by the FSU Alumni Association. A group of faculty, staff and students gathered to cheer him on as his car passed by the law school.

That evening, Fred Baggett (’70) and his wife Lyn hosted a reception at their home. During the reception, the 2017 Alumni Awards were presented. Manuel Farach (’86) received the Distinguished Alum Award, which recognizes a College of Law graduate who is distinguished professionally and who has rendered outstanding service to the community as well as to the College of Law. Although she was unable to attend the reception, Jennifer R. Dixon (’04) was recognized with the Alumni Association Service Award, given to an FSU Law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the College of Law over an extended period of time. Finally, the Class of ’66 Award was presented to Professor Emeritus John Yetter. This award recognizes a non-FSU Law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to our law school and to the community. Each recipient is inducted into the Class of 1966 to commemorate the FSU College of Law’s first year.

On Saturday, November 18, all alumni were invited to our Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, followed by the Law Alumni Tailgate Party on the law school James Harold Thompson Green prior to the FSU v. Delaware State football game. The Seminoles won the noon game 77-6!
(LEFT L-R) The Honorable Joseph Lewis, Jr. ('77), Julie Lawson, Justice Alan Lawson ('87), the Honorable Linda Wells ('77) and Bob Wells, Jr. ('77) at the Homecoming reception.

(SECOND ROW FAR LEFT) 2017 award recipients Manny Farach ('86) and Professor Emeritus John Yetter

(MIDDLE) Homecoming reception hosts Fred Baggett ('70) and Lyn Baggett

(BELOW L-R) Chuck Comella ('09), Kathryn Isted ('09) and Jennifer Gutai ('10)

(L-R) Debbie Schuck, Glenda Thornton ('89), Neal Morris and John Wood ('77)

Monica Carusello ('16) and Jon Goldenberg at the alumni tailgate.
Our spring 2018 graduation ceremony was held Sunday, May 6. More than 150 Juris Doctor graduates, three Juris Master graduates and 11 LL.M. graduates walked in the ceremony at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson ('87) was the featured commencement speaker. Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests attended a reception at the law school. A video of the ceremony is available at law.fsu.edu/2018GradVideo.

Florida State University’s fall 2017 graduation ceremony was held Friday, December 15. A record 38 College of Law students graduated – the most the law school has ever had in a fall semester – including 34 J.D. and four J.M. recipients. The law school celebrated our fall 2017 graduates with a reception in the Advocacy Center prior to the evening commencement ceremony.
NOTEWORTHY

(Middle left) Graduate Charles Frederick celebrates with family and friends.

(Middle right) Dean Erin O’Connor congratulates graduate Carlton Hamilton after he is hooded.

(Bottom left) Graduate Janaye Garrett celebrates with her nephew after the graduation ceremony.

Graduate Alexa Landreaux and family members take a selfie at the commencement reception.

As the featured commencement speaker, Justice Alan Lawson discussed “five principles that have guided me well” that he hoped would be helpful for graduates.
FEATURED ALUMNI

ERIKA J. BARGER (’13) was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. She is the compliance director at Holland Financial Inc. in Ormond Beach.

MIN K. CHO (’04) is now vice president and general counsel at uBreakiFix in Orlando. He previously was a partner at Holland & Knight LLP in Orlando.

JOSHUA E. DOYLE (’06) is now executive director of The Florida Bar. Doyle previously served as a special agent for the FBI working in the bureau’s Tallahassee office.

LISA P. EDGAR (’88) was named director of the Florida Park Service by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). She previously served as deputy secretary of the DEP.
FEATURED ALUMNI

KARAO SCHIFF (‘04) transitioned to a new role within The Walt Disney Company. She now leads the leave strategy and compliance team within Disney’s Global Human Resources Operation in Celebration, which provides innovative HR solutions for Disney employees globally.

KEVIN D. SCHIFF (‘05) was named the 2016 Felony Prosecutor of the Year by the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council. He is the deputy Yavapai County attorney in Prescott, Ariz.

BENJAMIN L. CRUMP (‘95) was inducted into the FSU Circle of Gold. He also launched Ben Crump Law, where he will focus on fighting social injustice, with offices located in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Tallahassee. He was previously a partner at Parks and Crump, LLC in Tallahassee. Crump also appeared in an episode of the Fox live unscripted series, You The Jury in April 2017.

STACIE B. HARRIS-COX (‘05) was selected as Prosecutor of the Year by Governor Rick Scott. She also was honored during the second annual presentation of The Inspire Awards on July 13 and was named Woman of the Year by the Zonta Club of Tampa for the significant impact she makes on the issue of human trafficking. Harris-Cox is an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Middle District, in Tampa.

KRISTIE L. HATCHER-BOLIN (‘01) is a recipient of The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award. She is a shareholder at GrayRobinson, P.A. in Lakeland, pro bono attorney ad litem and volunteer advocate for the children in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem program.
**VIVIAN CORTES HODZ (’02)**

received the 2016-2017 Diversity Leadership Grant Outstanding Program Award from The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion at the 2017 Tampa Bay Area Voluntary Bar Leaders’ Summit. She was also recognized by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers as a 2017 Leader in the Law. Additionally, she was appointed as a liaison to The Florida Bar Board of Governors on behalf of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association for 2016-2017. She practices family law at Cortes Hodz Family Law and Mediation, P.A. in Tampa along with her husband, Lawrence J. Hodz (’01).

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**SHIRA R. THOMAS (’94)** is now chief legal officer and general counsel at Florida A&M University.

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**MATTHEW Z. LEOPOLD (’04)** was confirmed as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) general counsel by the U.S. Senate on December 14, 2017. He will serve as the highest ranking lawyer and chief legal advisor to the EPA, the federal agency with primary responsibility for implementing the nation’s environmental laws. Leopold had practiced in Carlton Fields’ Tallahassee office since 2015, focusing on environmental, energy and water law.

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**CAROLYN R. RICKERT (’09)** was honored as a recipient of the inaugural Akerman Impact Award for her years of volunteer work as a guardian ad litem, as well as her work on the firm’s Community Impact Team. She is an associate at Akerman, LLP in Orlando, where she practices Florida land use and entitlements law.

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**ANDREW G. FAY (’10)** was selected as the 2016 Government Lawyer of the Year by the Florida Government Bar Association. In February 2018, he also was appointed to serve on the Florida Public Service Commission. He was previously the legislative and policy specialist for the Florida Attorney General’s Office.

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**DAVID W. WARD (’15)** received the Reubin Askew Young Alumni Award and was named a 2017 Notable Nole by the FSU Alumni Association. He helped resettle Syrian and Iraqi refugees to Australia during a seven month humanitarian project in the Mideast last year. Ward’s story was featured in the Spring/Summer issue of the FSU Alumni Association’s VIRES magazine. He operates corporate consulting firm Vires Strategy and is chief legal officer at iMobile3 in Jacksonville. In March 2018, Ward also was honored at the 2018 Seminole 100, a celebration of the fastest-growing businesses owned by FSU alumni.
LIZA E. SMOKER ('08) was awarded the Paul May Professionalism in Practice Award at the Broward County Bar Association’s Annual Installation Dinner & Gala. She is a partner at Rogers, Morris & Ziegler LLP in Fort Lauderdale. She focuses her practice in real estate, commercial and civil litigation, business, and other matters.

