Inside
Loula Fuller
A Driving Force in the Automotive Industry
Alumni Recognitions
The Advocacy Center is on the Way!

Physical Plant to Match Program Stature

This spring, we were all thrilled when we made it into the nation’s Top 50 law schools in *U.S. News & World Report*. Few realize that we have made this and many other great strides forward on a shoestring of a physical plant. By ten years ago, we had grown by 40% in student body size without adding any new space. The 50,000 square feet the vacated First DCA provides us will take us to where we needed to be without being at all lavish. Even after adding this new space, we shall rank third among Florida’s four state law schools in terms of square feet per student.

Historic Preservation and Focused Use of New Space

We have worked with the Division of Historical Resources of the Florida Department of State to ensure that we preserve both the exterior of the building and the existing appellate courtroom, which dominates the interior. But for those basic preservation, the rest of the building is being gutted and rebuilt from scratch.

The new construction helps advance our program strength in three areas: trial and appellate advocacy, environmental law and public interest law. In the past 16 months, our Moot Court Team has won five, first-place national competitions and our Mock Trial Team has taken top honors in the Florida Justice Association competition. Our students, now patiently awaiting badly needed practice spaces, will soon have a completely refurbished historic courtroom and four smaller courtrooms in which to hone their craft. Each of the four smaller courtrooms will have a jury box and be suitable for use in either trial or appellate advocacy. We will now be in a position to proudly host regional and national mock trial and moot court competitions. The new building also will house our environmental law faculty, who will be located next to the student editors of the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law*. They will be side-by-side in a way that underscores the collaborative nature of a legal education at Florida State and why our Environmental Program has been rated 6th best in the nation by *U.S. News*. Finally, the new building contains a new suite of offices for our Public Interest Law Center, which has won national and international attention, especially for its work with children.

There is, of course, space for general program purposes. There will be a student reading room, smaller and medium size classrooms, and new Placement offices that include dedicated interview rooms. Moving other administrative offices to the new facility will make room for a new large classroom in B.K. Roberts Hall. Construction is so far along that we hope to be moving in before December ends!

A picture is worth a thousand words, so I’ll close now to make room for some. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Don Weidner
Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor
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Cover photography by Rachel Melnick
Loula Fuller has never encountered an adventure she didn’t relish. From skydiving to mountain climbing to traveling to remote villages, she has attempted things most people would barely consider. She even lived in Thailand on an unaccompanied military tour during the 1970s (after the Vietnam War). While there, she gave birth to her first child in a Thai hospital, volunteered at refugee transition camps and erected repelling towers in her Samoan-style house and yard to hone her skills.
“Fuller,” continued from page 2

When her marriage failed less than a month after she gave birth to her second child, she treated becoming a single mother as an adventure as well. Determined to move on with her life, she concluded, “I’m going to do something that I can make a living doing and also make a contribution socially.”

A school teacher in Tallahassee at the time, Fuller decided to change professions so she could provide the lifestyle she wanted for her children. After a very successful performance in Florida State’s M.B.A. program, Fuller was admitted to the university’s law school.

“I tested the waters by going into the M.B.A. program,” said Fuller, who had been out of school for eight years. “Before I got accepted to law school, I went in [to the M.B.A. program] as a special student and I got all my foundation courses. I was one semester away from graduating when I got accepted and I dropped the last set of courses. Law school was truly my ultimate goal.”

“When I started law school, my two children were young, so school was a challenge, to put it mildly, both time wise and financially. My schedule was, I had the children in school or daycare. Between 5 o’clock in the afternoon and 9 o’clock in the evening was my family time. And when they were in bed is when I would start studying, until whenever I was done. And then we’d start over the next day.”

Although being the single mother of two young children was very difficult, Fuller excelled at Florida State Law. She also met her future husband and law partner – Dan Myers– in the front row of Professor Chuck Ehhardt’s Evidence class during her 2L year.

Myers had the opportunity to prove his devotion when, after Fuller clerked for the First DCA’s Judge Anne Booth for two years, she moved from Tallahassee to Bartow to join fellow alumnus John Frost’s firm. Myers drove to visit her every weekend for two years until she moved back to Florida’s capital city.

“Loula Fuller has this smile that just makes the stars come out, she is just the cutest thing,” said Myers. “I chased her for seven years before she would marry me.” It wasn’t until after they were married that Fuller and Myers – who both specialize in representing automobile dealers – joined their practices.

In the male-dominated automobile industry, Fuller is an unexpected force. At 5-foot-2-inches tall, most of the people the petite blonde represents tower over her, but her success in the courtroom and before legislative bodies has earned her the respect and gratitude of car dealers nationwide.

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“Fuller,” continued from page 3

dealers in all 50 states and also has international clients who own dealerships in the U.S.

Throughout her career, Fuller has become known for identifying and implementing innovative solutions for her clients. According to Myers, his wife was instrumental in more than doubling their revenues after becoming managing partner of the firm.

“Loula has never seen a lawsuit she couldn’t win – ever,” said Myers. “We would get calls from dealers with very unique, non-core situations and we would listen to their plight and for eight years say, ‘I’m sorry but I don’t think there is anything we can do.’ And she would listen to them and say, ‘You know, I’ve been thinking about this,’ and she would come up with some crazy legal theory. For about a year we would not agree. After about five successes it became real clear that she was the best at spotting legal issues that I had ever seen.”

After growing the firm for several years, Fuller developed a severe case of malaria (a gift from a trip to Africa four years earlier) and had to retreat considerably from her practice. As a result, Fuller and Myers sold their firm in 2005 and served as consultants until 2010. Recently, the couple reopened their own firm – Fuller & Myers – in downtown Tallahassee.

With such professional success, it would be easy for Fuller to define herself primarily in terms of her work, but Fuller’s main priority and source of joy is family. She and Myers have four children between them – Michelle Myers Murphy, David Fuller, Jennifer Hamilton and Kristy Therrien – and four grandchildren – 8-year-old Liam, 5-year-old Rowan, 2-year-old Kayla and 8-month-old Loula. Unfortunately for Fuller, none of them reside in Tallahassee. Although they are spread around the country, from Proser, Washington, to Houston to St. Petersburg, Fuller still makes time to see them each at least once a quarter.

“She is 100% percent family,” said Myers. “She has always placed kids first. As much and as hard as she worked to be a good mother, she is a crazy grandmother. We cannot walk into a store that sells children’s toys, clothes, shoes, anything, without her heading to wherever the kids’ stuff is.”

One way Fuller enjoys spending time with family is through travel. Because her clients are located around the country, and almost all of her business can be conducted on the phone, she can work from anywhere in the world. That made it possible for the family to

“She is 100% percent family,” said Myers. “She has always placed kids first. As much and as hard as she worked to be a good mother, she is a crazy grandmother. We cannot walk into a store that sells children’s toys, clothes, shoes, anything, without her heading to wherever the kids’ stuff is.”
“Fuller,” continued from page 4

spend their winters snow skiing in Lake Tahoe or Colorado when the children were young. They also spent summers boating and water skiing in the Abaco Islands. After vacationing in Lake Tahoe for years, Fuller and Myers bought a home in the Incline community in 2004 so they would have a place to stay year-round. They also have a beach home at St. George Island. Now that she has grandchildren, some of Fuller’s more recent travels include going to Great Wolf Lodge – a chain of family-friendly resorts with waterparks – in Washington. She hopes in the future to help others through vacations with her children.

“My goal is to find opportunities where you go on trips to remote areas and you work in a village to help with some kind of health and quality of life issue,” said Fuller, who fell in love with traveling when she studied abroad in Florence as an undergraduate student.

Although she craves adventure-centered travel, Fuller also has taken some very luxurious vacations. When she turned 50, for example, Myers treated her to a trip worthy of a queen.

“We did an Atlantic crossing on the QE2 and stayed in London and then we took the Chunnel to Paris and stayed there in luxury for a week,” said Fuller. “And we got to fly the Concorde home before they were retired.”

Fuller’s love of adventure also propelled her to train for and run her first full marathon in 2010. And not surprisingly, it became a family affair. “All the kids were there and my daughter ran it with me.”

Fuller already is making tentative plans to return to Walt Disney World for the 2012 marathon and Myers is strongly considering running with his wife. If he does, it would be very fitting.

“Dan and I…the partnership we’ve been able to create and develop has been amazing,” said Fuller. “We’re one of those couples that either of us is good by ourselves, but neither is as good as we are when we are together.” ■
Scott Smith Merges Optimism with Tenacity

By Christi N. Morgan

A former linebacker for the United States Air Force Academy football team, Scott B. Smith is motivated by competition. That is what attracted him to trial law, but what has made him so successful is more than just a desire to win. Genuine compassion prompts Smith to work hard every day for clients who in many instances have suffered horribly.

From quadriplegics to parents who have lost children, Smith represents accident victims and people injured by defective products and has done so for most of his career. “I get to represent individuals on a daily basis and fight for them against large corporations and large insurance companies in a battle that there is no possible way they could fight by themselves,” said the Palm Beach County native.

In January 2011, Smith’s firm merged with one of the most well-respected personal injury firms in the state. The 26-year-old firm with which his merged also happens to be the one where Smith got his start in personal injury law in 1999 and practiced until 2008. As a named partner at Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Fronrath, Smith is once again practicing with attorneys he greatly respects as colleagues and as people. The West Palm Beach firm is powered by 14 attorneys and more than 50 staff.

“There is strength in numbers and
During his 12 years in private practice, the 1998 Florida State University College of Law graduate has brought in excess of 500 cases to resolution, more than 20 of them by jury trial.

The Lytal Reiter name has become a brand that is synonymous with capable, competent professional trial lawyers and I only saw it as a positive for me and the other members of my firm to be a part of the Lytal Reiter brand,” said Smith, who is Florida Bar board certified in civil trial law and is in the process of earning national certification. “The opportunity to do good for more people was higher if we merged the two firms together.”

During his 12 years in private practice, the 1998 Florida State University College of Law graduate has brought in excess of 500 cases to resolution, more than 20 of them by jury trial. “Unfortunately, I’ve probably represented every type of injured person or every tragedy that can occur.”

Perhaps Smith cares so much about his clients because he can empathize. He and his wife, Molly, lost three babies to premature birth before they welcomed their three children. The Smiths know how valuable each day is with 4-year-old fraternal twins Sandy and Tucker and 3-year-old Charlie. As a result of their experiences, the couple is very active in their local March of Dimes chapter and Scott serves on the board. He even helped organize a firm team to participate in the organization’s annual walk in May.

Although it would be understandable if Smith had become hardened after experiencing and witnessing so much misfortune, Smith’s clients motivate him to have a positive outlook. “One particular individual that has been very inspiring to me that I’ve represented recently is a young man who lost his entire left leg in a forklift accident. He came to this country from Cuba 10 years ago. He didn’t speak any English and started a family, has a beautiful wife and two beautiful children and after losing his leg, he went and started an entire new career as an IT person and is very successful at what he does. I was blessed to represent him.”

In addition to vigorously representing his clients, Smith also devotes a significant amount of time to the business side of running the firm, including marketing and firm management. But Smith doesn’t necessarily see those as separate functions.

“This machine that we have running here, it’s all about satisfied clients,” said Smith. “And it makes it tough because the folks that come to us, come to us because they’ve been harmed in some way so it’s tremendously satisfying at the end of the case when the client is satisfied with the representation provided.”

Although Smith has been very successful in resolving his clients’ cases, a relatively recent trend in how insurance companies handle legitimate claims concerns the A/V-rated attorney.

“What I have seen in the past two to three years is a complete and total paradigm shift in how the insurance companies want to handle, negotiate and try to resolve legitimate claims and what I’m seeing is they don’t,” said Smith. “They want to fight us on everything, not just the underlying aspects of the case but also on the subtleties and nuances of the case. But we are committed in not allowing the insurance companies to intimidate us or to lower the bar in what is justice.”

Even though the trend is frustrating, Smith loves his job. “We thoroughly enjoy what we do here. It’s like anything in life; if you put the time and effort to it and stay on top of the task at hand, you’ll find success and you’ll do well and it allows you to not suffer from terrible stress. If you stay proactive, you can keep a positive outlook and we try to do that here.”
Matt Mathews was not a typical law student at Florida State when he arrived on campus in 1988. A transfer student from Stetson, his resume included running a thriving family business and playing professional racquetball. He also was married, older than most of his classmates and raising a daughter born during his 1L year.

After building and operating four Sonny’s Real Pit Bar-B-Q franchises with his family between college and law school, Mathews knew he would eventually specialize in real estate and corporate law. But an undergraduate degree in biochemistry meant beginning his career practicing environmental law.

