FLORIDA STATE LAW

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More Great News

It is hard to beat March’s announcement that U.S. News & World Report has ranked Florida State University College of Law as Florida’s #1 law school, and 45th best in the nation. In addition, U.S. News also rated our Environmental Program as the nation’s 14th best, up two ranks from last year. Even after these latest rankings, University of Chicago Law School Professor Brian Leiter says that, in terms of our academic rating, we are “clearly under-ranked.”

These rankings were quickly followed by more good news. Also in March, our Moot Court Team won the right to represent North America in the world finals of the international Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition and our Black Law Students Association won first place in the National Black Law Students Association Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Since I have already emailed alumni details about those wonderful victories, I won’t repeat them here.

Our placement successes (which would not have happened without our wonderfully engaged alumni), were soon recognized by additional national outlets. The National Law Journal rated us Florida’s best, and the nation’s 25th best, in terms of the percentage of 2013 graduates employed nine months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage required jobs not funded by the school. As I write this column, Moody’s has just rated us Florida’s best, and the nation’s 28th best, in terms of job placement.

There are numerous recent program innovations I am enthusiastic about.

We have adopted “3+3” programs both with Florida State University and with the University of Central Florida. Students from these two universities may now be able to attend our law school after only three years in college, provided they satisfy all their undergraduate departmental and college requirements, but for the last 30 hours of academic credit. This is a program that could be completed within one year to give a degree in law to a non-lawyer who does not wish to pursue a full law degree but who wants a year of legal studies and the recognition it entails. It can also be taken on a part-time basis. We think that this degree might be attractive, for example, to individuals in corporate compliance, the health care industry or governmental affairs.

This spring, within our core J.D. program, we added courses in Entrepreneurial Law, including an Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. In this new clinic, students will earn academic credit by helping our Entrepreneur in Residence to provide legal advice to business incubators across the Florida State University campus. In particular, this will strengthen our ties to the multiple entrepreneurs in residence in the College of Business.

Finally, a nice surprise came late in the legislative session when, thanks in large part to Senators Joe Negron (an Emory Law alum) and our alum Senator John Thrasher (’73), the College of Law received an additional $2 million legislative appropriation, with half of it recurring. This appropriation, mostly for scholarships, is a result of our many recent successes and will serve to decrease the funding gap between us and the University of Florida’s law school. I hope that many of you will join me in thanking Senators Negron and Thrasher.

Thank you all for your support!

Don Weidner
Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor
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Bob Rice: Capitalizing on Opportunity

By Christi N. Morgan
If you ever watch business news television networks, Bloomberg TV or Fox Business in particular, you may recognize Robert “Bob” Rice. The founder and CEO of Tangent Capital is a regular commentator about the economy, investing and technology trends. He has experienced success in a wide variety of business ventures, positioning Rice as an expert with plenty of advice to share.

Rice’s career began like that of many other high-achieving attorneys, practicing law at the U.S. Department of Justice and then at a Wall Street law firm, but he left the legal profession in the late 1990s. At the time, he was a partner at Milbank Tweed, focusing on structured financial products.

“I met this famous Russian scientist – a Princeton professor – who had invented an utterly incredible 3D scanning technology. I just fell in love with it, and so dropped out of law and did a true garage start-up,” said the 1979 College of Law alumnus. “But there was a small problem. The technology was brilliant all right, too much so...about 15 years too early. Today, with 3D printers finally here, it would make for an awesome company, but at the time there was simply no use for it. So we did the classic start-up thing and found a completely different application, a way to stream complex images over narrowband. Thankfully, that allowed us to survive and even get bought by a public company, of which I then became the CEO. That company became the first to do so-called ‘rich media’ internet-ads.

“Hilariously, I was on CNBC ‘Power Lunch’ being introduced as CEO of the company the day the NASDAQ cracked in 2000. Many people think there was a causal relationship,” joked Rice.

Rice is passionate about the need for investors to look beyond the basic classes of assets. That is why he formed Tangent Capital in 2004.

“...It is an investment bank that focuses on alternative investments – private equity, hedge funds, venture, even timber and farmland...everything except stocks and bonds. We advise wealthy individuals and family offices, endowments, foundations, sovereign wealth funds, and other kinds of investors. We also help investment managers package and distribute their products. That’s where the law thing is very handy.”

Rice’s daily appearances on the Fox Business show “Risk & Reward with Deirdre Bolton” allow him to spread the word about alternative investment options to a national audience. “It’s important to expand your portfolios in this environment. The smartest money is doing it, but typical investors are missing some of the best growth opportunities out there, and, more importantly, are not protecting themselves against the many big risks we face.”

To get the word out, Rice has published a best-selling book, “The Alternative Answer: The Nontraditional Investments That Drive the World’s Best-Performing Portfolios,” and created altanswer.com, a Web site with hundreds of brief, educational videos produced by Bloomberg TV.
“Rice” continued from page 3

“It’s free, it’s unsponsored, it’s unbiased, it’s strictly educational,” said Rice about the site.