KRISTOPHER J. KEST ('05), founder and attorney at Kest Family Law, P.A. in Orlando, received the Orange County Bar Association’s 2016 Lawrence G. Mathews, Jr. Young Lawyer Professionalism Award. Recipients of the award, who are nominated by their peers, are attorneys who have practiced law for less than 15 years, and whose conduct and career stand as models of success built on unquestioned professionalism.

MEGAN FAY ('11) has been appointed director of policy by Governor Rick Scott. She has worked in the governor’s office since 2013 serving as a chief analyst in the Office of Policy and Budget, deputy director of cabinet affairs and most recently, as deputy director of legislative affairs.

JO-ANNA M. NIEVES ('09) was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Service Award by the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA) on January 26, 2017. The ACBA specifically noted that her passion, commitment to excellence, quiet reflection, and drive for justice and service embodies the spirit of the ideal new lawyers in Alameda County. Nieves is the founding attorney at The Nieves Law Firm, APC in Oakland, Calif.

JANICE JOY DAHL ('91) received the 2017 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award from Community Legal Services of Mid Florida for pro bono service to widows and orphans. She practices family law at Dahl Family Law Group in Clermont.

LANSING C. SCRIVEN ('87) won the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Outstanding Lawyer Award. He is a shareholder at Trenam Law in their Tampa office. Scriven concentrates his practice in the area of business litigation, handling a diverse range of business disputes.

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Congratulations to the following alumni on their accomplishments during the past year! To view the full notes and more recent alumni news, visit law.fsu.edu/classnotes.

1969
John W. Frost, II

1970
George L. Waas

1971
The Honorable Richard G. Payne

1972
Peter M. Dunbar
J. W. Hogan
The Honorable F. Shields McManus
The Honorable Steven Wallace

1973
The Honorable Sally D. Kest
The Honorable Stephen R. Koons
Charles L. Woody

1974
Brian S. Duffy
Stann W. Givens

1975
Mark Herron
Daniel H. Thompson

1976
Jeffrey C. Bassett
Dominic M. Caparello
The Honorable Lewis M. Killian, Jr.

1977
Nancy A. Daniels
Robert S. Goldman
The Honorable Debra A. Heise
The Honorable Linda A. Wells

1979
Melanie A. Hines
Terry E. Lewis
Anne Longman
William M. Smith
Alaine S. Williams

1980
David J. Giatthorn
Donald M. Hinkle
James W. Linn
Stefan V. Stein

1981
Frederick H. Kent, III

1982
Joseph R. Flood, Jr.
John W. Little, III

1983
Cari L. Roth
Robert L. Rothman
Thomas P. Scarritt, Jr.
Brian R. Young

1984
Douglas L. Hall
R. S. Lewis
Hala A. Sandridge

1985
Mark E. Holcomb
James W. Middleton
David S. Oliver
Wayne M. Pathman
Leonard K. Samuels

1986
The Honorable Jeffrey P. Bassett
Gary D. Beatty
The Honorable Cynthia L. Cox
Manuel Farach

1987
The Honorable Gerardo Castiello
Major Meredith Charbula
Susan S. Erdelyi
Richard H. McDuff
Lansing C. Scriven
The Honorable J. Layne Smith

1988
Stephen S. Dobson, III
Commissioner Lisa P. Edgar
Michael W. Jackson
Anita C. Pryor

1989
William D. Anderson
Colonel Steven P. Hester
Pablo Meles
Stephen R. Senn

1990
Crystal T. Broughan
Susan Sedensky

1991
Matthew R. Cohen
Janice Joy Dahl
Ramon de la Cabada
Kenneth E. Lawson

1992
Marianne Howanitz
Avery D. McKnight
Barbara D. Ray
Salesia V. Smith-Gordon, R.Ph.

1993
Alexander Caballero

1994
Robert F. Kohlman
Sean A. Pittman
Damian C. Taylor
Shira R. Thomas

1995
Lisa D. Bernau
Edward L. Birk
Benjamin L. Crump
James S. Myers
Daryl D. Parks
Francisco J. Viñas

1996
Jason D. Lazarus
Russel M. Lazega
Douglas J. McCarron
Jason A. McGrath

1997
The Honorable Francis J. Allman, Jr.
Alejandro Espino

1998
Catherine B. Chapman
Jeffrey Feulner
Scott B. Smith
Richard C. Valuntas
Roberto M. Vargas

1999
Anthony C. Alfonso
A. DeLoach, Jr.
Michael G. Dyer
Lieutenant Colonel John L. Kiel, Jr.
Shannon L. Novey
Anthony G. Papa

2000
Daniel J. Alvarez
Rosalyn S. Baker-Barnes
Ginger L. Boyd
Ryan B. Cappy
Sean T. Desmond
John J. Kendron
Christina M. O’Brien
William C. Purdy
Aaron M. Scavron
Colonel Isaac C. Spragg
Wendy J. Stein
Class Notes are Online!

“Class Notes” are now being published exclusively online at law.fsu.edu! You can browse notes by class year as often as you would like – notes will be published within a few weeks of when they are submitted. Photos will also be published with the notes if they are provided. We hope you enjoy the new online notes, which allow us to share your news more quickly!

If you have anything that you would like to include in “Class Notes,” please submit a note using our online form at law.fsu.edu/alumni/submit-class-note. You can also share information by emailing rshepher@law.fsu.edu or mailing:

Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
Annual Fund

Please help us reach our goal of 31 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by JUNE 30 to: Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601. You can also give online at give.fsu.edu/law. If you have any questions about giving to this year’s Annual Fund, contact Becky Shepherd at 850.644.0231 or rshepher@law.fsu.edu. Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and the College of Law!