“I got a job with a law firm in Tallahassee,” said the 1990 Florida State Law graduate. “It was during a time when environmental law was in its heyday. Hazardous waste and petroleum products and other environmental issues were big in the late ’80s, early ’90s. It was natural for me to be in that environmental area because of my background. I could consult with the engineers and consultants and geologists on scientific terms.”

When Mathews opened his own practice in 1993, he quickly transitioned into real estate and corporate law. Today, the two-attorney Mathews Law Firm is a one-stop legal shop for business owners.

“We represent business people in anything they do. Buying or selling anything — from businesses to real estate — and then we help them with their estate planning,” said Mathews. “That is my background; that’s what I know.”

Mathews spends about half of his time facilitating real estate closings and handling related disputes. He also works on additional non-real estate transactions, such as business start-ups, mergers and acquisitions. Corporate business and estate planning matters comprise the rest of Mathews’ practice. The Gainesville native also recently became a civil law international notary so he could better assist his international clients with interests in civil law countries.

“I had some international clients and
I thought it would help me in my dealings with attorneys in those countries,” said Mathews about the designation, which is relatively rare among practitioners. “I found that the international notary — it’s a lifetime appointment authorizing notarial acts which are detail of the transaction. Consequently, the time between contract and closing is longer, our level of effort is bigger and it has squeezed our profit margin. But I am happy to report that we are busy. We just have smaller margins.”

Mathews’ 23-year-old daughter

“We represent business people in anything they do. Buying or selling anything — from businesses to real estate — and then we help them with their estate planning,” said Mathews. “That is my background; that’s what I know.”

granted a statutory presumption of correctness — has been beneficial in dealing with international business issues.”

In the nearly 20 years since opening his firm, Mathews has built a loyal client base, including some clients who have been with him from the beginning. While his clientele continues to grow, his work has been impacted significantly by the decline of Tallahassee’s real estate market.

“Five years ago, it was fast and furious. Transactions were larger, they closed and were completed more quickly and more easily because banks were lending and people were buying and selling in huge numbers. There was not a lot of restraint back then,” said Mathews.

“Today, it seems like deals are much smaller, banks are much more discriminating and generally, every party from the buyer and seller and lender, are more cautious. Before, people wanted to get to closing as quickly as possible. Now they inspect and pay close attention to every Shannon has occasionally worked at the firm, and is now a law student at Florida State. “She’s fearless and she is going to tackle whatever comes. Probably no better proof of that is the fact that she decided law school would be a good thing to do, but she now has begun the joint M.B.A/J.D. program. I am so proud of her.”

When Mathews was about Shannon’s age, he was ranked 20th on the professional racquetball tour. These days, he rarely picks up a racquet, unless it is to teach someone the basics of the sport. Mathews now plays basketball every weekday as part of a “businessman’s noon basketball league” in downtown Tallahassee. His other primary recreational activity of choice is saltwater fishing off the coast of Carrabelle, where he owns a house. Mathews also enjoys cooking with his wife, Wendy. The couple was married in 2009. “I mostly assist,” joked Mathews. “She is the better cook.”

And even though seafood is the couple’s favorite type of food to pre-
Conal Doyle: Always a Risk-taker

By Sally Bowman

Conal Doyle has never been one to shy away from adversity. His legal practice has been aided in many instances by his willingness to take on challenges that may seem larger than life to many. “I'm a huge risk-taker,” he said. As a plaintiff’s attorney, he has “simple case intake criteria: if I can afford to take a case to trial and lose; I’ll take the case. I won’t accept a case if I am not prepared to see it through trial and appeal.” So far, he hasn’t had to face the losing end of a verdict.

Doyle’s willingness to tackle adversity head-on has most recently culminated in a $1.735 million jury verdict in Castaneda v. State of California, honored as one of the Daily Journal’s Top 10 most impactful verdicts in California in 2010; a United States Supreme Court oral argument that netted him national “Appellate Lawyer of the Week” honors from the National Law Journal; and a $1.95 million settlement from the federal government for the same client. The San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association honored him with the 2011 Civil Justice Award for the impact that his legal efforts have had on immigration detainee health care.

His willingness to try new things led him to California just a few years prior to taking on the landmark case of Francisco Castaneda. Doyle, a 1997 graduate of Florida State Law, had built a successful career defending large corporations and governmental entities in Tampa at Fowler White Boggs Banker (now Fowler White Boggs P.A.), but never really appreciated the Florida sunshine and humidity. “I'm a fair-skinned Irishman from the Northeast,” he laughed. Doyle knew that if he stayed any longer, he
“Doyle,” continued from page 10

would have acquired the proverbial “golden handcuffs” at Fowler White. So, in a giant leap of faith, Doyle moved to San Francisco in 2003. The move brought him closer to the mountains he loves dearly and to his sister, but he was without a client base or a clear idea of his next career step.

During a brief respite from law practice, Doyle reacquainted himself with his other passion: competitive alpine skiing. Despite having been born with a congenital defect that led to his having only one leg, Doyle skied competitively as a child against able-bodied competitors. After moving to California, he raced for a season against the American, Canadian and Australian disabled ski teams, while contemplating a try-out for the 2006 Paralympics Games in Torino. He did not have the time to dedicate to both skiing competitively and maintaining a law practice, so he wisely chose to stick with his “day job.” He worked at a prominent San Francisco plaintiff’s firm for a year and a half, before starting his own practice with one medical malpractice case, involving a leg amputation. At age 35, Doyle sunk more than $100,000 of his own money into the case, and it resulted in a $2.4 million settlement after two years of litigation.

Shortly after that settlement, Doyle received a phone call that led him to represent Francisco Castaneda, an immigration detainee who had his penis amputated and then died from penile cancer because the government refused to provide him a biopsy. The phone call was from Public Justice; the Washington, D.C., public interest law firm was looking for someone to act as lead counsel in the case. At the time, Doyle was among the least well-known of attorneys considered for Castaneda, but Public Justice and the American Civil Liberties Union finally settled on Doyle to handle the litigation. “To be a plaintiff’s lawyer, out there on your own, especially taking on giant entities — and the United States is obviously the most powerful entity in the world — you have to be willing to risk it all,” he said.

Two lawsuits were filed in 2007: one against the State of California and the other against the United States, who both detained Castaneda and refused him medical care. The cases garnered extensive international media coverage, including a 60 Minutes documentary and a Washington Post expose. It was the first case in which Doyle had ever been involved during which he “knew the plaintiff and filed the suit, and the case went from a wrongful injury case to a wrongful death case.”

An undocumented alien with a drug conviction, Castaneda lost his life in a slow and painful manner. As Doyle stated in JustLaw — a Southern Trial Lawyers Association newsletter, “As I paid my last respects to my client, I promised myself that his death would not pass unavenged.”

The state case was tried in October 2010, and resulted in a $1.735 million verdict; the highest pre-trial defense offer was $10,000. The companion federal case has been much more circuitous. About six months before the plaintiff’s death, Castaneda testified before Congress about immigration detainee health care. Doyle then argued Hu v. Castaneda before the U.S. Supreme Court, which determined whether public health service doctors can be sued for violating the Constitution. The Supreme Court granted immunity to the doctors, but remanded the case for trial against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The United States agreed to settle the case for $1.95 million — eight times the amount of the California medical malpractice damages cap that the government argued applied to the case — just prior to trial.

The state verdict is on appeal, but Doyle said, “Now that the family has been taken care of and the case costs paid off, we will see the appeal through the end.” Castaneda is survived by a daughter, now 18, who finished high school, started college and has been working since her father’s litigation began. “She’s a wonderful young woman,” Doyle said.

Doyle’s firm, Willoughby Doyle LLP, has remained “fairly lean” through these successes. Doyle and his partner have one associate and work with contract attorneys. The firm now has offices in Beverly Hills, Oakland and Tampa, where Doyle flies frequently to handle cases.

He’s never regretted his move to California, but returns to Florida for cases and to keep in touch with old friends. Although he doesn’t have as much free time as he would like, he enjoys skiing, physical fitness, traveling, and visiting his new nephew Declan. He has fond memories of his time in Tallahassee, and his law school professors and classmates.

He may have given up competitive ski racing, but he is still in pursuit of powder. “I don’t believe in ‘warm-up’ runs, I go straight to the top of the mountain,” he added. Taking chances has taken Doyle to the top of his field as well. ■
BLSA Named National Chapter of The Year – Again

On March 12, the Florida State University College of Law’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was named National Chapter of the Year by the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). The award was presented at the NBLSA National Convention in Houston. The National Chapter of the Year award, which BLSA also received in 2006, is given to a chapter that has made a difference in its community, and has improved the quality of its law school by enhancing social awareness and communal activism while representing NBLSA ideals. Award selection criteria include chapter and local programming, member participation on national and regional boards and chapter size.

Because he holds a leadership position on the NBLSA board, rising third-year Florida State law student and BLSA President G.C. Murray was on the dais when the award was announced during an awards dinner.

“It was a great moment, especially because the national board seems to be very in tune with what we do at Florida State and they are very impressed with how we carry ourselves, so it just seemed like a genuine happiness on the faces of everyone that was sitting on the dais with me.”

As the 2010-2011 Regional Chapter
“BLSA” continued from page 12

of the Year for the Southern Region of NBLSA, Florida State competed for the national award against five other regional winners – Harvard Law School, William & Mary Law School, University of Chicago Law School, University of Texas School of Law and Southwestern Law School.

“Oddly enough, three of the five other competitors had been the most recent national chapters of the year,” said Murray. “I trusted what we had done this year, though.”

Florida State’s BLSA chapter held more than 60 events during the year on topics ranging from youth empowerment to criminal justice reform and held the first BLSA Alumni Reunion April 8-10 at the law school. The group also increased its membership by 150 percent.

In addition to community service accomplishments, Murray is proud of the positions BLSA members have attained at Florida State and nationally. “Probably the most impressive thing that I feel we’ve done as an organization is we’ve catapulted people into different positions,” said Murray. “Recently we had several members get elected to the Law School Council, we have one member on the Congress of Graduate Students, we had six members accepted into the Mock Trial Team – including the competitor with the highest overall score during tryouts, we have three members on the national board, we have one member on the regional board, so it is just a complete and thorough take over.”

For 2011-2012, rising 3L Keven Leveille will serve as the NBLSA National Director of Community Service, rising 3L Lorraine Young, who was BLSA vice president this year, will serve as NBLSA National External Chief of Staff and rising 3L Marshellon Griffin will serve as the NBLSA National Mock Trial Specialist. Leveille’s election to the national board occurred during the NBLSA national convention. Additionally, rising 2L Jennito Simon will serve as the Southern Region Treasurer.

As BLSA attempts to build upon the success of this year in the future, members also are looking back. A new initiative — Reaching Back to the Roots: Recreating the BLSA Pathway — hopefully will allow current members to connect with former BLSA members.

“Right now we have a history issue, we can’t link back to a lot of the older members,” said Murray of the lack of documentation available about previous BLSA members. “Our goal is to gather as much historical information about BLSA as possible, such as past executive administrations, photos of members, etc. Once we are finished collecting information we will put it online so that it may be available for future and past generations.” Anyone with information can contact Murray at president2010@fiublsa.com.

Alumni honored at BLSA reunion

During BLSA’s Alumni Reunion Weekend in April, several graduates and the woman for whom Florida State’s BLSA chapter is named were honored for their outstanding impact on the community and on BLSA. The following people were inducted in BLSA’s Inaugural Hall of Fame Class:

- Delores Poindexter Auzenne (posthumously)
- Benjamin Crump (’95)
- Daryl Parks (’95)
- Florida Senator Christopher Smith (’95)
- The 2006 National Chapter of the Year Executive Board:
  - Conti Moore – President (’07)
  - Keshara Davis – Vice-President (’07)
  - Karlyn Hylton – Secretary (’07)
  - Damian Zimmerman – Treasurer (’07)
  - Ekeley Grayson – Member-at-Large (’07)
  - Earnest Matthews – First-Year Representative (’09)
  - Francis M.S. Roberts – Second-Year Representative (’07)
  - Joe Briggs – Third-Year Representative (’07)

L-R: Karlyn Hylton, Keshara Davis, Benjamin Crump, Conti Moore and Ekeley Grayson
Board of Visitors Meeting Connects Alumni with Law School

The College of Law hosted its annual Board of Visitors meeting February 20-21. With near-record attendance, approximately 80 faculty members and friends of the law school gathered at Hotel Duval on Sunday, February 20 for the opening reception and dinner. Special guests included Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady, Justice Jorge Labarga, Justice Ricky Polston ('87) and Deborah Polston, and university President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly.