Diversification also is important to Rice in areas outside of investing. It was the theme of his December 2013 FSU commencement ceremony speech and his presentation to law students in the fall of 2013.

“In a world of hyper-competitiveness, being one dimensional is almost a sure ticket to disaster,” said Rice. “Every profession, certainly including law, is being disintermediated by low-cost providers. Information is becoming ubiquitous and completely free, so if you know one thing and that is all you do, you’re really in jeopardy of being obsoleted by a Google search. Moreover, you’re in great danger of being out-competed by someone else in the world because the world is full of really, really smart people and anybody can get to anybody.

“People need to get real about what to do about this and that means, first and foremost, having numerous areas of expertise instead of one. What that allows you to do – what your computer algorithms and Google searches can’t do – is to connect the dots; to be able to see things in a way that other people can’t see them and algorithms don’t see them. That’s where the real value gets created – in being the glue between two different areas of knowledge.”

Although he does not claim to be an intentional example of his theory, Rice knows he has benefited from it.

“I’ve been fortunate to have a lot of very different kinds of experiences: lawyer, entrepreneur, investment manager, the media stuff. I didn’t plan it that way, that’s just what happened.

But that diversity by itself lets you find new ideas, like the new Nasdaq private equity marketplace we’re working on. On one level, it’s a pretty radical development, but at the same time there was no profound insight involved; it was really just a matter of connecting dots from previous experiences. And it’s the sort of thing that folks with a one-dimensional background could not have stumbled on.

“It boils down to this: To go through it, you have to see that the door of opportunity is there…but if it said in neon letters, ‘Door of Opportunity, Please Knock Here,’ there’d be a line around the block. By definition, it would not actually be an opportunity. So the key is being able to perceive what other’s don’t, and you only get that with a diverse skill set and knowledge background.”
planned events leading to opportunities. He met his wife, Lenore, while working at the Justice Department in 1982. She was a trial attorney who happened to be from New York and after they got married, the couple moved to New York City to advance their careers.

Like Rice, Lenore also previously practiced at a sophisticated New York City law firm. She gave it up to have and care for the couple’s two children – 25-year-old Eric, a former Division I wrestler at Columbia University who graduated from Harvard Law School in May, and 23-year-old Isabelle, who is a software engineer for Microsoft in Seattle.

“I’ll give you a fact about my daughter that I’m proud of,” said Rice. “She was the first University of Chicago computer science graduate to also be a member of a sorority. I’m very proud of that – that she could pull off both sides of that equation.”

When the children were younger, the Rice family traveled extensively and developed especially strong ties to Italy. After a trip to Tuscany, Lenore formed a company that imports high-quality terra cotta from the region. Her business, Siebert & Rice, is now the leading American importer of Impruneta terra cotta pots.

One of the highlights of the Rice family’s international travels was participating annually in a Florida State University project in Italy. “We used to go over every summer to visit the Etruscan dig that Nancy de Grummond from the Classics Department runs in Central Italy. We accidentally ran into them one summer when Isabelle was 2 and Eric was 5 and they started digging that summer, literally. And we went back almost every single summer and they would dig. I’m sure it’s a key reason that my son was a cultural anthropology major.”

One of the highlights of the Rice family’s international travels was participating annually in a Florida State University project in Italy. “We used to go over every summer to visit the Etruscan dig that Nancy de Grummond from the Classics Department runs in Central Italy. We accidentally ran into them one summer when Isabelle was 2 and Eric was 5 and they started digging that summer, literally. And we went back almost every single summer and they would dig. I’m sure it’s a key reason that my son was a cultural anthropology major.”

Another pastime with which Rice is extensively involved is chess. Being in the right place at the right time, Rice has had the opportunity to sit across the board from some of the world’s foremost chess players. While he was a partner at Milbank, Rice realized that there were no nice chess clubs in the city, so he started a “fancy” Wall Street chess club as a business development tactic.

“The Soviet Union was just beginning to break apart and that is where all of the best chess players in the world lived. Many had to move, and New York was the only place that remotely resembled a place where they could make a living playing and teaching. So, the city was filling up with Russian grandmasters,” recalled Rice. “The red wine and sandwiches news got around to the GMs and they all started coming to the club, mostly for that reason. So almost from the get-go we had the strongest chess club in the world, based on the number of grandmasters. It was crazy – every living world champion except Fischer came through.”

That’s how Rice built a friendship with chess legend Garry Kasparov. When Kasparov started the Professional Chess Association for the game’s top professionals, Rice served as commissioner for organization. “As a result of that, I wound up running the first commercial event ever held inside the Kremlin, by far the most bizarre episode of my life.”