In Memoriam
Guy E. Burnette, Jr. (’77)
Shaun P. Carres (’12)
Joseph C. D’Annunzio (’99)
Cynthia L. Hain (’95)
The Honorable Kim C. Hammond (’72)
Brian A. Higgins (’95)
Judith S. Kahn (’04)
The Honorable John D. Southwood (’69)
Robert J. Tirelli (’77)

2016
Anthony E. Aguanno
Christen C. Arnold
Timothy Cherry
Ernest A. Cox, IV
Sandra K. “Kaitlin” Dean
Michael B. Dobson
Dennis P. Foster
Robert B. Fredeking
Christina L. Gualtieri
Luke M. Gumpert
Michael-Javad Hedayaat
Luis A. Lopez Hernandez
Melanie C. Kalmanson
Taylor N. Kaufman
Cameron M. King
Daniel R. Krumbholz
Joseph M. Lamb
John A. LoBianco, III
Kerry A. Mawn
Kimberly Rivera
Kirsten E. Skokos
Leonardo Arias Vera
Elizabeth S. Whittinghill
April L. Zinober

2017
Charles R. LeCocq
Catherine Ann Lockhart
Keith Pridgen

2009
Thomas B. Acuff
Jessica G. Costello
Shane T. Costello
Brandon T. Glanz
William D. Hall, III
Jo-Anna M. Nieves
Jason M. Renner
Carolyn R. Rickert

2010
Gregory K. Black
Christa P. Burger
Terin M. Barbas Cremer
Andrew G. Fay
Bryan C. Fisher
Steven M. Hogan
Meryl M. Kinard
Ashley R. Kirkham
Michael A. Kolcun, Jr.
Andrea A. Lewis
Andrew R. Marcus
Sidney Noyes
Nathan J. Paulich
Zackery Scharlepp

2011
Megan Fay
Kevin A. Forsthoefel
John S. “Evan” Gibbs, III
Jessica L. Gregory
David W. Grimes
Ashley P. Hayes
David A. Hayes
Cullan E. Jones
Matthew D. Kissner
Zachary R. Kobrin
Melanie R. Leitman
Nathan W. Marshburn
Ashlee A. Pouncy
Alan F. Somerstein
Christopher A. Weaver

2012
Brandon W. Brewer
Patrick D. Flemming
Ashley E. Gault
Benjamin M. Melnick
Hannah D. Monroe
Gordon C. Murray, Jr.
Jodi M. Ruberg
Erin K. Van De Walle
William P. Winter

2013
Erika J. Barger
David W. Cannady
Joey M. Chindamo
Christopher Hudtwalcker
Matthew J. Kelly
Olivia T. Kronenberg
Kendra McCan
Adrian T. Mood, Jr.
Laurel C. Niles
Alexander P. Pendolino
Lauren M. Pizzo
Ian E. Puczkowski
Kevin R. Schneider
Brandon A. Steele
Janelle E. Zabresky

2014
Michael E. Bonner
Nesha V. Drummond
Denisse C. Ilabaca-Ravinet
Brandon McWalters
Clayton Osteen
Alison F. Sausaman
Melissa M. Sinor
Amber Stoner
Jacquelyn A. Thomas
David A. Weisz

2015
Brooke A. Bach
Celeste N. Gaines
Sarah E. Haston
Samantha R. Kelly
Jordane E. Learn
Sarah R. Niewold
Jaycee Peralta
Corey J. Portnoy
Chad I. Rubin
Kali Lauren M. Sinclair
Thomas C. Treece
David W. Ward

2016
Anthony E. Aguanno
Christen C. Arnold
Timothy Cherry
Ernest A. Cox, IV
Sandra K. “Kaitlin” Dean
Michael B. Dobson
Dennis P. Foster
Robert B. Fredeking
Christina L. Gualtieri
Luke M. Gumpert
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Robert J. Tirelli (’77)
Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of *Florida State Law*.

**Frederick M. Abbott**  
**EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR  
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

**Chapters:**  
**Articles:**  
*Reflections on the Report of the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, 22 Ciência & Saúde Coletiva 2440 (2017);  
*Global Medicines Council, Briefing Paper No. 1 (editor) (2017);  
*China policies to promote local manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and protect public health, World Health Organization* (2017);  
*Indian policies to promote local manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and protect public health, World Health Organization* (2017).  

**Presentations:**  
*Presentations on Competition in International Context; Anticompetitive Practices; Evidence and Remedies; and Prosecutions and Sector Inquiries (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ISAGS-UNISUR / Fiocruz / UNDP Consultation on Competition and Access to Health Technologies, December 2017);  
*Presentations on IP and Policy Coherence; IP and Competition; and Compulsory Licensing and Government Use (Pretoria, South Africa, Department of Trade and Industry South Africa - Workshop on Draft Intellectual Property Policy, October 2017);  
*Participant (Washington, D.C., U.S. H.H.S. Roundtable Meeting on Access to Medicines and Other Health Technologies, August 2017);  
*A Never-ending Tale: IP governance, the (captured) regulatory state and the world of second bests (Geneva, Switzerland, University of Geneva, Uni-Bastions, The Global Debate on Intellectual Property, Trade and Development: Past, Present and Future, Conference in Honour of Pedro Roffe, June 2017);  
*Competition in Public Health Workshop (Jakarta, Indonesia, KPPU-UNDP, May 2017);  
*Health & Trade, Monopoly, Competition Law and Data Exclusivity (Beijing, China, WHO China Office, Policy Roundtable on the Global Experience with the Use of TRIPS Flexibilities to Improve Access to High-Priced Medicines, May 2017);  
*Patents and Public Health in a Time of Chaos (Fort Worth, Texas, Texas A&M University School of Law, Intellectual Property and Global Development: 50 Years After Stockholm, Symposium, April 2017);  
*Competition Doctrines for the Medicines Sector: Innovation and Affordability (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Seventh ASEAN Competition Conference 2017 - ASEAN@50 - Managing Change in a Competitive ASEAN, March 2017);  
*The WTO and Intellectual Property in the Midst of Tectonic Shift (Delhi, India WTO@20 Conference, Organized by the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization with National Law University, Delhi, February 2017).  

**Paolo Annino**  
**GLASS PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW**

**Presentations:**  
*Kids Don’t Belong in Adult Prisons (St. Augustine, Compassionate Saint Augustine, February 2018);  
*Panel Participant (Tallahassee, Florida State University College of Medicine, Seventh Annual Health Law Conference: Health Care Professional/Attorney Collaboration on Behalf of Patients and Clients, January 2018);  
*Clinical Legal**

Robert E. Atkinson, Jr.
GREENSPOON MARDER PROFESSOR


Shawn J. Bayern
LARRY AND JOYCE BELTZ PROFESSOR OF TORTS


Courtney Cahill
DONALD HINKLE PROFESSOR

Presentations: *After Sex* (University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Annual Baby Markets Conference, May 2017).

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte
PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR

Presentations: *Speech on the CRC* (Tallahassee, Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, March 2018); *Panelist* (Tallahassee, Florida Supreme Court, The Florida Bar’s 2017 Reporters’ Workshop, Defamation & Libel Panel, October 2017); *Luncheon Speaker* (Tallahassee, Florida State University, Champions Club, 4th Annual Dr. Betty Lou Joanos Leadership Award Luncheon, April 2017); *Featured Luncheon Speaker on the Constitution Revision Commission* (Tallahassee, Governor’s Club, Tallahassee Women Lawyers and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Annual Lobby Days, April 2017); *Panelist* (Tallahassee, First District Court of Appeal, Panel Presentation on Florida’s Appellate Court Appointment Process for the First District Appellate Inn of Court, March 2017); *Panelist* (Tallahassee, Florida Capitol, AP Summit on the Constitutional Revision Commission, January 2017).

Charles W. Ehrhardt
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Presentations: *Presentation* (Annual Education Meeting of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, July 2017); *Presentation* (Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of Trial Advocates, July 2017); *Presentation* (Summer Education Training Program for the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, August 2017).