The meeting continued on Monday, February 21 with a board meeting and breakfast at the law school before Board of Visitors members held breakout sessions with students. The small-group sessions with students, included: Mach Speed Mock Interviews, Current Issues in Real Estate, Finding a Job in Today’s Economy, Legal Careers in Business & Corporate Law, Cutting Edge Litigation, Legislative Affairs and Lobbying, and Destination South Florida.

1 Sherri Denton Mallory ('87) listens to a student during a “Mach Speed Mock Interview” session.
2 Domenick Lioce ('79) addresses fellow board members.
3 J. Michael Coleman ('86) talks with a student
Students

4 University President Eric Barron and wife, Molly, talk with Peggy Rolando ('78) (right).
5 Professor Dan Markel mingles with Kenneth Hart ('75) at the reception.
6 Steve Cheeseman ('69) meets a student during a "Mach Speed Mock Interview" session.
7 Carol Gregg ('74) conducts a mock interview with a student.
8 Eugene Steams ('72) gives advice to a small group of students.
College Revives Florida Supreme Court Day

Four members of the Florida Supreme Court visited Florida State University College of Law on March 23 for Florida Supreme Court Day. It was the first time in several years the law school hosted the event. Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady and Justices Barbara Pariente, Ricky Polston (’87) and Peggy Quince spent several hours at the law school for a question-and-answer session as well as a reception.

Dean Don Weidner welcomed and introduced the justices to the student body before opening the floor for the Q&A. The first, most pressing question on students’ minds involved the Florida legislature’s efforts to restructure the court. Because a proposed constitutional amendment may come before the court, Canady declined to answer questions about the legislative efforts. However, Pariente commented on the court’s efficiency. She said, “I am very proud of what the court has done in the past decade and how much more efficient we are than most other states.” She added that in 2000, the court had 1,544 cases pending but today that number is about 800. “As far as efficiency is concerned, I think we have been commendable,” she concluded.

Quince encouraged everyone, especially those students who are about to enter the legal profession, to examine the issue and make their own decisions.

Students also asked questions regarding the public spotlight the court is under and members’ political ideologies. Quince made efforts to alleviate concerns that the court is politically motivated by emphasizing that the court follows the state constitution, statutes and rules of court. Pariente added that many other states have elected courts whose members run on partisan tickets. This state, she said, had been wise in making the high court nonpartisan.

Student Bar Association President Lauren Bobek (’11) asked about budget shortfalls and their impact on the hiring market. Canady admitted, “It is a tough time to be in the legal profession. We are climbing out of a bad economic situation and it will continue to be slow.” Polston pointed out that the judicial budget for the entire state is 0.7% of the entire state budget. Considering the economic situation and what had
already been a tight budget for the judiciary, he encouraged those graduating not only in 2011 but in the foreseeable future to cast a wide net geographically as well as in the type of job for which they search. “Land something, anywhere, and work your way up from there. You will learn something,” he encouraged. He described the wide background he had before being named to the state’s top court — which includes being an accountant, working in private practice and being a member of the First District Court of Appeal.

Students also posed questions about what it takes to become a judicial clerk and the weight judges and justices place on rankings such as U.S. News & World Report. Polston answered with a quick smile, “The best quality attorneys come from FSU,” before Quince could address the question. She said, “I don’t look at the quality of a school on U.S. News; I look at the quality of students. Can they write and do research?” Pariente added that the way to get recognized is to have good graduates complete clerkships. Those success stories speak volumes about the caliber of other students applying for clerkships.

The congeniality between members of Florida’s high court was apparent during Florida Supreme Court Day. The members in attendance enjoyed their time with students and each other, as evidenced by their ready laughter and humorous repartee. As the Q&A session ended, students were able to have one-on-one interaction with the justices during a reception in the Rotunda.
Hogan Honored by ABA for Pipeline Diversity Program

Jacksonville attorney Wayne Hogan (’72) has received honorable mention recognition for the American Bar Association’s (ABA) 2011 Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity. The award is given to organizations or individuals who have shown innovation and leadership in diversifying the educational pipeline to the legal profession. The ABA Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline recognized Hogan’s contributions February 11 at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Atlanta.

The ABA honored Hogan for his support of the Summer for Undergraduates Program – a signature program of the College of Law. The program exposes students, particularly those from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession, to the joys and rigors of legal education. The 60 students selected annually for the program attend a month of simulated law school at no charge, including room and board, and receive a $500 stipend. Participants experience intensive instruction, legal writing training and exposure to legal professionals from a variety of fields.

In 2000, Hogan and his wife, Patricia, endowed the Summer for Undergraduates Program, which allows the law school to permanently maintain the program size at 60 students per year. Additionally, Hogan has nurtured the program and is a hands-on participant each summer. In recent years, he has coordinated sessions at the Florida Capitol so he could introduce students to Florida policymakers.

“The summer program literally changed my life and is the main reason I am a practicing attorney today,” said Shenika Harris, a 2004 College of Law graduate and assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Transportation. “What the Hogans have provided is not just measured in dollars and lives touched, but also in degrees, as in ‘juris doctor degrees.’ Of the 25 students in my 1998 Summer Program Class, more than half went on to law school and two of them graduated with me from The Florida State University College of Law six years later.”

“I am profoundly grateful to Wayne and Pat for endowing the summer program and making it a permanent part of the law school’s offerings,” said Dean Don Weidner. “They change people’s lives by opening up new vistas.”

Hogan is a partner in the firm of Terrell Hogan, the largest trial firm in North Florida representing only injury and accident victims. He specializes in all areas of personal injury law.

“This recognition is really for the program, for Dean Weidner, who conceived it, and for the staff and participants who made it successful,” said Hogan. “While Pat and I have been glad to help, the award for excellence goes to the Summer for Undergraduates Program itself.”

For more information about Florida State’s Summer for Undergraduates Program, visit www.law.fsu.edu/summer_undergraduates/.
Florida State University Law School Ranked in the Top 50 by U.S. News & World Report

In March, U.S. News & World Report ranked Florida State University College of Law one of the nation’s top 50 law schools. This reflects a jump of four places in the highly competitive rankings and is the first year Florida State has been ranked in the top 50.

“We are thrilled to continue to climb in the U.S. News rankings,” said Dean Don Weidner. “And I expect our reputation to continue to increase.”

The jump in overall rankings is, in part, a result of the school’s higher reputational rankings, both among other academics and among judges and practicing attorneys. The increase also reflects Florida State’s strong student credentials. With a 75th percentile LSAT score of 164 and a 25th percentile LSAT score of 161, the 2010 entering class has the highest LSAT scores in the state.

U.S. News also ranks Florida State’s environmental law program sixth best in the nation. Florida State is one of only two schools in the Southeast ranked among the top 11 environmental law programs (Tulane University is the other – rated eighth best).

Wallace Gives to Law School

Tallahassee attorney Nancy Mason Wallace (’95) has pledged $25,000 to establish the Nancy Wallace Endowed Scholarship for Summer Program Alumni at the law school. The income from this endowment will be used to award at least one scholarship each year to recruit a graduate of the law school’s Summer for Undergraduates Program. This unique, four-week program provides college students an inside look at law school and the legal profession.

“I am familiar with the Summer Undergraduate Program because the participants visit Akerman Senterfitt. The participants include some of the top minority undergrads in the country. My hope is that this scholarship will assist in the recruitment of these students to the College of Law,” said Wallace. “I chose for the scholarship to go to a graduate of an HBCU. I hold FAMU close to my heart, both from living in Tallahassee for over 20 years, and from having many family members, including my daughter, and hundreds of friends who are current students or alumni of FAMU.”

“Everyone at the law school is extremely grateful to Nancy for this gift,” said Dean Don Weidner. “And we are very pleased that she has chosen to support one of our signature programs and to help us attract top students to Florida State for law school.”

Wallace is shareholder in the Tallahassee office of Akerman Senterfitt LLP, where she is part of the firm’s appellate practice group.
A Letter from Moin...

Alumnus Moin Khan (’06) has been working in Afghanistan since November 2010. Prior to being deployed, he was an assistant state attorney, felony division, at the Pinellas County State Attorney’s Office. To stay in touch, Khan e-mails friends and family about once a week. The informal e-mails provide a glimpse into Khan’s work and living conditions in Afghanistan. Below are portions of an e-mail Khan wrote May 25, 2011.

So, after not writing an e-mail for several weeks, I finally feel compelled to start the weekly journal again. I have been trying to get myself to write, but have encountered a sort of writer’s block or lack of inspiration, which is kind of odd since so much has happened here since I returned.

I think the common thread through my experiences the last several weeks is that I have had to get used to very different circumstances than I experienced on my first stint here. So, what has changed? New company, new contract, new people, new places … pretty much everything, I would say. Let me give you a bit of background on my present situation and whereabouts.

When I first arrive in Afghanistan, I was stationed in Kabul at Camp Integrity, which is a privately run base that houses different civilians working on contracts. I stayed in Kabul for a couple of weeks until plans were made to ship me off to my present location, the city of Gardez in Paktia Province. Gardez sits at an elevation of around 8,000 feet and is located southwest of Kabul. Because the road between Kabul and Gardez can be dangerous, most internationals take a 45-minute helicopter ride from Kabul. And what a beautiful ride it is! We boarded an MI-8 helicopter and flew over a snow-capped mountain range and through several valleys. There were many rivers and streams that ran through the valleys which allowed for the growth of very green pastures along their banks. The green was a nice contrast to the otherwise sandy brown terrain.

Here in Gardez, I am part of the regional justice sector support team. My primary job is to create an internal training program for the prosecutor’s office here. The program will be structured similarly to CLE courses, which are not required in Afghanistan (and apparently not in eight U.S. states either, but that’s another story). I will also be mentoring students (prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, and police officers) that have completed an eight-week legal training program we hold several times a year. Overall, these initiatives are meant to increase the legal knowledge, professionalism and communication across the spectrum of justice sector actors. All this sounds simple enough, but the one thing I’ve learned in the few months I’ve been here is that nothing is simple in Afghanistan.

I have had pretty much no Internet access for the past two weeks. I know many of you are thinking, “I wish,” but not having Internet is a HUGE problem, especially when you’re out in the middle of nowhere. The access I do have is spotty and the bandwidth isn’t enough to download or upload anything.

Unfortunately, communicating by cell phone isn’t much better. I generally carry two phones now with SIM cards from different carriers and juggle between the two to get the best signal. Also, sometimes the cell towers are shut off at night to conserve gas in the generators that power them and because the Taliban/insurgents threatened to blow the towers up if they were on at night. These are problems I generally didn’t have to worry about in Kabul.

Now, I must say that I was a bit spoiled in Kabul. The compound where I lived had excellent staff that took care of the cooking and cleaning. I also got to share a pretty spacious room with my wife, which was great. Now, I’m basically on an army base and live in what is basically a converted shipping container. The food is served in a dining facility and is made by cooks that I am convinced do not possess taste buds. Anyone that knows me knows that I love a good meal. Let’s just say that the good meals are few and far between.
“Moin,” continued from page 20

But, not everything is bad here. I am lucky to be working with a great group of guys, both from Afghanistan and the U.S. Since we’re out in the middle of nowhere and all in the same boat, we help each other and try and have a good time while we get things done. The Afghans I work with are especially kind and I generally play cricket with them after work and drink green tea (or chai) with them after dinner. Also, living out in the boonies (without Internet access) gives me more time to read and hit the gym. Moreover, even though I live in an 8’ X 16’ box, at least I have my own bathroom and shower, which isn’t always the case.

Take for instance my recent trip to Maydan Shahr in Wardak Province. I was there to meet with the chief prosecutor and chief judge for the province, and my colleagues and I lived on Forward Operating Base Airborne, which is an Army base. Anyone that has been in the military can tell you that only the big wigs get separate quarters and latrine/shower facilities on a military base. Neither I nor my colleagues are big wigs, so we stayed in a wooden structure that is made for temporary guests and soldiers that are between assignments. We slept in bunk beds and were shown to a latrine/shower facility that ranks about as low as I have ever seen, and I have definitely seen some bad ones. The only other immediately recognizable options were porto-johns, which I was not enthusiastic about using either. I was literary considering not eating or bathing for the three days we were going to stay there, which would have been a shame because the food at Airborne is really good. So, the search for acceptable facilities began. We fanned out across the base and finally came across clean facilities. It was a glorious moment for us all (yes, it was that bad of a situation!)