When prompted to reflect on his accomplishments and select highlights, Rice did not hesitate to answer: “I’m very pleased that I’ve been able to be a reasonably decent father for my kids. Nothing else really matters. As to the other stuff – well, I’m just very grateful that I’ve been able to do a lot of different things that have been interesting and fun.”
Before Dana N. Brooks began her legal career, she was a paralegal, mental health counselor and certified family law mediator. Helping people thrive in spite of their mental health issues has given Brooks a unique perspective when advocating for her medical malpractice clients.

“My mental health background is extremely helpful because you develop empathy and learn to set boundaries; you have to set boundaries in mental health or you could really get into significant depression by adopting your clients’ problems as your own,” said Brooks, who graduated from the law school in December 2007.

Brooks truly wants to help people, and not just those she represents.

“I get between 650 and 1,100 calls a year from people wanting us to represent them in a malpractice case,” said Brooks. “Many times they do not have a viable case, but no one has ever told them why. I get the facts and give them a substantive answer and I think that gives them peace of mind.”

Perhaps her empathetic nature is one reason why Brooks’ clients maintain strong relationships with her even after their cases have concluded. “My cases take a while to develop; they’re very intense and I spend a lot of time with my clients and have relatively few of them. What I feel proud of is that they keep in touch with me. They call me, they come see me. It’s rewarding. Even though some of these people have a life-ending illness, if they can have the money to fly to Europe to see their daughter who is stationed over there before they die, that is something they could have never done without the proceeds from their lawsuit. Money can’t fix everything, but it can make things more comfortable.”

The clients whose lives have been bettered because of Brooks have Vinse Barrett to thank for steering Brooks into her area of practice.

“I was actually considering family law, but in the last year of law school, I was given the opportunity by Vinse Barrett to take over his medical malpractice practice because he was trying to plan his exit and retirement. It was just too good of an opportunity to pass up. I was very lucky.”

Brooks knows she made the right decision because she loves her work and her firm.

“It’s a fun firm – people have fun here,” said Brooks, who is considered the unofficial “mom” at Tallahassee’s Barrett, Fasig & Brooks. “And they need to because they are working their butts off.”

As managing partner, Brooks is especially proud of the firm’s reputation regarding hiring and employee retention. The firm’s founders believed in giving people second chances and offering substantial benefits to employees. Brooks has continued those traditions because she believes it is the right thing to do.
“Brooks,” continued from page 6

The firm’s community service activities also are notable.

“We pride ourselves on being good citizens of the community and that is why we choose the charitable activities that we do,” said Brooks. “Our big focus right now is on distracted driving. It seems kind of counter-intuitive because people say, ‘Isn’t that how you get your business?’ We have plenty of business; we don’t need more people getting killed. We’ve seen too many people hurt.”

Brooks and her partners also help Tallahassee-area residents through their appearance on a live, weekly public affairs television program, “Law Call.”

“When you are in the legal field, you know so many lawyers and investigators and paralegals,” said Brooks, who maintains a large network of referral attorneys. “You forget most people don’t have a lawyer. We are trying to bring law to the public – to make it accessible to them and give them an opportunity to get their questions answered, or at least steer them in the right direction. We forget that what we do every day is really overwhelming to most people faced with legal issues.”

Even when Brooks is away from her office, she has a hard time taking a break from work. Her determination to help her clients means she is always thinking about their cases. Brooks enjoys reading, but sitting down with a book instead of a deposition or pleadings is easier said than done.

“When I decide to go off the clock, I have to make an actual decision to do it and then I try to be in the moment,” said Brooks, who has been working since the age of 15. She credits her mother, Faye Dees, with instilling in her a strong work ethic while she was growing up in Pensacola.

Complicating her attempts at work-life balance is the fact that Brooks’ husband, Joseph Brooks, also specializes in medical malpractice law. While Brooks represents plaintiffs, her husband defends medical professionals and institutions. The husband and wife make time each year to join forces and coach the Florida State University Mock Trial Team.

“It’s a huge commitment, to coach them well; that’s why I am such a sore loser,” joked Brooks. “But, it helps me as much as it helps the students because there will be some issue that I haven’t looked at in years and I have to research it just like they do.”

Brooks also enjoys meeting with law students through her involvement in the Florida Justice Association and Tallahassee Women Lawyers. More than simply wanting to help law students, Brooks is particularly passionate about helping females.

“I’m big on building up other women,” said Brooks. “And I’m always mentoring somebody and they’re always girls. I’ve mentored high school kids and women in law school. Some young women going into law school have a conception that I think is self-defeating. They come in and are aggressive rather than assertive or they dress like men because they think they have to, to be taken seriously. So, I really try to work with women to empower them, to say, ‘you are fine the way you are, don’t wear somebody else’s clothes, wear your clothes and be who you are.’”