Avlana K. Eisenberg
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Presentations: *The Prison-Educational Complex* (Houston, Texas, University of Houston Law Center, Faculty Speaker Series, January 2018) (Newton, Massachusetts, Boston College Law School, Faculty Colloquium, October 2017); *Prisons and Pedagogy* (Washington D.C., American Association of Law Schools Mid-Year Meeting, June 2017); *Mass Monitoring* (Atlanta, Georgia, Emory Law School, Faculty Workshop, March 2017).
Shi-Ling Hsu
D’ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS


Steve R. Johnson
DUNBAR FAMILY PROFESSOR


Jeffrey H. Kahn
HARRY W. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR


Jay Kesten
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Larry S. Krieger
CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND CO-DIRECTOR
OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Presentations: How Law Faculty Can Improve Student Well-Being and Performance Outcomes (American Bar Association, Law School Assistance Committee (COLAP), Podcast, March 2018); Why and How to Teach Well-Being and Professionalism to Externship and Clinic Students (Athens, Georgia, Externships 9 National Conference, March 2018); Proposing a Data-Based Redefinition of Professional Success (Tallahassee, Inaugural Workshop on Lawyer Well-Being, Sponsored by the President of The Florida Bar, Keynote Speaker, February 2018); Lawyer Mental Health and Satisfaction (The Florida Bar, Practice Resource Institute Legal Talk Network, Podcast, January 2018); Recent Scientific Insights into Attorney Well-Being and Professionalism Based on Self Determination Theory (Nashville, Tennessee, Symposium on Scientific Research and the Future of the Profession, American Bar Association and Tennessee Bar Association, December 2017); One Organizing Principle for Lawyer Well-Being and Ethics (Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont Law School, CLE Presentation, December 2017); A Deeper Understanding of Attorney Depression, Addiction, and Lost Professionalism (Naples, Annual Conference of Florida Lawyers’ Assistance, July 2017); Is Public Service More Fulfilling than Private Law? New Data on Lawyers in Four States (Tallahassee, Legal Division, Florida Department of Health, May 2017); A New Empirical Imperative: Only the Happy Lawyers Will Be Ethical (West Palm Beach, Putting the PRO in Professionalism, Florida Supreme Court Center for Professionalism and The Florida Bar, April 2017).

David E. Landau
MASON LADD PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Book: Colombian Constitutional Law (with Manuel Jose Cepeda Espinosa) (Oxford University Press 2017). Chapters: Legal Pragmatism and Comparative Constitutional Law, in Comparative Constitutional Theory (Gary Jacobson & Miguel Schor, editors) (Edward Elgar Publishing 2018); South African Social Rights Jurisprudence and the Global Canon: A Revisionist View, in South African Constitutionalism After 20 Years (Theunis Roux & Rosalind Dixon, editors) (Cambridge University Press 2018); Judicial Role and the Limits of Constitutional Convergence in Latin America, in Handbook on Latin America Constitutional Law (Tom Ginsburg & Rosalind Dixon, editors) (Edward Elgar Press 2017). Articles: Populist Constitutions, 85 U. Chi. L. Rev. 239 (2018); Democratic Erosion and Constitution-Making Moments: The Role of International Law, 3 U.C. Irvine J. Int’l Trans. Comp. L. 87 (2017); Substitute and Complement Theories of Judicial Review, 92 Ind. L.J. 1283 (2017). Presentations: Classification Confusion & Teaching Islamic Law in a Positivist Environment (Montpelier, Virginia, 5th Annual Montpelier Roundtable on Comparative Constitutional Law, James Madison’s Montpelier, Discussant, October 2017); Formal Constitutional Change and Democratic Erosion (Princeton University, University Center for Human Values, Roundtable on Authoritarian Constitutionalism, October 2017); The Efficacy and Impact of Judicial Decisions (San Juan de Pasto, Colombia, 12th Meeting of the Constitutional Court: Balance of 25 Years of Jurisprudence, Closing Address, September 2017); Commentator (Sydney, Australia, University of New South Wales, Conference on Constitutions, Human Rights, and Economic Inequality, August 2017); Tiered Constitutional Design (University of Melbourne Law School, Brown Bag Talk, August 2017); Doctrinal Capture and the Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendment Doctrine (Sydney, Australia, University of New South Wales, Comparative Constitutional Law Work in Progress Roundtable, Gilbert & Tobin Center, August 2017); Constitutional Non-Transformation? Socioeconomic Rights beyond the Poor (Copenhagen, Denmark, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), Panel on Constitutionalism or Dead Letter? The Curious Case of the Constitutional Court of Colombia, July 2017); Tiering Constitutional Amendment (Copenhagen, Denmark, Panel on Courts, Constitutions, and Democratic Hedging, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), with Rosalind Dixon, July 2017); Discussant (Copenhagen, Denmark, Panel on High Courts and Executive Leadership in Latin America:
An Ambivalent Relationship, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), July 2017; Discussant (Copenhagen, Denmark, Panel on Constitutional Actors and Constitutional Change: Comparative Perspectives, Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Law (ICON-S), July 2017); Discussant (Mexico City, Mexico, Panel on Judicial Review in Colombia: The Peace Process and Beyond, International Meeting on Law & Society, June 2017); Democratic Erosion and Constitution-Making Moments: The Role of International Law (Mexico City, Mexico, International Meeting on Law & Society, Panel on Constitution-Making as Transnational Legal Order I, June 2017); Discussant (Mexico City, Mexico, International Meeting on Law & Society, Panel on Constitutional Amendment and Democracy, June 2017); Why Constitutionalism? Formal Constitutional Change and Democratic Erosion (University of Chicago Law Review Symposium, May 2017) (Baltimore, Maryland, University of Maryland Con Law Schmooze, March 2017); Commentator (Columbia Law School, Economic Constitutionalism Workshop, Panel on Financial Crises: Economic Constraints and Consequences, April 2017); Las contribuciones de la Corte Constitucional de Colombia al derecho constitucional comparado (Medellin, Colombia, EAFIT University, Annual Inaugural Lecture for the Law Faculty, February 2017).

Jennifer Parker LaVia
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

Presentations: Citations in Judicial Opinions (Tallahassee, First District Court of Appeal Lunch & Learn Series, November 2017).