I ended up actually enjoying my stay there and ate more Baskin Robbins ice cream than I’ve had since I was in elementary school (you have to take advantage of the little perks). I also got escorted by a military foot patrol when I visited the prosecutor’s office and courthouse, which was a pretty cool experience. Of course, I am used to fitting in and being a bit lower profile when traveling in Afghanistan, so walking the streets of Gardez with a military platoon made me feel like I had a big target on my back. Also, having to wear a bullet proof vest and helmet in the sweltering desert heat made for a pretty sweaty stroll. But, having the security at our disposal was nice, especially in a province such as Wardak which is still considered dangerous, even by Afghans.

Well, that is a bit of a summary of my new life here in Afghanistan. I’ve definitely had to get accustomed to some change, but I guess I couldn’t expect everything to be the same as my last trip here. I am getting a wonderful opportunity to travel in provinces and meet people that most visitors to Afghanistan just don’t get to see. So, the changes, both good and bad, are definitely worth getting used to.

Until next time, please take care of yourselves and stay in touch.

—Moin Khan
Alumni and Employers Utilize Law School’s Video-conference Technology

Using new state-of-the-art technology, the law school hosted its first video-conference Networking Nosh in April. Attorneys — including two alumni — from Boies, Schiller&Flexner in Miami participated in the Networking Nosh. Partner Steven Davis, partner Markenzy Lapointe (’99) and associate Ryan Witte (’08) spoke with approximately 25 students about job prospects in South Florida.

The video-conference technology also can be used by alumni to interview Florida State law students for summer or associate positions. The Placement Office provides this service for employers unable to travel to Tallahassee to conduct face-to-face interviews.

“The Placement Office has taken full advantage of the law school’s video-conference technology,” said Placement Office Director Elmer Ignacio. “Employers now have the option of interviewing students from the comfort of their own office, significantly reducing both expenses and time related to travel for purposes of recruiting. Employers indicated to us that the high level of video quality and sound clarity sufficiently allows them to assess our students’ verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Video-conferencing is not meant to replace or substitute for an in-person interview. Rather, video-conferencing is an effective option to conduct brief ‘screening interviews’ to determine which candidates employers wish to extend call back interviews.”

Alumni interested in participating in a Networking Nosh or interviewing our students — in person or via video feed — can contact Ignacio at eignacio@law.fiu.edu.

Employers now have the option of interviewing students from the comfort of their own office, significantly reducing both expenses and time related to travel for purposes of recruiting.
Alumni Comprise More Than Half of Firm’s New Government Affairs Team

In advance of the 2011 Florida Legislative Session, the Gunster law firm formed a government affairs practice in Tallahassee to better represent its business clients at the executive, administrative, legislative and regulatory levels of state government. Of the eight-member team, five are graduates of Florida State University College of Law. Alumni Joanna L.C. Bonfanti ('85), Matt Feil ('89), Beth Keating ('94), John Lockwood ('06) and J. Larry Williams ('75) joined the team in Gunster’s Tallahassee office.

Bonfanti is a government affairs consultant, representing clients before the Florida Legislature. Before joining the firm, she served as compliance and government affairs program manager for the nation’s largest food wholesaler, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc., and oversaw their federal and state legislative issues. Prior to that, she handled energy and health care policy for the Florida Chamber of Commerce and created the association’s Energy Solutions Coalition.

Feil is an of counsel shareholder and has spent nearly 20 years working in utility regulation, both at the Public Service Commission (PSC) and in private industry. His experience includes negotiating interconnection agreements with communications clients, representing energy clients in cost-of-service issues and negotiating purchase power agreements for renewable energy firms. He has litigated some of the largest cases in PSC history and the largest water and wastewater rate case in Florida history.

Keating is a shareholder well versed in state administrative law, as well as federal and state regulatory codes pertaining to utility companies. Her practice involves legal representation of and policy consultation for competitive telecommunications, cable and technology companies, and natural gas utilities. She assists clients with issues before state agencies and the Florida Legislature.

Lockwood is an associate with experience in government affairs and public policy, administrative law and regulatory affairs, regulated industries and gaming law. He was named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers in 2010 and an “Up and Comer” for 2009-2010 by Florida Trend.

Williams is a shareholder with extensive experience in governmental representation at all levels. Williams has consulted clients on affairs before the Florida Legislature and Cabinet, as well as state agencies in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. Representing a variety of clients ranging from transportation to health care and entertainment to tobacco companies, Williams was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America in 2009 and 2010 for government relations law.
1971

JOHN MICHAEL HUEY was included in the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the area of government relations law. He practices in the Tallahassee office of GrayRobinson, P.A.

1972

ROY M. KINSEY, JR. recently purchased a restored 1943 Navy Stearman. The Stearman is possibly the most recognized biplane ever built and was flown during training exercises by the Army Air Corps and the Navy. After purchasing the plane, he helped a World War II Navy flight instructor, Norman Cockman, get back into a Stearman for the first time in more than 60 years.

1973

THOMAS F. ICARD, JR. has been listed in Best Lawyers in America in two areas, alternative dispute resolution and construction law. This is the fifth consecutive year he has made the list in the two areas. He is a shareholder at Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg, P.A.

1974

ISAAC HENRY DEAN was included in the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the area of environmental law. He practices in the Jacksonville office of GrayRobinson, P.A.

1975

BRUCE M. STONE has been elected secretary of American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), an elite organization for estate attorneys. He is a shareholder at Goldman Felcoski & Stone P.A. His practice consists primarily of estate planning for both domestic and foreign clients.

1976

PATRICIA R. "PAT" GLEASON was named special counsel for open government in the Florida Attorney General's Office.

1977

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH LEWIS, JR. participated in the Florida District Court of Appeal Judges' Conference on September 13-15, 2010, at Ponte Vedra Beach. He joined Florida State University College of Law Placement Director ELMER C. IGNACIO ('01) for a photo during an evening reception during the conference.
JEFFREY B. TRAMMELL recently was elected rector of the board of visitors for the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. As rector, he also serves as chairman of the board of visitors. Additionally, he was the founding chair and currently serves as a board member of William & Mary’s Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Program. He is founder and president of Trammell and Company, a communications and public affairs consulting firm in Washington, D.C.

1978

BYRD F. MARSHALL, JR. has been re-elected to another five-year term as managing director of GrayRobinson, P.A. He has held the managing director position since 1992 and is one of the longest-serving managing directors in the state. He was also included in the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the areas of corporate law and mergers & acquisitions law.

1979

MELANIE ANN HINES recently was a panelist at the Florida State University “Criminology in Context: The System from the Female Perspective” conference. She is a shareholder at Berger Singerman practicing dispute resolution and government and regulatory law.

THOMAS F. KIRWIN has retired from the U.S. Department of Justice and was appointed a deputy chief financial officer in the Florida Department of Financial Services, where he will oversee the department’s law enforcement efforts throughout the state. He can be reached at tom.kirwin@myfloridacfo.com.

DOMENICK R. LIOCE was named chair-elect of the Florida Bar Tax Section. He will become chair of the Tax Section in July 2011.

1980

STEPHEN A. MECK was inducted to The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers in a black tie ceremony at The Great Hall at Chicago Union Station. He is general counsel of the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission.

1981

EDWARD M. BOOTH, JR. has been elected vice president of the Jacksonville University Aviation Advisory Board. He has been a pilot for more than 32 years and holds an air transport license. He has served as chairman of The Florida Bar’s Aviation Law Committee and was the first attorney board certified in the state of Florida in the field of aviation law.

1982

DANIEL LLOYD MONROE, who is of counsel at Coppins Monroe Adkins & Dincman, P.A., in Tallahassee, has been elected to the executive committee of the board of Panajachel Colegio International in Panajachel, Guatemala.

1983

SANDRA FEINZIG recently completed a short-term consultancy with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLJ) in Amman, Jordan, and is currently with the ABA/ROLJ in Tripoli, Lebanon, as interim advisor for the summer. In Jordan, she developed anti-human trafficking training materials to support the Jordanian government’s implementation of its Anti Human Trafficking Law (passed in 2009). In Tripoli, she primarily advices on the newly established Northern Lebanon Public Service Center, a collaborative effort of three implementing partners providing legal assistance, social services and mediation to refugees, stateless persons, children in conflict with the law and those in the community at large wishing to use alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

RONALD PATRICK HANES has been elected chair of the Trial & Litigation Section of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. He also has been listed in the 2010 edition of the Best Lawyers in America in the area of white collar criminal defense. He is a named partner at Trombley & Hanes, P.A., in Tampa.

LARRY E. METZ was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November. He is a Republican from District 25 in Yalaha.

BRIAN R. TOLING graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University - Worldwide in December 2010 with a Master of Aeronautical Science in aviation safety and aviation education technology with a 4.0 GPA.

1984

JAMES BALLETTA was included in the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the area of real estate law. He practices in the Orlando office of GrayRobinson, P.A.

MARK S. ELLIS recently received his Ph.D. in law from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He is congratulated by his son Andrew. Ellis is the executive director of the International Bar Association in London.

THE HONORABLE GREGORY S. PARKER, of the Third Judicial Circuit, recently was appointed by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady to serve a six-year term on the Florida Trial Courts Budget Commission.
1985

CARLOS RAUL DIEZ-ARGUELLES has opened a new law firm, Diez-Arguelles & Tejedor P.A., with offices in Orlando and Tampa. He can be reached at 505 N. Mills Ave., Orlando, FL 32803. 888-888-3773, info@theorlandolawyers.com or www.theorlandolawyers.com.

MARGO LEE FRASIER is the new police monitor for Austin, Texas. She has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience and served as Travis County’s first female sheriff from 1997 to 2005. The police monitor’s office was established to promote mutual respect between the Austin Police Department and the community.

KEITH CHARLES HETRICK is of counsel at Broad and Cassel. He is a member of the firm’s land use and environmental law practice group. He also is general counsel to the Florida Home Builders Association.

JAMES W. MIDDLETON joined the firm of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP as a litigation partner in the firm’s Jacksonville office.

1986

WILLIAM ARCHER “BILLY” BUZZETT has been named secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs. He previously was vice president of strategic planning for the St. Joe Company and a member of Governor Rick Scott’s transition team on regulatory reform.

1987

MANUEL FARACH has been elected president of the Guild of Catholic Lawyers of the Diocese of Palm Beach. He is of counsel in the West Palm Beach office of Richman Greer, P.A., focusing on real estate and business law, lender representation and debtor/creditor law.

BARBARA P. BURKE recently presented “The Newest 2011 Information on Foreclosures, Short Sales & Alternatives” at a seminar for real estate professionals sponsored by CornerStone Title. She can be reached at barbara@realestatelawyers.com.

TIMOTHY EDWARD “TIM” MONAGHAN now is a partner in Shutts & Bowen LLP’s West Palm Beach office. His practice focuses on health care law, business transactions, including real estate and commercial lending, corporate law and governmental representation.

KAREN OEHME was named a Distinguished University Scholar at Florida State University in March. She is the director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies and received the award for her work on domestic violence issues.

1988

MICHAEL WAYNE JACKSON, district attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Alabama, recently was prosecuting a high profile case against James Bonard Fowler, a former Alabama state trooper, in the 1965 murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson. Fowler pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of misdemeanor second-degree manslaughter.

1989

ALAN ABRAMOWITZ is the executive director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office. He was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist.

STEVEN PAUL HESTER assumed command of the 139th Legal Support Organization as a colonel of the Army Reserve Judge Advocates in January. His team has offices in Louisville, Nashville and Millington (Memphis). He can be reached at 901.874.3163.

1990

THE HONORABLE CHARLES KENNETH JOHNSON was appointed to the Miami-Dade County Court by Governor Charlie Crist. He had served as an assistant state attorney in Miami since 1989.

STEPHEN R. SENN has received The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the Tenth Judicial Circuit. He is president of the board of directors of Florida Rural Legal Services and of the Florida Equal Justice Center.

SUSAN T. SPRADLEY was included in the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the area of labor and employment law. She practices in the Orlando office of GrayRobinson, P.A.

GLENDA L. THORNTON is the new general counsel for the Florida Lottery. She can be reached at 250 Marriott Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32399. 850.487.7724 or throntong@flalottery.com.

1991

DAVID M. CORRY has been named general counsel for Liberty University. He previously served as senior litigation counsel with Liberty Counsel, a nationwide public interest religious civil liberties law firm.

GEORGE GREGORY RASKY recently launched a new Web site, Tally Life, www.tallylife.com. He is a partner in Heath & Rasky, P.A.

KRISTEN L. DAVENPORT was featured in The Florida Bar Journal’s “President’s Page” in February 2011. She is a criminal appeals attorney for the Florida Attorney General’s office.

GORDON A. DIETERLE, of the Boca Raton law firm of McClosky, D’Anna & Dieterle, LLP, was selected to serve on the board of directors of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association. He also specializes in complex commercial and business litigation and is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a state circuit court mediator.

KENNETH ERIC LAWSON was named by Governor Rick Scott as the new secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
MARK HUBERT MULLER has opened his own firm, Mark H. Muller, P.A., after practicing for 17 years at a national law firm. His practice focuses on commercial and construction litigation. He can be reached at 5150 N. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 303, Naples, FL 34103, 239.513.0121 or mark@mullerlawnaples.com.

WALTER LEE TRIERWEILER is a partner at Cicchetti Law Firm in Tallahassee practicing insurance defense. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel and has had experiences as chief of torts for the U.S. Army, as senior legal advisor at Walter Reed Army Hospital, as chief of operations and international law for the Middle East, as legal advisor to the Pentagon Operations Center’s Post 9/11 Response Cell in federal procurement fraud litigation; and in military criminal prosecution or defense trial work.


1992

DONNA ELIZABETH BLANTON has been appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to a five-year term on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. She is a shareholder at Radey Thomas Yon & Clark.

CHARLES MURRAY “CHARLEY” HARRIS, JR. was named managing shareholder of Trenam Kemker’s St. Petersburg office. He practices in the commercial litigation practice group.

FRED EVAN KARLINSKY and his wife, Autumn, were appointed to Florida Governor Rick Scott’s Inaugural Host Committee. He is a shareholder with Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A.

The firm of Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quesada, Lage, Crespo, Gomez & Machado LLP — including partners EMILIA A. QUESADA (’96), PABLO SILVIO QUESADA (’96), CHRISTINA DIAZ GONZALEZ (’94), GUSTAVO DANIEL LAGE (’92) and associate RAUL L. PEREZ (’06) — was named 2010 Law Firm of the Year by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The firm focuses on civil litigation and trial practice, corporate and securities law, contracts and commercial transactions, tax and estate planning, real estate law and lender representation, entertainment, sports and art law, criminal defense, governmental relations and Cuba practice.

Send Us Your News

The most avidly read section of Florida State Law is “Class Action.” The law school’s more than 7,800 alumni want to know what their classmates have been doing — awards they have received, high-profile cases they have won, law firms or cities they have moved to, pro bono activities they have undertaken and more.

Just as important: Did you get married? Have a baby? Write a novel? Run a marathon? Perform in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please send information to rheipher@law.fsu.edu or mail this form to:

The Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601.
We Need Your Help

Please take a moment to log in to the law school Alumni Directory Web site, www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/aluminidir.html, and update your personal information. This is a great reference tool for classmates to get in touch with one another, to network and to refer business to fellow alumni.

THE HONORABLE KEITH FRANKLIN WHITE was appointed to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court by Governor Charlie Crist.

TIMOTHY P. ATKINSON is board certified in state and federal government and administrative practice law. He is an attorney with Oertel, Fernandez, Cole & Bryant, P.A.

THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS RICHARD LOPANE is a circuit court judge in the juvenile delinquency division of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit. He previously was a general magistrate judge and has received numerous awards. He also has taught classes and seminars in family law and trial advocacy skills, including a recent seminar for juvenile and family lawyers by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

EUCHARIA E. NNAIDI is vice president for academic affairs and program planning for the University of Southern Nevada. She can be reached at 11 Sunset Way, Henderson, NV 89014, 702.968.2047 or ennai@usn.edu.

DAWN IRENE ROBERTS is staff director of the Florida Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee.

1994

MARY ELLEN CLARK has been elected chair of the Government Lawyer Section and appointed to the Professional Ethics Committee of The Florida Bar. She is an assistant attorney general in Tallahassee and counsel to the Board of Accountancy, Board of Architecture and Interior Design, Florida Real Estate Appraiser Board and the Board of Employee Leasing Companies. She can be reached at 850.414.3300 or MaryEllen.Clark@myfloridalegal.com.


1995

WENDY D. BREWER is vice-chair of Benesch/ Dann Pecar’s business reorganization practice group. She focuses on commercial litigation, bankruptcy and restructuring. She also was named to the Forty Under 40 by the Indianapolis Business Journal and serves as board chairman of the not-for-profit Partners in Housing Development Corporation.

BENJAMIN L. CRUMP spoke at a Black History Day Assembly at Chiles High School. He is a principal with Parks & Crump, LLP.

MARLON ANDREW HILL was honored as a celebrity playwright by New Theatre and was given the opportunity to take a stab at playwriting. His play “Life is a Carnival,” was featured at a Miami Stories event in February.

WAYNE D. KNIGHT has co-founded Swaby Knight Law Group, P.L., with its primary office in downtown Pensacola. The firm is a full-service law firm and has additional offices in Fort Walton Beach, Sandestin and Tallahassee.

ERIC ANDREW MADER has opened American Financial Law Group, a firm focusing on employment law, including discrimination claims based on disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, sexual orientation, severance negotiations, sexual harassment, whistleblower claims and wrongful termination. The firm also handles wage and hour disputes, including overtime claims and employment agreements. He can be reached at 5010 W. Carmen St., Tampa, FL 33609 or 813.745.6426 ext. 150.

DARYL D. PARKS participated in a Southern Region Black Law Students Association Academic Retreat hosted by Inter-American University School of Law in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He helped students polish their resumes and as president-elect, introduced them to the National Bar Association. He also participated in Turning Your Passion to Pay Day, a workshop aiming to help students learn about a variety of practice areas through the eyes of Florida judges and lawyers. He is a founding and managing partner of Parks & Crump, LLP.

STEPHANIE WILLIAMS RAY was selected to participate in Leadership Florida Class XXXIX. She is chair of the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission.
CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH was re-elected to the Florida Senate after first being elected in 2008. He represents District 29.

1996

ROBERT PETER HARRIS has formed his own law firm, the Robert Harris Law Firm, focusing on criminal defense litigation. He can be reached at 2039 W. First St., Ste. 2, Ft. Myers, FL 33901, 239.334.4343 or rnharris@robertharris-lawfirm.com.

JASON DEAN LAZARUS earned an LL.M. in elder law with distinction from Stetson University College of Law in May of 2010. He also authored an article, “Medicare Myths: What Every Trial Lawyer Should Know About the MSP & Liability Medicare Set Asides” which was published in The Florida Bar Journal's November 2010 edition.

1997

ELLEN AVERY-SMITH was appointed as a member of the board at Flagler Hospital. Her four-year term began in May. She is a shareholder at Rogers Towers.

LEIGH KELLETT FLETCHER was honored by the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network at its annual convention and marketplace. She was chosen as one of the 20 Under 40, for her extraordinary professional accomplishments within the commercial real estate industry. She also recently participated in an American Bar Association Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee panel, “Stimulus Funding for Community Economic Development (CED): What’s Available and How It’s Being Used.” She is a shareholder in the land use, environmental and government affairs department of Stearns Weaver Miller in Miami.

1998

ELIZABETH P. PÉREZ is of counsel in the commercial litigation, health law and white collar criminal and civil fraud defense practice groups at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale.

1999

VIRGINIA CAMBRE DAILEY and her husband John recently had their second child. Charles Henry Dailey was born October 18, 2010, and was welcomed by big brother Tommy. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and he was 20.75 inches long. Dailey practices in the areas of administrative law, appellate, energy facilities siting and licensing, litigation, public procurement and bid protests at Hopping Green & Sams.

MARKENZY “MARK” LAPOINTE was awarded the Daily Business Review 2010 Most Effective Lawyer Award in Pro Bono. He is a partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP in Fort Lauderdale.

RICHARD P. LAWSON was named economic crimes director by the Florida Attorney General in January.

TRAVIS JAMES MCMILLEN is a junior partner at Adams, Adams, Baca & McMillen. He has opened and manages the firm’s Orlando office.

AMOS RYALS McMULLIAN, JR. has been named vice president and associate general counsel of Flowers Foods. He will continue to focus on mergers and acquisitions and provide advice on securities law.

CHERYL PARKER ROSE is a deputy director of government affairs for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She previously had been a senior advisor to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

2000

ELIZARDI CASTRO has developed two one-man comedy routines, “Made in Puerto Rico,” about his journey of rediscovering his culture, and “Law and Disorder,” about the trials and tribulations of his experiences as a prosecutor turned defense attorney. “Made in Puerto Rico” recently ended a run at the Chicago Theater for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.elicastro.com.

J. BART MCNIEL now is a shareholder at Carr Allison and will practice in the Mobile and Pensacola offices. His practice focuses on general liability, complex litigation, construction litigation, products liability, medical liability/malpractice, nursing home and long-term care, appellate advocacy, the HIPAA Privacy Rule and EMPLA. He can be reached at 212 W.Intendencia St., Pensacola, FL 32502. 850.434.9028 or bmcniel@ carrallison.com.

DOUGLAS B. ROHAN has formed the law firm Rohan Law, PC in Atlanta. The firm specializes in personal injury and workers compensation claims as well as criminal defense. He can be reached at doug@rohanlawpc.com.

JEFFREY M. SCHUMM has been appointed senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Orthofix International NV, a global medical device company offering a broad line of minimally invasive surgical...
and non-surgical products for the spine, orthopedic and sports medicine market sectors. He can be reached at 3451 Plano Pkwy., Lewisville, TX 75056, 214.937.2000 or jeffschumm@orthofix.com.

2001

BRIAN HUGH BARR is one of several attorneys retained by the City of Pensacola to file claims against BP in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A shareholder at Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor, P.A., Barr also is part of a steering committee of the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation, a panel of plaintiff’s attorneys assembled to deal with pretrial issues in the more than 400 lawsuits that had been filed between April 20, 2010, and October 20, 2010.

DENNIS G. COLLARD was named a partner at Kessler, Schwarz & Solomiany, P.C. in Atlanta. He practices in the area of complex domestic relations litigation.

JASON C. HILL is an associate at Stoneburner Berry Glower Purcell & Greenhut, P.A. He practices commercial real estate transactions, leasing and general business law.

ELMER IGNACIO was a panelist at the National Association for Law Placement’s 2011 Annual Education Conference in April. His session was about the rules of employment reporting. He is the placement director for the Florida State University College of Law.

MARCELO LLORENTE was a Florida state representative for eight years and has announced that he is running for mayor of Miami-Dade County.

JACKSON WILDER MAYNARD, JR. now works for the Washington State Senate. He can be reached at 360.786.7299 or Jackson.maynard@leg.wa.gov.

MARIE E. MASSON is a partner at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. She can be reached at 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., 4th Floor, Miami, FL 33156.

ERIC DANIEL MOLINA is an equity partner at Pavese Law Firm. He practices general civil and commercial litigation, real estate litigation, family law, creditors’ rights and collections, and family-based residency and naturalization immigration law. He and his wife, Jesenia, have two daughters, Mariah and Olivia, and twin boys, Jadon and Benjamin.

JAMES ROBERT SPEARS is a founding member of the firm Bichler, Clelland, Oliver, Kelley, Hastings, Longo & Spears, PLLC. Bichler Clelland specializes in representing firefighters, law enforcement officers and correctional officers in a variety of claims through the state of Florida. He is board certified in workers’ compensation law and has been selected for Florida Super Lawyers as a 2010 Rising Star. He also chairs the Workers’ Compensation Section of the Orange County Bar Association. He and his wife, JILL MAUREEN SPEARS (’01), a partner at Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A., reside in Ocoee with their three children: Hayden, Connor and Adeline. James can be reached at 541 S. Orlando Ave., Ste. 310, Maitland, FL 32751, 407.691.0300 or james@jspearslaw.com.

JASON C. TAYLOR is an associate at Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. He practices labor and employment law, administrative law, appellate law, civil rights defense, construction litigation, automobile and transportation liability defense, bad faith and insurance coverage defense and premises liability.

2002

ELIANE IVY PROBASCO has formed Probasco Law, P.A., in Tampa. Her practice focuses on marital and family law. She was recognized by Florida Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in 2010, is past-chair of the Family Law Section of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and serves on the board of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She married fellow law school alum JOSEPH PROBASCO (’02), and they have two daughters. She can be reached at 813.254.3735 or eprobasco@probascolawfirm.com.

2003

CHRISTIAN MACGREGOR GIVENS has been named a partner at Givens Law Group. He practices marital and family law and will help head the new personal injury and sinkhole litigation division of the firm.