Tahirih Lee
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR


Jake Linford
LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS PROFESSOR


Wayne A. Logan
GARY & SALLY PAJCIC PROFESSOR


David L. Markell
STEVEN M. GOLDSHEIN PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH


Erin O’Hara O’Connor
DEAN AND MCKENZIE PROFESSOR


Erin Ryan
ELIZABETH C. & CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR


Lauren Scholz
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Mark B. Seidenfeld
PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Justin T. Sevier
CHARLES W. EHNRARDT
PROFESSOR OF LITIGATION


Mark Spottswood
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR


Nat S. Stern
JOHN W. & ASHLEY E. FROST PROFESSOR


Fernando Tesón
TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR


Manuel A. Utset, Jr.
WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK
PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS


Donald J. Weidner
DEAN EMERITUS AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR

Articles: Leaving Law Firms with Client Fees: Florida’s Path, 91-10 The Fla. Bar J. 9 (2017); New FASB Rules on Accounting for Leases: A Sarbanes-Oxley Promise Delivered, 72 Bus. Lawyer 367 (2017). Presentations: Exiting Law Firms with Clients in Tow: Legal and Ethical Issues (Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont Law School, November 2017); Exiting Firms with Clients in Tow—Legal and Ethical Issues (CLE Webinar, Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar, August 2017); Presentation (Ft. Worth, Texas, Texas A & M University Law School, Associate Deans Conference, June 2017); Leaving Law Firms and Taking Clients: Legal and Ethical Issues in Florida (Tallahassee Bar Association Annual Legal Community Conference, May 2017); Leaving Law Firms and Taking Clients: Florida Emphasis and National Perspective (CLE Webinar, Upchurch Watson White & Max Mediation Group and the University of Florida Levin College of Law Institute for Dispute Resolution March 2017).
Kelli Alces Williams  
MATTHEWS & HAWKINS  
PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY


Hannah Wiseman  
ATTORNEYS’ TITLE PROFESSOR


Samuel R. Wiseman  
MCCONNAUGHAY AND RISSMAN  
PROFESSOR


Mary Ziegler  
STEARNS WEAVER MILLER PROFESSOR

During the past academic year, our Environmental Law Program hosted a variety of enriching events for students and practitioners.

In September, we held our Fall 2017 Environmental Forum, “The Psychology of Climate Change: Why Do People Believe What They Believe?” A distinguished panel of social psychologists and political analysts explored ways that people form their beliefs about climate change, and why debate has become so unmoored from its scientific underpinnings. FSU Law’s D’Alemberte Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs Shi-Ling Hsu moderated the event and participants included:

- Janet Bowman, Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
- John Cook, George Mason University
- Irina Feygina, Climate Central
- Janet Swim, Penn State University
- Jerry Taylor, Niskanen Center

In November, we welcomed top scholars from around the continent for our “Energy Policy and Markets in a Shifting Federal-State Landscape Symposium.” Event participants discussed the complex, changing energy regulatory and economic landscape from the local to the federal level. FSU Law’s Hannah Wiseman, the Attorneys’ Title Professor, organized the event and participants included:

- Lincoln Davies, University of Utah College of Law
- Dr. Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh
- Emily Hammond, The George Washington University Law School
- Kate Konschnik, Harvard Law School
- Felix Mormann, Texas A&M University School of Law and Stanford University
- Jim Rossi, Vanderbilt Law School
- Kristen van de Biezenbos, University of Calgary Faculty of Law

Vicki Been, the Boxer Family Professor of Law at New York University, presented our Fall 2017 Environmental Distinguished Lecture, “The City NIMBY & the Suburban NIMBY.” Been is one of the nation’s leading scholars at the intersection of land use, urban policy and affordable housing. She also directs New York University’s Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy and previously served for three years as commissioner of housing preservation and development for the City of New York.

Our Spring 2018 Distinguished Lecturer was Thomas Merrill, the Charles Evans Hughes Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. Merrill is one of the nation’s preeminent property law scholars and writes widely in the fields of property and administrative law. During his lecture, “The Supreme Court’s Regulatory Takings Doctrine: Common-Law Constitutionalism Runs Aground,” Merrill spoke to students, professors and practitioners about some of the Court’s most recent decisions from the perspective that constitutional law has come to resemble common law.
**2018 Lillich Lecture**

In March, we hosted the annual Lillich Distinguished Lecture with the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. Ryan Goodman, the Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz Professor of Law at New York University, presented “The Laws of War in the Age of Terror.” Goodman is one of the top contemporary scholars in the field of international law and is well-known for his work on public international law, human rights law, the laws of war and international organizations. He also is a founding co-editor-in-chief of *Just Security*, a national security online forum.

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**Professors Recognized for Excellence in Teaching**

Paolo Annino (’83), our Glass Professor of Public Interest Law, and Justin Sevier, our Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation, each received one of only eight 2017-18 University Graduate Teaching Awards from FSU. They were honored in May 2018 at a university ceremony to recognize excellence in teaching. The awards are another testament to the strong and dedicated faculty at the law school. Every year, award recipients are nominated by students and alumni and must be outstanding in the many aspects of teaching which contribute to successful teaching and learning. Annino and Sevier joined a distinguished group of educators at the law school who have earned the prestigious University Graduate Teaching Awards. Since 1993, 17 law professors have received the honor, with Professors Nat Stern and Steven Gey receiving two each.
Faculty Media Hits

Frederick Abbott authored the May 31, 2017 *Intellectual Property Watch* opinion piece, “U.S. Supreme Court Adopts International Exhaustion For Patents: Paving the way for parallel imports to exert downward pressure on domestic pharmaceutical (and other) prices.” He also authored the June 8, 2017 *Intellectual Property Watch* opinion piece, “U.S. Supreme Court Adopts International Exhaustion Of Patents (Part II): Addressing the New Competitive Landscape.” He was quoted in the June 20, 2017 *Intellectual Property Watch* piece, “Tribute To An IP Community Influencer Brings Together IP Experts In Geneva.” On March 5, 2018, he was quoted in the *Politifact* piece, “Fox Business host makes 2 errors with steel tariffs and Electrolux deal.”

Paolo Annino was featured for his research in the January 4, 2018 *Boise Weekly* piece, “Legal Footnote: You Have to Look Hard to See the Supreme Court Correct Its Mistakes.”

Shawn Bayern was quoted in the April 4, 2017 *Wall Street Journal* piece, “Pokémon Go’ Suit Makes Case for Virtual Trespassing.” He was also quoted in the April 12, 2017 *Orlando Sentinel* Q&A piece, “Pokemon Go hotspots: ‘Virtual trespassing’ in real-world lawsuit.” He was mentioned in the July 6, 2017 *Digital Trends* piece, “I, Alexa: Should We Give Artificial Intelligence Human Rights?” He also was a guest on the November 6, 2017 *Drone Law Today* podcast, where he discussed his work on LLCs and artificial intelligence.

Courtney Cahill was quoted in the May 22, 2017 *Ms.* magazine blog piece, “Disgust, Stigma and the Politics of Abortion.”

Elizabeth Farrell Clifford was quoted in the March 9, 2018 *ABAJournal* article, “What’s an inexpensive way to teach tech? Find outside experts, say law school librarians.”


Chuck Ehrhardt was quoted in the February 17, 2017 *WFSU* article, “FSU Expert: Daubert Ruling Not Crystal Clear.”

Steve Johnson was quoted in the February 1, 2017 *Tallahassee Democrat* piece, “Florida State professor predicts tough confirmation process of Gorsuch.” He also was quoted in the April 19, 2017 *Tax Notes* article, “Gauging the AICPA’s Case Against the Filing Season Program” and the January 22, 2018 *Bloomberg BNA* piece, “IRS May Face Legal Challenges On Tax Law Regulations.” On January 29, 2018, he was quoted in the *Bloomberg BNA* piece, “Challenging the Rulemaking Process: Three Lessons for Tax Lawyers.”