NOELLE M. MELANSON has been elected to serve a second term as secretary of the board of directors of the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida. She practices estate planning and probate law and can be contacted at Melanson Law PA, 1620 Medical Ln., Ste. 122, Fort Myers, FL 33907 or 239.689.8522.

2004

BRIAN J. CROSS is a corporate attorney for Eagle-SWS, based in Panama City. Eagle is an environmental services company specializing in emergency response, site remediation, waste transportation and disposal. He can be reached at 2211 St. Andrews Blvd., Panama City, FL 32405, 850.234.8428 or Brian.Cross@EagleSWS.com.

BRENT T. ZIMMERMAN earned state board certification in construction law in August. He is one of only 248 board certified construction lawyers in Florida. He also was recognized for the second time as a Florida Rising Star by Law & Politics Publishing. He is an associate at Bachara Construction Law Group in Jacksonville.
2005

AMANDA L. BROCK has been appointed to the board of governors of the Real Estate Investment Society. She is an associate with Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., practicing land use law.

CHRISTOPHER MARK HAMILTON has joined the firm of Clark and Albaugh, LLP in Winter Park. His practice will focus on real estate law—transactions, land use, finance and litigation.

TEEKA KIM HARRISON was named a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2011. She is an associate at Ashe, Rafuse & Hill, LLP in Atlanta. She practices employment and civil rights litigation.

JEDEDIAH A. MAIN has opened his own firm, The Main Law Firm. He specializes in personal injury law, criminal law, workers’ compensation and business litigation. He can be reached at P.O. Box 2229, Winter Park, FL 32790, 407.442.3030 or jed.main@mainlawfirm.com.

LISA BENCH NIEUWVELD’s contribution to kluwerarbitrationblog.com has been named Best ADR Blog by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She also has been added to the Dubai International Arbitration Centre’s Panel of Arbitrators.

BRADLEY S. MCPHERSON is an associate at the Broad and Cassel West Palm Beach office in the firm’s commercial litigation practice group. He also was named a Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2010 and published “The Derivative Action Report: More Trouble Than It’s Worth?” in The Florida Bar Journal in 2009.

TIMOTHY R. QUALLS is the new executive director of the Florida Tax Collectors Association. He is an attorney with Young van Assendelft, P.A., in Tallahassee. The firm is legal counsel to FTCA.

2006

MIGUEL J. CHAMORRO and his wife, Alejandra Icaza, whom he married November 22, 2008, have a son, Miguel A. Chamorro, on March 13, 2010. Miguel practices commercial landlord-tenancy and creditors’ rights at Lydecker Diaz, LLC, in Miami.

MOIN HASSAN KHAN spent much of the spring in Kabul, Afghanistan, as an instructor in an Academic Legal English (ALE) program. The program focuses on international human rights, and Khan taught a criminal law mock trial class. Prior to his time in Kabul, he was in Jalalabad, working with the Nangarhar University Law School Jessup team.

JOHN M. LOCKWOOD is an associate in Gunster’s Tallahassee office in the environmental and land use practice group.

SHACHI K. MANKODI is an associate in the health law practice group at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale.

CHRISTINE N. SENNE is in-house counsel for Koch Industries, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. Koch is one of the largest privately held companies in the world.

KAREEM J. SPRATLING taught a course on bond issuance at the 2010 School of Government Finance. He is an associate in the Tampa office of Broad and Cassel.

2007

AMANDA R. CARUSO was appointed chair of the City of Orlando Code Enforcement Board. She is an associate in the Orlando office of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. She practices bankruptcy and creditors’ rights.

ANDREW LOUIS CHIERA is an associate at Luke, Santaniello, Petrillo, Gold & Jones, LLC. He specializes in PIP, vehicular liability, general liability and commercial litigation in the firm’s Fort Lauderdale office.

SCOTT J. EDWARDS is an associate at Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe. He is active in the Young Lawyers Division and the Appellate Practice Committee of the Orange County Bar Association.

His practice focuses on product liability, transportation, personal injury and commercial cases.

MELANIE SHOEMAKER GRIFFIN is the chairwoman of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s Law Schools Committee. As chairwoman, she is a member of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division board of governors.

AUDREY LOPEZ MOORE is an associate at Cadenhead Law Firm in Tallahassee.

KARLYN ROSEMARIE HYLTON (’07), ALISIA MARY ADAMSON (’08), SASHA ALISON WATSON (’07) and CONTI JOI MOORE (’07) have opened The Law Offices of Hylton Adamson Watson & Moore. They specialize in criminal, civil, family, immigration and personal injury law. The firm is located at 120 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32801, 407.377.6388 or www.hawmlaw.com.
ANDREW DAVID ST. CLAIR and his wife
Danielle had their first child, Caitlin Grace, on November 15, 2010. He is an associate at Wenderoth Lind & Ponack, LLP and works on patent prosecutions.

CARLOS TRIJILLO was sworn into the Florida House of Representatives in November. He is a Republican serving District 116.

JASON WHITE is an attorney advisor for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He can be reached at 7638 Shoreline Dr., Stockton, CA 95219.

2008

BENJAMIN J. GIBSON is a staff attorney for the Florida House of Representatives Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee. He focuses primarily on growth management.

MICHAEL H. MOODY is an associate at Berger Singerman, P.A., focusing on the representation of debtors, unsecured creditors’ committees, and secured creditors in complex chapter 11 cases and in insolvency matters. Cases in which he has been involved include representing the Creditors Committee of the Sea Island Companies, the debtor in Gulfstream International Airlines and Robb & Stucky.

REBECCA G. MOSS is a member of Winstead PC’s government relations practice group based in Austin, Texas. She works with national and local clients as a lobbyist and consultant.

MARIO MUSIL has opened his own law firm, The Musil Law Firm, and can be reached at 970 N. Cocoa Blvd., Ste. 4, Cocoa, FL 32922, 877.70MUSIL or www.musilawfirm.com.

STEVEN PHILLIP SZYMANSKI was sworn into the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in February. He can be reached at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Benning, GA 31905, 706.604.9192 or steve.szymanski@us.army.mil.

SARAH R. TAIT was admitted to the New York Bar in November 2010.

MARIA DAWSON TORSNEY married her best friend, Allan Torsney, on December 4, 2010, in Vero Beach. She is an associate with Bush & Augspurger, PA in Orlando and can be reached at mdt@bushlawgroup.com.

2009

SUSAN TURNER HARBIN is a legislative coordinator for the Broward County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Professional Standards.

JESSICA MASSARO KENNEDY and NATHANIEL W. KENNEDY were married September 11, 2010, in Rhode Island. Jessica is an associate at Hadlock Law Offices and Nate is an associate at Solacca Law Group, LLC. The couple resides in Boston, Mass.

2010

NICOLETTE L. BIDARIAN is an associate at Igler Dougherty in Tallahassee. She practices securities, banking, corporate and commercial civil litigation.

KATIE L. BROSKY is the coach of the St. Johns River Community College softball team.

JACOB T. CREMER and TERIN BARBAS CREMER were married August 7, 2010, in Tampa. Jacob is an associate at Hopping Green & Sams in Tallahassee, practicing environmental and land use law. He can be reached at jacobc@hgslaw.com or 850.425.2227. Terin is an associate at Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. She can be reached at tbarbascremer@anlaw.com or 850.561.3503.

BRANDON DODD is an associate in Fowler White Boggs P.A.’s Jacksonville office. He practices in the business transactions and corporate law practice group, focusing on business acquisitions and sales, business formation and structuring, joint ventures, securities and corporate finance.

DAVID R. DUFLO is an associate at Smith Sovik Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C., where he practices in the area of civil litigation.

CHARLES F. GODDARD, II is an associate at Groelle & Salmon, P.A. in Tampa. His practice is focused on civil litigation, with primary focus on first party property loss litigation, claims investigation and evaluation of coverage issues in property claims.

STEPHANIE A. GRIFFIN is an associate with Urban Thier Federer & Jackson, P.A. in Orlando. She focuses on civil litigation in the areas of commercial, real estate, medical malpractice, civil rights violations and employment law.

JENNIFER GUTAI is an associate at Leigh, James & Associates. She practices family law, focusing on men’s rights.

JASON D. HALL is an associate at Groelle & Salmon, P.A. in Tampa. He can be reached at 813.849.7200 or jdhall@gspalaw.com.
KARA M. JURSINSKI is an associate at The Law Office of Kevin F. Jursinski & Associates. She is a real estate and business litigation attorney assisting clients in real estate matters, specifically foreclosure mitigation/defense cases. She also is earning an LL.M. in real property development from the University of Miami.

LISA MERROW LANCASTER is an associate at Boyd & Jenerette, P.A., in Jacksonville. Her practice focuses primarily on insurance defense litigation, especially involving automobile and trucking negligence, product liability, construction liability and premises liability.

KENNETH LOBO is a grants compliance analyst for Sponsored Research Services at Florida State University. He can be reached at klobo@admin.fsu.edu.

ANDREW MARCUS is an attorney at the Office of the State Attorney in Bradenton. He can be reached at 941.747.3077.

MERYL M. MATHews is an associate at The Elder & Disability Law Center in Washington, D.C.

STEVEN D. MUSCATELLO is an associate at the West Palm Beach office of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A. He specializes in the areas of business litigation, construction law, labor and employment law.

KYLE J. PHIPPS is an associate at Conroy, Simberg, Ganon, Krevans, Abel, Lurvey, Morrow & Schefer, P.A. He focuses on workers' compensation defense.

DAMON C. PICHOFF is an associate at Leigh, James & Associates. He practices family law, focusing on men's rights.

CHRISTA E. FLETCHER is an associate at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC. She can be reached at 336.728.7029.

JERRY L. RUMPH, JR. is an associate at Hayward & Grant, P.A. He can be reached at 2121-G Killarney Way, Tallahassee, FL 32309. 850.386.4400 or jerryrumph@haywardgrant.com.

STEPHANIE C. SANON is a clerk for the Honorable Larry D. Martin of the Kings County Supreme Court of New York. Her clerkship is a one-year appointment with the opportunity for a second year.

ZACKERY SCHARLEPP is an associate at Coppins Monroe, P.A. He represents private and governmental entities in all areas of civil litigation, including tort claims, employment discrimination defense, breach of contract, construction law and professional negligence.

MARGARET SEWARD is an associate at Young, Bill, Fugett & Roumbos, P.A. She practices in the area of bad faith insurance litigation.

STEPHEN A. SPAID is an associate at Mandelbaum, Fitzsimmons & Hewitt, P.A. He practices general civil litigation, auto-negligence defense, employment discrimination and family law.

BENJAMIN SPERRY is an associate at Bruce J. Sperry, P.A. He can be reached at 1607 S. Alexander St., Ste. 101, Plant City, FL 33563 or 813.754.3030.

JORDAN THOMPSON is an associate at Young, Bill, Fugett & Roumbos, P.A. He practices in the area of bad faith insurance litigation.

LAURA L. WESTERMAN is an associate at Burr & Forman LLP in Orlando. She focuses her practice on financial services litigation.

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Annual Fund

Please help us reach our goal of 28 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by June 30 to: Florida State College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, Fla. 32306-1601.

You can also give online at: http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/annual_fund.html.

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 Florida State Law!

Use your web-enabled smart phone to scan this tag that will allow you to make a donation online.

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In Memoriam

DRUCILLA E. BELL (’75) died May 26, 2011, in Largo. She previously practiced international law. Her international experience took her all over the world.

DENNIS X. CROWLEY (’82) died November 18, 2010. He had served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam before attending law school. He was an attorney for Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, then an assistant public defender for Gadsden and Liberty counties.

JHONNIE M. GILLISPIE (’77) died August 26, 2010. She served in several capacities for the Florida Legislature, including 14 years as assistant secretary of the Florida Senate.

S. MARC “SAM” HERSKOVITZ (’87) died September 27, 2010, in Tallahassee. He practiced with the Florida Department of Insurance for more than 20 years.

DOUGLAS C. KEARNEY (’74) died July 29, 2010.

ERICA B. MAY (’05) died December 2, 2010. She was assistant general counsel for the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

DAVID A. MORRISON (’77) died September 11, 2010, in Mesa, Arizona.

RICHARD E. TORPY (’88) died April 11, 2011.
Krieger One of Nation’s Top Law Teachers

For two days in March, the law school hosted Michael Schwartz, professor and associate dean for faculty and academic development at Washburn Law School. Professor Schwartz was visiting Florida State to conduct research for a book about the nation’s best law school educators. Clinical Professor Larry Krieger is one of the 26 top law professors who will be featured in the book, What the Best Law Teachers Do (Harvard Press), slated for publication in 2013. It will detail best practices used by the professors in their teaching.