Jeffrey Kahn was quoted in the January 31, 2018 *Orlando Sentinel* piece, “Tupperware loses $375 million on new tax law.”

Lawrence Krieger’s article, “The Inseparability of Professionalism and Personal Satisfaction: Perspectives on Values, Integrity, and Happiness,” was reviewed by the *Institute for Law Teaching and Learning* on March 6, 2017. The piece was selected as the article of the month. He was quoted in the July 15, 2017 *New York Times* piece, “The Lawyer, the Addict.” He also authored the January 2018 *Florida Bar Journal* piece, “The Surprising Master Key to Happiness and Satisfaction According to the Lawyer Research.” On January 31, 2018, he was featured on the *Florida Bar Podcast* episode, “Attorney Mental Health and Wellness.”

“The psychological factors seen to erode during law school are the very factors most important for the well-being of lawyers. The factors most emphasized in law schools — grades, honors and potential career income — have nil to modest bearing on lawyer well-being.”

- Larry Krieger, quoted in a July 2017 *New York Times* article
Wayne Logan wrote the June 20, 2017 Collateral Consequences Resource Center piece, “SCOTUS invalidates law criminalizing sex offender access to social media.” He was quoted in the September 27, 2017 Washington Times piece, “Federal judge rules Colorado’s sex offender registry unfair to sex offenders.” He also was featured in the November 1, 2017 Florida Times-Union piece, “Restoration of rights backlog highlights need for change, CRC committee says.” On February 20, 2018, he was quoted in the KCUR piece, “Can Registries Cover Too Many Crimes? Kansas Legislation Suggests A Rollback.”

Mark Seidenfeld was quoted in the February 10, 2017 Pensacola News Journal piece, “Gulf Power would devote $19M to Georgia plant.” He was a guest on the WCTV Law Call program on February 19, 2017, where he discussed executive orders.

Justin Sevier was a guest on the Excited Utterance podcast on November 13, 2017. The episode discusses his article, “Popularizing Hearsay.”


Hannah Wiseman was quoted in the February 24, 2017 Popular Science piece, “Fracking fluid is leaking more often than we thought,” and in the March 21, 2017 ZME Science article, “Hydraulic Fracking leaks much more often than we thought.” She was quoted in the E&E News’ July 28, 2017 Energywire piece, “Court to decide fate of federal fracturing authority — or not.” Wiseman co-authored an October 13, 2017 piece for The Conversation titled, “The pull of energy markets – and legal challenges – will blunt plans to roll back EPA carbon rules.” She also was quoted in the November 4, 2017 Charleston Gazette-Mail article, “DEP pipeline decision at odds with WV’s push against federal overreach,” and in the November 16, 2017 InsideClimate News piece, “Industrial Strength: How the U.S. Government Hid Fracking’s Risks to Drinking Water.” On December 5, 2017, she was quoted in the Dallas Morning News piece, “Has your water been tainted by fracking? Scientists who said it was safe now say they were censored.”


“For years, personhood proposals seemed unconstitutional and unpopular with voters uncomfortable with absolute bans. Even other abortion foes dismissed the personhood movement as a dangerous distraction. But the prospect of new judicial nominations and a transformed Republican Party may have finally given personhood proponents the ingredients to succeed.”

- Mary Ziegler, in her March 2018 Washington Post opinion piece
FSU Receives SBA of the Year Award

For the sixth time in 10 years, the Florida State University College of Law Student Bar Association (SBA) received the National Achievement Award, which honors the best SBA in the nation and is also known as the SBA of the Year Award, from the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Law Student Division. The award was presented Saturday, August 12, 2017, at the ABA Annual Meeting in New York City. It recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession. Top law schools from around the nation competed for the award.

Florida State’s SBA was honored following a year of many accomplishments. During the 2016-2017 academic year, SBA’s successful programming included Diversity Week, an inaugural golf tournament, Mental Health Week, a pro bono fair for the student body and a blood drive to support survivors of the 2016 Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting. Events allowed students to network with notable attorneys and judges, and also promoted wellness, community service and collaboration. SBA also participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 3K, raising more than $1,300 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

“We are thrilled that the work of our Student Bar Association has again been recognized at the national level,” said Dean Erin O’Connor. “Congratulations and thanks go to the entire SBA board and especially to its immediate-past president, Kristin DuPont, for making the FSU Law community more vibrant, collaborative and successful.”

Law Review Launches First Online Issue

In May 2018, the Florida State University Law Review launched their new online publication, the Florida State University Law Review Online. The publication features shorter, more timely law review articles. The first issue is dedicated to the friends and family of FSU Law, featuring pieces written exclusively by former FSU Law Review members.

Another component of the new online publication is the Florida State University Law Review Rehearing. The Rehearing is a new initiative that provides a unique and innovative platform for leading scholars to weigh in on important and timely legal questions. The entire discussion is conducted remotely via teleconference, recorded and then transcribed, published and searchable via HeinOnline, Westlaw and Lexis. The audio recording and transcript will also be posted in the online publication.

“To our knowledge, we are the first to host a virtual teleconference, which makes this project very unique and exciting,” said FSU Law Review Editor-in-Chief Daniel Buchholz.

This year, the Rehearing addressed the issues raised in a case before the Ninth Circuit, Juliana v. United States. Participants shared their views on these issues, including the scope of the public trust doctrine, the litigation strategy used in the case, whether it is a proper subject for federal adjudication and whether the federal court system is the proper forum for identifying a fundamental right to a sustainable environment.

FSU Law’s Erin Ryan, the Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor, led and moderated the discussion. Participants included Richard Frank, professor at U.C. Davis School of Law; Jim Huffman, dean emeritus of Lewis & Clark Law School; Irma Russell, professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; and Mary Wood, professor at the University of Oregon School of Law.
Moot Court Team Wins National Competitions

In March, the Florida State University College of Law Moot Court Team won first place in the Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup National First Amendment Moot Court Competition.

Twenty-four law school teams participated in the Washington, D.C. competition, including teams from Boston College, Boston University, Emory University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, New York University, University of California Los Angeles, University of Maryland, University of Notre Dame and University of Virginia. Florida State beat South Texas College of Law Houston, which is ranked one of the nation’s best law schools for moot court, in the final round of competition at the Newseum.

Winning team members were third-year law students Brenda Czekanski, from Miami, and Jenna Von See, from Orlando. FSU College of Law alumni Jonathan Martin (’15), assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Financial Services, and Ian Waldick (’16), a staff attorney at the Florida Supreme Court, coached the team to victory. Martin and Waldick previously won a national moot court competition in 2015 when they were law students at FSU.

FSU Law’s Moot Court Team also won first place in the 2017 Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition held November 3-4, 2017, in Chicago. Florida State also won the Best Brief Award.