Krieger was one of approximately 270 teachers nominated for inclusion in the book through a national search via the Internet. When the authors of the book initially approached the clinician about applying for inclusion – the second step after being nominated – he politely declined.

“I wrote back to [Schwartz] and I said, ‘I’m not going to respond, because I don’t really think that my inclusion in the book is really going to help the book.’ First, I have smaller classes; also, I’m a clinical teacher, I don’t teach large lecture classes,” said Krieger. He believed the book should be comprised of people who teach more traditional, lecture-style law classes.

After many months of being encouraged by the authors to fill out the application, Krieger finally agreed.

“We couldn’t study all 270 people,” said book co-author Michael Schwartz.

“We wanted people who’d had an extraordinary effect on students – a long-term, lasting effect. So we asked nominees to submit evidence of their effect on students.”

Several months after Krieger submitted his application, he learned he had been chosen for the book.

“When I first decided to go ahead and apply, it hit me, ‘Wow, if I got selected for this, that would be like a lifetime achievement award. As far as my career, there is absolutely nothing else that would mean more,’” said Krieger. “It made me realize that I really do care about the students and what they learn.”

Although Krieger may never know the exact reasons he was selected for the book, he can guess.

“I really try to teach students how to live a good life,” said Krieger. “Not that I’m qualified to do that, but I think somebody has to do it because the research on law students and lawyers is discouraging in a way. Many are very happy, but for a really bright and affluent group, too many are not happy and not satisfied.”

Krieger also believes his research was a factor in being selected for the book.

“I have learned through my research that people who receive meaningful support on the personal/human level learn better, test better, and perform better generally – along with also feeling better. I think that has led to a unique teaching style, where I seek equally to support students as people and as developing lawyers. The human support aspect is a defining factor there. I spend much of my time researching this teaching approach (helping students genuinely thrive) and trying to convey it to other law faculty. Some other schools have asked me to do faculty workshops, and usually enjoy the responses from very diverse faculty when that happens. Usually some people are already instinctively employing this approach, and they always comment on how effectively it energizes their classes.

During his spring visit, Schwartz interviewed Professor Krieger to learn more about his teaching philosophy, conducted focus groups with students and alumni, observed a class taught by Professor Krieger and met with the faculty.

After talking face-to-face with several of Krieger’s former students, it became clear that Krieger’s selection for the Harvard Press book was quite warranted. “During focus groups, we received indication that he continues to influence how alumni practice and how they live their lives,” said Schwartz.

“They are more skilled as lawyers, but even more than that, he helped shape who they are as people. Professor Krieger has lived an extraordinary life as a law professor and touched students.”
Faculty Media Hits

Fred Abbott was quoted in International Property Watch in a May 6 article, “Trading’s End: Is ACTA The Leading Edge Of A Protectionist Wave?”

Paolo Annino was quoted in a May 4 Los Angeles Times article, “Boy charged in father’s death had problems with violence and aggression.” He also was quoted in an April 12 Orlando Sentinel article, “Graham Law’ would replace life without parole for juveniles.” He was featured in a January 2 Florida Today article and also was quoted in a December 16 St. Petersburg Times article, “McCullum’s challenge of Obama’s health care plan is central to national debate.” On December 6, he was quoted in a Miami Herald column, “Clemency process favors rock idol over a hard case.” He was quoted in December 1 and November 21 Sarasota Herald-Tribune articles about juvenile offenders. The November 21 article was picked up by the Orlando News Center.

Beth Burch was quoted December 7 in The Wall Street Journal, in an article, “Supreme Court Will Consider Wal-Mart Challenge to Class-Action Suit.”

Robin Craig was quoted in a February 23 Law360 article, “EPA Shifts Focus Of Clean Water Act Regime.”

Sandy D’Alemberte was quoted in a May 7 Orlando Sentinel article, “Compensation bills for two men die amid power struggle in Legislature.” D’Alemberte also was credited with championing a claims bill approved by the Florida Senate in a May 4 article in The News-Press. He also was quoted in an April 6 Sarasota Herald-Tribune article, “Wrongly convicted man ineligible for compensation.” On April 1, D’Alemberte was named in a Sun Sentinel/blog, “Citing an Everglades impact, Audubon backs challenge to Scott’s rule-freeze.” D’Alemberte also was quoted in St. Petersburg Times articles published February 27 and February 4. On February 6, he published an opinion piece in the Tallahassee Democrat. “What do we gain by prosecuting Hilton?” He also was quoted in a December 22 Florida Today opinion piece, “Our views: Crying for justice.”


Reid Fontaine was quoted February 22 and January 31 in WCTV-TV stories about a high-profile murder trial.

Faye Jones was quoted in a January 15 WCTV-TV story, “Privacy Bill of Rights.”

Marshall Kapp was quoted February 15 in The Baltimore Sun, in an article, “Johns Hopkins, University of Baltimore form medical-law center.” He also was featured in a WFSU Radio story, “Florida State helps with the hardest of decisions.” On January 6, Kapp was quoted in an ABC News/Health article, “Woman Accused of Scamming Boyfriend With Alzheimer’s out of Millions.”

Wayne Logan was quoted in The New York Times, in a May 21 article, “States Seeking New Registries for Criminals.” He also was quoted in a January 15 Florida Bar News article, “FSU Law begins expanding into the old First DCA.”

Dan Markel was a source for a December 10 Slate.com story, “Is Incest a Two-Way Street?”

Jim Rossi was quoted on America.gov in a December 28 article, “Emissions Rules for Power Plants, Refineries On the Way.” On December 12, he was quoted in a Tallahassee Democrat article, “State, city at odds over Delta contract.”

J.B. Ruhl was quoted May 10 in The Bellingham Herald, in an article, “Feds announce reviews for 251 imperiled species.” On December 23, he was quoted in The Miami Herald, in an article, “Debate rages over protection for polar bears.” The story also was published in the Los Angeles Times.

Don Weidner was quoted in a January 15 Florida Bar News article, “FSU Law begins expanding into the old First DCA.”
Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of Florida State Law.

Frederick M. Abbott
EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR


Kelli A. Alces
LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS PROFESSOR


Paolo Annino
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

Presentations: Guardian ad Litem Volunteers Save Lives (Tallahassee, Florida Legislature, Guardian ad Litem Day, Key Note Speaker, March 2011); How Should the Florida Legislature Respond to the U.S. Supreme Court's Graham Decision? (Tallahassee, Florida Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, January 2011). Recognitions: Named a Loren Warboys Unsung Hero for 2010; received the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Steve M. Goldstein Criminal Justice Award.

Shawn J. Bayern
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Curtis Bridgeman
JAMES EDMUND & MARGARET ELIZABETH HENNESSEY CORRY PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Law School Conference on Contract and Promise, September 2010).

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Donna R. Christie
ELIZABETH C. & CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Article: Stop the Beach Renourishment v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Much Ado about Nothing?, 40 Stetson L. Rev. 1 (2011). Presentations: The Impact of Stop the Beach Renourishment v. DEP on Takings Jurisprudence, at Environmental Law Forum (Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program, University of Mississippi School of Law, December 2010); Resolving Conflicts between the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Protected Marine Species (Roger Williams School of Law, Taking Stock: The Magnuson-Stevens Act Revisited, Annual Marine Law Institute Symposium, November 2010).

Robin Kundis Craig
ATTORNEYS’ TITLE PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Jeanne B. Curtin
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Talbot “Sandy” D'Alemberte
PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR
Recognitions: Appointed to serve on the bipartisan Task Force on Detainee Treatment; public sector recipient of the Sunshine State Ethics in Leadership Award; received the Rotary Foundation Trustees 2010-11 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award; served as keynote speaker for the Jacksonville Bar Association 12th Annual Equal Justice Awards.

Joseph M. Dodge
STEARN’S WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON PROFESSOR

Dino Falaschetti

Tara Leigh Grove
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Article: The Structural Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction, 124 Harv. L. Rev. 869 (2011). Presentations: The Article II Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction (University of Florida School of Law, Southeast Regional Junior Faculty Working Papers Conference, December 2010); The Structural Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction (Emory University School of Law, November 2010); The Structural Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction (Boston University School of Law, October 2010); The Article II Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction (University of Illinois College of Law Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, October 2010); The Structural Safeguards of Federal Jurisdiction (William & Mary Law School, September 2010).

Adam J. Hirsch
WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK PROFESSOR

Marshall B. Kapp
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION IN MEDICINE & LAW AND COURTESY PROFESSOR OF LAW

Lawrence S. Krieger
CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
Presentation: Applying the Science of Thriving to Law Students (San Francisco, California, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, Sections on Academic Support, Student Services, and Balance in Legal Education, January 2011).

Jennifer Parker LaVia
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR
Presentation: Florida FACTS Review for Property (Barbri, December 2010).
Tahirih V. Lee
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Presentations: Media as Lawmaker in China (University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for East Asian Legal Studies, April 2011); Recent Trends in the Practice of Law in Asia (Asian Law Students Association, University of Notre Dame Law School, March 2011); Media Products as Law in China (University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute ISLA-Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshop on Chinese Culture and Society, March, 2011); Trading Places: The Legal Underpinnings of US-China Trade (Case Western University School of Law, Faculty Workshop, February 2011); Trading Places: The Legal Underpinnings of US-China Trade (University of Notre Dame Law School Faculty Colloquium, January 2011).

Wayne A. Logan
GARY & SALLY PAJIC PROFESSOR

Dan Markel
D’ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR

David L. Markell
STEVEN M. GOLDSCHNIE Rchter PROFESSOR

Jim Rossi
HARRY M. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

J. B. Ruhl
MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY
Articles: Gaming the Past: The Theory and Practice of Historic Baselines in the Administrative State, 64 Vand. L. Rev. 1 (2011) (with Jim Salzman); Adaptive

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

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

Fernando Tesón
TOBIS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR

Franita Tolson
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Manuel A. Utset, Jr.
CHARLES W. EHHRHARDT PROFESSOR

Donald J. Weidner
DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR
Presentation: Recruitment, Maintenance and Retention of Faculty (San Diego, California, 41st Annual ABA Deans Workshop, Panelist, March 2011).

Professors Publish New Books

Robin Kundis Craig, Attorneys’ Title Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs; and Jim Rossi, the Harry M. Walborsky Professor and Associate Dean for Research, were honored at a reception on March 14 for volumes published in 2010. Joseph M. Dodge, Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson Professor, published a book in 2011.

Craig co-wrote Toxic and Environmental Torts: Cases and Materials (Thomson West Publishing 2010). It provides an integrated approach to private and public law responses to toxic insults to individuals and to the environment. It explores the difficulties of employing various scientific methods to address the question of causation and considers the role of public law, in controlling risks and its interaction with private law.

Dodge co-wrote Federal Taxes on Gratuitous Transfers (Wolters Kluwer Law & Business 2011), a casebook that offers a fresh look at the estate and gift tax course that accurately mirrors current estate practice. It offers an accessible building block approach, clear explanations and methodical questions and problems.

Rossi’s book, New Frontiers of State Constitutional Law: Dual Enforcement of Norms (Oxford University Press 2010), aims to change the way people think about state constitutional law in relation to U.S. constitutional law. The collection of essays was co-edited by Rossi and contains chapters by Rossi and other leading state constitutional law scholars.
Professor Honored for Work on Behalf of Children

The Youth Law Center (YLC), a national leader in helping children in the foster care and justice systems, has named Florida State University College of Law Clinical Professor Paolo Annino a Loren Warboys Unsung Hero for 2010. The award is given to individuals who have made extraordinary efforts on behalf of children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The center honored Annino at a reception in San Francisco on Tuesday, December 7.

Annino was recognized for his work on behalf of foster children and juvenile inmates as co-director of the law school’s Public Interest Law Center. Most recently, Annino conducted a nationwide study that the United States Supreme Court relied heavily upon to make a landmark decision in Graham v. Florida. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy several times cited Annino’s study in writing the opinion. The court ruled that the Constitution prohibits the imposition of life without parole on a juvenile offender who did not commit homicide.

“I am truly honored to be recognized by my colleagues at the Youth Law Center for our work at the Public Interest Law Center,” said Annino. “I could not be receiving the Loren Warboys Unsung Hero Award without the energetic Florida State University law students who commit their education, time and passions to advocate for children.”

Annino works one-on-one with second- and third-year law students at the Public Interest Law Center to provide effective legal services to the under-represented.