Nineteen law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from Georgetown University Law Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and University of Wisconsin Law School. Florida State beat Chicago-Kent College of Law in the final round of competition, which was held in the ceremonial courtroom of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Winning team members were 3L Catie Messinger, from Jacksonville, and 2L Keriann Smith, from Panama City. FSU College of Law alumnus Joseph Gardner (’14), an associate at Henry Buchanan, P.A. in Tallahassee, coached the team to victory.

“Congratulations to our talented student advocates and to their dedicated coaches,” said Dean Erin O’Connor. “These victories are examples of the excellence, talent and commitment of Florida State law students!”
On March 17, 2018, our Black Law Students Association chapter (FSU BLSA) placed third in the National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in Brooklyn, N.Y. The FSU BLSA team of Tawanna Franklin (3L), Joshua Funderburke (1L), Jemma Takx (1L) and Mikayla Taylor (1L), coached by alumna C. Erica White (’01), was one of 19 teams from around the nation to compete. FSU previously won first place in the National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in 2014.

FSU BLSA qualified to compete in the 2018 national competition by placing second out of 15 teams at the SRBLSA Regional Competition in February. More than 100 teams competed regionally for a chance to qualify for the national competition. Also, at the regional convention in Birmingham, Ala., the FSU BLSA chapter won Medium Chapter of the Year honors.
“Dancing with the Stars” Features Dean O’Connor & FSU Law Alumni

On December 7, 2017, local celebrities and legal community leaders took the dance floor to raise money for Legal Services of North Florida. This year’s lineup included FSU Law’s own Dean Erin O’Connor and alumni Catherine Chapman (’98), Nikki Ann Clark (’77), Dana Brooks Cooper (’08), the Honorable Lewis Killian (’76) and Dean LeBoeuf (’81).

The “star” dancers were partnered with dance professionals from Fred Astaire Dance Studio and practiced individualized dance routines for several weeks leading up to the event, where they performed live. Alumnus Dean LeBoeuf took home the People’s Choice Award.

“Although I find dancing countervuitive, it was a fun experience for a great cause,” said Dean O’Connor. “I love Legal Services of North Florida for all it does for the community, and especially how it partners with our students on pro bono projects.”

ROI Alumni Event with College of Business

On Monday, February 12, 2018, we joined the College of Business and the FSU Alumni Association to host an “ROI” networking event for Tallahassee-area alumni. It was a wonderful opportunity for graduates of the law and business schools to connect. FSU President John Thrasher was the keynote speaker. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the College of Business in 1965 and his juris doctor degree from the College of Law in December 1972. President Thrasher shared his thoughts on leadership and addressed the state of the university and his vision for moving FSU forward. The event was part of the Regional Opportunities to Interact series that seeks to connect alumni in various geographic areas and provide them with a return on their investment in FSU.

Alumni connected at the ROI event.
Alumni Engage with Students

Thank you to the following alumni who shared their expertise with students during the 2017-2018 academic year through the FSU College of Law Career Services and Professional Development Office’s Food For Thought lunch series.

- Dana Brooks Cooper (‘08), Fasig|Brooks Law Offices
- Tom Brooks (‘75), Meyer, Brooks, Demma and Blohm, PA
- Brett Carey (‘11), Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell
- Cheyanne Costilla (‘03), Florida Commission on Human Relations
- Paul Drake (‘14), Grossman, Furlow & Bayo
- Jimmy Fasig (‘97), Fasig|Brooks Law Offices
- Brian Fernandes (‘99), State Attorney’s Office, 15th Circuit
- Lauren Godden (‘05), State Attorney’s Office, 15th Circuit
- Steve Grigas (‘93), Health Law Section of The Florida Bar
- David Grimes (‘11), Florida House of Representatives
- Terry L. Hill (‘05), The Florida Bar
- Rick Johnson (‘90), Law Offices of Rick Johnson
- Patrick F. Martin (‘93), Greenberg Traurig
- Stephen Meck (‘80), Carson & Adkins
- Tony Miller (‘00), Agency for State Technology
- Frank Sheppard (‘84), Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell
- The Honorable Suzanne Van Wyk (‘94), Florida Division of Administrative Hearings

- Lyyli Van Whittle (‘98), Public Employees Relations Commission
- Elizabeth “Bib” Willis (‘87), retired lobbyist and Legal Aid Foundation

For the second year in a row, the FSU Law Career Services Office hosted professional development workshops for students. Each Monday during the spring 2018 semester, distinguished attorneys spoke to students during their lunch break. Thank you to the many alumni and friends who generously offered their time, including Melanie Griffin (‘06), of Dean Mead in Tampa, Darby R. Scott (‘07), of Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee, Melissa N. VanSickle (‘02), of Broad and Cassel in Tallahassee, and Wendy Wiener (‘93), of Broad and Cassel in Tallahassee.
(L-R) Jimmy Fasig (’97) and Dana Brooks Cooper (’08) spoke with students about the practice of personal injury law.

(L-R) Lauren Godden (’05) and Brian Fernandes (’99) discussed the benefits of volunteering with the Office of the State Attorney during the summer.

As part of the Professional Development series, Wendy Wiener (’93) spoke about callbacks and employer visits.
Social Media

Are you following the College of Law on social media? These were some of our most popular posts during the past year:

126 likes | May 4, 2017
fsucollegeoflaw Located just minutes from the #FSULaw campus, Cascades Park is the perfect place to grab a coffee, go for a run or relax after a long day. Photo credit: 2L Jonathan Grosso
#iHeartTally @discovercascades

172 likes | December 15, 2017
fsucollegeoflaw Congratulations to all our #FSULaw students who are graduating tonight! You did it!! Photo courtesy of @a_simington

Florida State University College of Law
We are pleased to announce that we rose in the U.S. News rankings again this year! FSU Law is now ranked the 47th best law school in the nation and our environmental law program is ranked 10th best! #BestGradSchools http://fla.st/2prjYHH
March 20, 2018 • 385 reactions, 7 comments, 77 shares

Florida State University College of Law
This photo from last week’s 1L Orientation shows our impressive group of first-year J.D. students, representing 54 undergraduate schools, 47 different majors, 18 states and five countries. Also, the Class of 2020 is making history with the highest percentage of women (52.8) and the highest median GPA (3.61) for the entering class in FSU Law’s 51 years!
August 28, 2017 • 185 reactions, 14 comments, 41 shares
On Mon Oct 23, #FSULaw held a reception to welcome 5 law students from Univ of Puerto Rico who joined our community for the fall semester.

32 likes, 6 retweets  |  October 25, 2017

Two of the FSU Inspire Award recipients are #FSULaw alums Stacie B. Harris Cox ('05) & @melaniesgriffin ('06), pictured center. Congrats!

25 likes, 6 retweets  |  July 20, 2017

This weekend, our FSU College of Law Moot Court Team won first place in the Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup National First Amendment Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.! 24 law school teams participated in the competition, including teams from some of the nation’s top law schools. Florida State beat South Texas College of Law Houston, which is ranked by preLaw Magazine one of the nation’s best law schools for moot court, in the final round of competition at the Newseum.

Congratulations to winning team members Brenda Czekanski and Jenna Von See and to their alumni coaches Jonathan Martin ('15) and Ian Waldick ('16)!

March 27, 2018 • 140 reactions, 10 comments, 11 shares

Professor Jake Linford pledged to wear a dinosaur costume as part of this year’s Student Give Back Campaign and our “dino”mite students met the challenge!
Other Student Achievements

In February 2018, 2L Amy Bhatt was awarded the American Bar Association Janet D. Steiger Fellowship to work in the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General in Tampa.

3L Megan K. Bradley has accepted a federal judicial clerkship with Judge Robert Hinkle of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida.

For the first time, an FSU law student received a prestigious student scholarship from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF). Valerie Chartier-Hogancamp, a 3L from South Florida who worked for 10 years as an environmental consultant before enrolling at FSU Law, was awarded $10,500 from RMMLF. Chartier-Hogancamp accepted a two-year clerkship to begin fall 2019 with the Honorable Carlos Mendoza, U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

3L Jared DuBosar has accepted a federal judicial clerkship with Magistrate Judge Tu M. Pham of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee.

In September 2017, 2L Skye Musson received an Enterprise Veterans Scholarship for $1,000 from Enterprise Rent-A-Car and was an honorary football captain on the field at the FSU Military Appreciation Game against North Carolina State. Musson also serves as vice president of the FSU Collegiate Veterans Association for the university’s veteran student body. She served four years in the United States Coast Guard before entering law school.

Mallory Neumann is a 3L working at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the 2017-2018 Gubernatorial Fellows Program.

3L Taylor Patton has accepted a federal judicial clerkship with Judge Carlos E. Mendoza of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

3L Melissa Rambo has accepted a judicial clerkship with Justice Charles T. Canady, of the Florida Supreme Court.

FSU 3L Candace Rechtmann’s article on dependency and immigration status was accepted for publication in the Child and Family Law Journal.

Oleaq Richards, an FSU LL.M. in Business Law student from Jamaica, was featured in the fall 2017 issue of The National Jurist magazine. The article, “The Most Interesting LL.M. Students in the U.S.,” highlighted Richard’s desire to play a critical role in seeing Jamaica become a developed country by 2030.

2L Hannah Rodgers has accepted a federal judicial clerkship with Judge R. David Proctor of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.
3L Enio Russe-Garcia has a forthcoming co-authored article in the Environmental Law Reporter. The article attempts to develop a model local government ordinance for Florida communities that would guide how they participate in and support buyout implementation within their boundaries to seek to achieve the benefits of reduced flood risk while avoiding the most negative impacts of buyouts on communities.

In February 2018, FSU Law 2L Chad Sinecker was awarded the Tallahassee Barristers Association essay scholarship for his essay on judicial diversity.

3L Samuel Walenz has accepted a federal judicial clerkship with Judge Robert Hinkle of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida.

3L Daniel Wolfe was awarded a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. The fellowship is a highly selective competition in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Sea Grant Program, in which recipients receive a stipend to serve in a federal administrative or legislative body in Washington, D.C. Wolfe is also the first FSU law student to pursue the joint J.D./M.S. program in oceanography.

Four FSU Law students published articles in the Winter 2017 issue of “Paw Review,” The Florida Bar Animal Law Section newsletter. Published students were 2L Madeline Ann Brezin, 3L Mallory McCarroll, 3L Victoria Suarez and 3L Maggie Younginer.

In February 2018, we welcomed The Florida Bar for a town hall on lawyer mental health and wellness with law students, lawyers and experts on the topic. Members of the Bar, including President Michael Higer, Special Committee on Mental Health & Wellness of Florida Lawyers Chair Dori Foster-Morales and Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division board member Ben Gibson ('08) spoke during the event. In addition, FSU Law Clinical Professor Larry Krieger, who is an expert on the well-being of law students and lawyers, was the featured guest speaker.

Mental Health and Wellness Town Hall

FSU Law third-year students (L-R) Ashley Hamill, Daniel Clibbon, Caitlyn Kio and Brenda Czekanski advocated before the Constitution Revision Commission. Students became involved in the juvenile justice project as part of the law school’s Public Interest Law Center. Their work received statewide and national media coverage.

Of the 120 applicants to the 2017-18 Florida legislative internship program, eight of the nine selected were FSU law students. Pictured (front row L-R) are 2L Amy Bhatt, 3L Karina Skeie, 2L Allison Beattie and 2L Jill Bowen. Back row (L-R) are 2L Matthew Moschell, 2L Derek Silver, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Richard Corcoran, Cory Dowd (an FSU grad student studying applied American politics and policy), 3L Michael Hoffman and 3L Austin Dailey.
Roig Appointed New Assistant Dean for Academic Programs

Maribel Roig joined FSU Law in January 2018 as assistant dean for academic programs. She directs and manages activities related to improving the academic success of College of Law students, and coordinates academic program oversight, registrar and academic advising efforts, as well as strategic initiatives for new programs.

Before joining FSU Law, Roig practiced law at firms in Maryland and Puerto Rico, with a focus in complex commercial litigation. She has substantial experience handling matters relating to the banking, real estate and insurance sectors. Prior to her work as an attorney, Roig completed a doctoral degree and served as faculty in the Program in History and Literature at Harvard University. In that role, she researched, published and taught on topics spanning the intersection of law and the humanities and was involved in academic program development and student advising. Roig earned a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Henley Named Assistant Dean for Career Services

In July 2017, alumna Debra A. Henley (’88) joined the College of Law as assistant dean for career services and professional development. Henley has a wealth of legal experience and an extensive network of professional legal relationships that she utilizes to help FSU Law students and alumni advance in their careers. She previously served for seven years as executive director and 18 years as legislative director of the Florida Justice Association (FJA). Before joining FJA, she was a civil trial attorney with Connor and Martinez, a legislative analyst for the Florida House of Representatives and a commissioner on the Florida Commission of Ethics, among other positions. Henley also teaches Legislative Practice at FSU Law.

Arakelian Serving as Director of Development

Hovik Arakelian joined the College of Law as director of development in May 2017. Arakelian earned his bachelor’s degree from FSU in 2009, worked in student affairs at Tallahassee Community College for a year, spent time as a compliance analyst for the Justice Administrative Commission and then joined the FSU Foundation in 2011. As a development officer at the Foundation, Arakelian worked with the College of Business and in the Planned Giving Office.
In February 2018, the FSU Law Student Veterans Law Symposium hosted a “Pie Your People” fundraiser on the James Harold Thompson Green. Students voted on faculty members and students who had volunteered to be “pied.” The three people with the most votes – 3L Rachel Lopez representing the Trial Team, Professor Mark Seidenfeld and Professor Justin Sevier – were pied by voters. Proceeds from the event went to Hire Our Heroes, an organization that supports veteran employment.