“I admire and applaud Paolo’s strong commitment to ensuring that children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems are treated humanely and fairly and receive appropriate services and support,” said Carole Shauffer, executive director of the Youth Law Center.

Annino also was honored in June by the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, primarily for his work on the Graham case. He received the group’s Steven M. Goldstein Criminal Justice Award at their annual meeting in Palm Beach.

Florida State Law Faculty Continue to Stand Out

In a 2010 study, Professor Brian Leiter of the University of Chicago Law School ranked the law faculty 23rd best in the nation in terms of per-capita scholarly impact. Florida State tied with Emory and the University of California at Davis and is the only Florida law school in the top 25. More recently, a guidebook has rated Florida State University’s law faculty as one of the nation’s best for accessibility and quality of teaching.

The faculty is rated the nation’s 10th best in terms of accessibility and 11th best in terms of quality of teaching, according to data in The Princeton Review’s 2011 “The Best 172 Law Schools.” The rating is based on law student opinion garnered by The Princeton Review during its survey of 18,000 students. Florida State earned the highest faculty ratings among Florida law schools included in the publication.

“This national recognition confirms what everyone at the law school has known for years — our faculty is superb,” College of Law Dean Don Weidner said. “By bringing their groundbreaking scholarship into the classroom, our faculty members are exposing our students to law’s cutting edge.”
Symposium on Civil Recourse Theory

The “Symposium on Civil Recourse Theory,” was held February 11-12 and featured some of the nation's leading minds in the philosophy of private law. Sponsored by the Florida State University Law Review and coordinated by Curtis Bridgeman, the James Edmund & Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, the symposium presenters’ papers will appear in an upcoming issue of the Law Review.

Participants included:

- Arthur Ripstein, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- Ernest Weinrib, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- John Goldberg, Harvard Law School
- Jason Solomon, William & Mary Law School
- Andrew Gold, DePaul University College of Law
- Curtis Bridgeman, Florida State University College of Law
- Ben Zipursky, Fordham University School of Law
- Stephen and Julian Darwall, Yale University Law School; student at New York University School of Law
- Nate Oman, William & Mary Law School
- Emily Sherwin, Cornell University Law School
- Tony Sebok, Cardozo School of Law
- Gabe Mendlow, Yale University Law School
- John Gardner, Oxford University
- Scott Hershovitz, University of Michigan Law School
Conference on Law and Sustainability

The second conference of the spring academic term was “Law and Sustainability Symposium: The Energy-Land Use Nexus,” sponsored by the College of Law and the Institute for Energy Systems, Economics and Sustainability (IESES). Panels for the February 25 conference included Energy for Land Use (GHGs and Land Use Planning, Transportation, Built Environment) and Land Use for Energy (Siting Renewable Energy, Transmission, Public Lands).

Sharon Buccino, director of the Land and Wildlife Program for the Natural Resources Defense Council, presented the lunch talk, and Tim Chapin, a professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University, moderated a roundtable discussion with all the participants.

Participants included:
- William Buzbee, Emory University School of Law
- John Nolon, Pace University Law School
- Patricia Salkin, Albany Law School
- Steven Ferrey, Suffolk University Law School
- Robert Glicksman, George Washington University Law School
- Jim Rossi, Florida State University College of Law
- Terrell Arline, Bay County Attorney (former General Counsel, 1000 Friends of Florida)
- Mike Halpin, director, Power Plant Siting Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Angela Morrison, shareholder, Hopping Green & Sams
- J.B. Ruhl, Florida State University College of Law (Moderator/Discussant)
- Uma Outka, Florida State University College of Law/IESES (Moderator/Discussant)
PILC Establishes Third Clinic

“This is a great opportunity for students to work on administrative hearings, data collection, fact finding, intakes with patients, learning how to draft documents and motions and how to do oral advocacy in court,” said Adelson. “It is going to provide a really rich educational environment.”

This fall, the Public Interest Law Center will add a third clinic that will provide students an opportunity to work on real-life immigration and disability rights cases. The Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), a collaboration between the Colleges of Law and Medicine, is an innovation in interdisciplinary education. It will pair law students with medical students, social work students, lawyers and physicians.

“The idea is for them to partner and to examine the social determinants of health in order to figure out the best way to solve complex problems for people who need health care and legal help. It has an educational component as well as a practical component,” said Visiting Clinical Professor Wendi Adelson, who will direct the MLP.

Students will help clients at Neighborhood Health Services (NHS) – a Tallahassee clinic that provides health and mental care for the medically underserved, uninsured and homeless. According to Dr. Jose Rodriguez, associate professor of family medicine and rural health at the College of Medicine and medical director at NHS, there are a significant number of NHS patients whose health is impacted by disability rights, immigration and housing issues.

An example, Adelson said, would be a patient lacking documents required for legal immigration who has persistent bruising as a result of an abusive relationship. “For a patient of this sort, if we are able to help them self-petition for their immigration status through an application for VAWA or a U visa – two types of legal relief – then perhaps their physical symptoms of abuse will end as well.”

The Medical-Legal Partnership at Florida State will be unique among MLPs nationally. “Generally there are not many that involve direct contact between both law students and medical students,” said Marshall Kapp, director of the Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine & Law at Florida State. “It will give both sets of students a chance to see the patient/client as more than a conglomeration of medical problems or legal problems. Hopefully, they’ll get a more holistic view of the person and they’ll see how medical problems can affect one’s legal well-being and how legal problems can affect one’s medical well-being.”

Additionally, students will be exposed to a wide variety of skills they will use in practice. “This is a great opportunity for students to work on administrative hearings, data collection, fact finding, intakes with patients, learning how to draft documents and motions and how to do oral advocacy in court,” said Adelson. “It is going to provide a really rich educational environment.”

For more information about the Public Interest Law Center, visit http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/jd_program/cac/index.html. To learn more about the Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine & Law, visit http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=innovativeCollaboration.home.
Bridgeman Now Academic Dean, Farrell is Associate Director of Research Center

Curtis Bridgeman, the James Edmund & Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, will be the associate dean for academic affairs for the 2011-12 academic term. He succeeds Wayne Logan, who served as academic dean for three years.

Bridgeman has been a professor at Florida State Law since 2004 and has been a visiting professor at the University of Illinois College of Law, Vanderbilt University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. His scholarship explores the structure and philosophy of contracts, commercial law and bankruptcy law. In addition to earning his J.D. from Vanderbilt University, he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy.

Additionally, Elizabeth Farrell recently was named associate director of the research center. She has been a research and instructional technology librarian at the law school since 2007 and has helped design and teach a variety of courses for the research center. Prior to joining the research center, she was a senior legal research associate at LexisNexis. She earned her law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2003 and her master’s degree in Science, Library & Information Science at Florida State in 2008.

Students Volunteer at a Local Middle School

Several Florida State University College of Law students volunteered at Raa Middle School during the 2010-11 academic year. They were paired with middle school students through two programs: Morning Magic and Study Buddies, to help with tutoring, in the form of subject-specific help, study skills and organization or motivation for exams. Student volunteers included:

- Kiersten Adams (1L)
- Christina Arguelles (1L)
- Laura Atcheson (3L)
- Chandler Bonanno (1L)
- Catherine Brown (1L)
- Jordan Chastain (2L)
- T. Brooks Collins (2L)
- Aaron S. Feuer (2L)
- Christina Feyen (3L)
- Vernisha Foster (3L)
- John Gaset (2L)
- Rick Harb (3L)
- Zachary Kobrin (3L)
- Taylor McKnight (2L)
- Lauren Morrisette (3L)
- Poonam Patel (3L)
- Danielle Paul (2L)
- Jonelle Rainford (2L)
- Ashley Roach (3L)
- Evan Rosenthal (1L)
- Jennito Simon (1L)
- Louise St. Laurent (3L)
- Brandi Thompson (3L)
- Lindsay Walton (3L)
- Kristen Wenger (3L)
- Kate Zucco (2L)
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Christopher Burns (2L) was selected for an externship with the Botswana Court of Appeal in Lobatse.

Molly Drake (2L) has been accepted as a summer associate in the Birmingham office of Burr & Forman LLP.


Oaj Giiani (2L) will complete an externship with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Pakistan this summer.

Daniela Hogue (2L) was selected for The Florida Bar Foundation’s Legal Aid Summer Fellowship Program. She will work with Coast to Coast Legal Aid.

Debrochea Hopkins (2L) was chosen as the Southern Regional BLSA Member of the Month and received the Rodney Pulliam Memorial Scholarship.

Luciana Hornung (2L) will be a summer extern for the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center in Miami. She will work with human trafficking and gender-based asylum cases.

David Lanza (2L) was selected for a human rights externship at the International Bar Association in London.


Laura McDonald (3L) has accepted a federal clerkship with The Honorable Patricia Fawsett, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division. She is the eighth Florida State University College of Law student to accept a federal clerkship this year.

Bridget McDonnell (2L) was selected to complete an externship with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, D.C.

Yanique L. Otto-Leslie (1L) received a diversity scholarship from Carlton Fields. She will receive a $5,000 scholarship as well as a paid position in the firm’s 2011 Summer Associate class. She will work in the firm’s Miami office. She was one of two recipients of the scholarship; 20 law schools were represented in the applicant pool.

Juan Quintero (2L) will complete a human rights externship at the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center in Miami. He will be working on human trafficking and gender-based asylum cases.

Annette M. Rasco (3L) received the Justice Raoul G. Canto Diversity Enhancement Scholarship from the Cuban American Bar Association. She was recognized at CABA’s Annual Fall Mentor/Mentee Reception and her award totaled $1,660.

Kevin Schneider (1L) will intern this summer with the Equal Justice Alliance.

Tamara St. Hiaire (2L) was selected for The Florida Bar Foundation’s Legal Aid Summer Fellowship Program. She will work with Florida Legal Services.

Jessica Urban (3L) was published in The Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Section Reporter. Her article was about the BP spill liability on an international scale.

Haley Van Eren (1L) was selected for The Florida Bar Foundation’s Legal Aid Summer Fellowship Program. She will work with Legal Services of North Florida.

Students Assist with YLD Projects

During The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s second annual Raising the Bar community service day in February, 27 Florida State University College of Law volunteers hosted birthday parties at the Big Bend Homeless Coalition in Tallahassee, providing birthday gifts, cake, games and decorations for individuals who normally might not celebrate their special day. Necessities were also collected and donated to the coalition with the help of William H. Stafford American Inn of Courts; Tallahassee Women Lawyers; Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig & Brooks; Hinkle & Foran; and Lexis Nexis.
Advocacy Teams Win Major Competitions

Ryan Hoyle (3L), Matt Minnick (2L), Thomas Philpot (3L) and Elliot Smith (2L) comprised the Mock Trial team that won the 2010 E. Earle Zehmer Mock Trial Competition. The event, hosted by the Florida Justice Association Young Lawyers Section, was held in Tampa on November 20-21. The team was presented with a $1,000 scholarship for winning the competition. They were coached by Clinical Professor Ruth Stone and Maria Santoro, managing partner in the Tallahassee office of George, Hartz & Lundeen.

Tanya Cronau (2L), Lynn Guery (2L) and Anne Marie Rossi (3L) (pictured L-R) won the 2011 Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition for the North American region. Rossi also was named Best Oralist for the competition. The competition was held April 16 in Washington, D.C., at Georgetown University Law Center. Other law schools participating included Catholic University, George Washington University, McGill University Institute of Air & Space Law, Rutgers University, Universidad Sergio Arboleda (from Colombia, by invitation), University of Mississippi, University of Nebraska and University of Virginia. In October, the team will travel to Cape Town, South Africa, for the international finals against regional winners from the Europe and Asia-Pacific regions. They were coached by Tallahassee attorney Arthur Stern.
Nearly 250 spring 2011 graduates participated in Florida State Law’s commencement ceremony May 7 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. They were joined by an LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers graduate and an LL.M. in Environmental Law graduate, along with 20 other students who either completed their degree requirements in December 2010 or who plan to in December 2011.

Stephen Zack (pictured at right), president of the American Bar Association and a partner in the Miami office Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, was the commencement speaker.
Closing notes...

With a **75th percentile LSAT score of 164** and a **25th percentile LSAT score of 161**, the 2010 entering class has the highest LSAT scores in the state.

Florida State graduates **ranked first in six of the last 11 administrations of the Florida Bar Examination** and ranked second twice, among all Florida law schools with more than one test taker.

The law school’s advocacy teams are highly successful. Since 2010, the **Moot Court Team has won 1st place in five national competitions**. In November 2010, the **Mock Trial Team won 1st place in the Florida Justice Association’s E. Earle Zehmer Mock Trial Competition.**