There are three young women for whom Brooks is an especially important role model: her daughter Whitney, a rising junior at Florida State University, and step-daughters Olivia, a rising 2L at Florida State Law, and Kelsey, who studies at Tallahassee Community College.

“I am big on helping women reach their potential and helping them see themselves as competent and equal. I tell them, ‘you got here on your merit, you deserve to be here.’ I try to do that with our daughters and I try to do that with the young women that I work with. That was my model when I was a therapist.”

Although Brooks loves her current role at her firm and plans to retire there, she admits the stress of her practice cannot be maintained without end. “I don’t think I would ever retire-retire, but I definitely will not stay at the level I am now forever.”

She envisions remaining a champion for her clients, taking cases she can’t focus on right now. “I would take cases that nobody else will take – maybe cases that change policy or cases where somebody needs to be held accountable even if there is not the typical money in it.”

Even in semi-retirement, Brooks will continue to help people. It’s in her nature.

Brooks truly wants to help people, and not just those she represents.

SPRING 2014
Although he represents his hometown of Miami in the Florida House of Representatives, Tallahassee is a city that has greatly shaped Representative Carlos Trujillo’s life. When Trujillo attended Florida State’s Summer for Undergraduates program in 2003, his decision to attend law school was cemented. As a law student in Tallahassee, Trujillo met his future wife, Carmen, who was studying nursing at Florida State University. Now, Trujillo embraces Tallahassee as a temporary home for several months each year when the Florida Legislature meets.

During each legislative session, Trujillo’s wife and three young children also make Florida’s capital city their home. Everything that Trujillo does revolves around family and he credits his wife with keeping the family organized and supporting him so he can practice law and serve in the House. When Trujillo was interviewed for this article, the entire Trujillo clan was present at the House Office Building. His oldest son, three-year-old Carlos, even played quietly at his father’s desk. Carlos, 2-year-old Isabella, and 6-month-old Juan Pablo frequently join their father at the office.

“It’s fun,” said Trujillo about his family accompanying him to Tallahassee. “It’s almost like being on a three-month vacation. We explore different areas and we spend a lot of quality time as a family together because I do not have to commute to work. It really keeps my life in balance.”

Surprisingly, Trujillo never walked up the hill to visit the Florida Capitol when he was a law student. It was not until he was working as an assistant state attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit that Trujillo considered a career in politics.

“Working as a state attorney and having a better understanding of the impact that the state has and that government has on your everyday life made me realize that I wanted to be part of the solution to some of the
shortcomings that were happening,” said Trujillo.

He credits his election success to the small, close-knit team that worked on his campaign.

“My first election to the Florida House, I ran a campaign with the least amount of money of any person in South Florida,” said Trujillo, who raised less than half of what candidates in his area typically raise. “It was truly a grassroots campaign with friends from law school and undergrad and high school contributing. And there is no substitute for hard work.”

At the time of his inauguration in 2010, Rep. Trujillo was the Florida Legislature’s youngest serving member. He is now serving his second term in the House and is seeking re-election in the fall of 2014. Trujillo is especially proud of his work during the 2013 session to eliminate Internet cafes in Florida. “That was an epidemic that was spreading all across the state. It was run by organized crime and it was proliferating and destroying a lot of low-income communities. So, I was glad to sponsor that legislation and to be successful.”

While he is happy to fully devote himself to the practice of law when he is in Miami, Trujillo’s family remains his top priority. Visits to the beach and parks are regularly on the family’s schedule. They also often spend time with family and friends. Most of Trujillo’s large extended family still resides in the area, including his parents and all four of his grandparents.

“The people who had the biggest impact on me are my grandparents,” said Trujillo. “They immigrated from Cuba in their late 20s, early 30s with absolutely nothing and they lived the American dream. They worked hard, saved money, educated our family and the fruits of their labor will live for generations to come.”

“It’s nostalgic,” said Trujillo about raising his children in the same community in which he was raised. “I remember being at my grandparents’ house and all the things that my brothers and I used to do when we visited. Now, going to the same house and the same yard and seeing my children chase each other and play hide and seek brings back great memories.”

Having a balanced life is extremely important to Trujillo.

“One thing I noticed in law school is that FSU does a good job of showing you there is more to life than your profession. You can have a bigger impact on your community and the state and the world by truly having a balanced life. Seeking to have fulfillment in your personal life is extremely important. I enjoy practicing law, but it doesn’t define me as a human being.”
Jacksonville native Paul Harden has been involved with the Jacksonville Jaguars since before his hometown was selected to receive an NFL expansion team. Harden was instrumental in negotiating the deal that brought the Jaguars to Jacksonville in 1995.

“I represented the group called Touchdown Jacksonville! that sought the expansion team,” said Harden, who is a 1975 graduate of the College of Law.

“The expansion application required we negotiate a lease with the city for use of the football stadium. In the earlier years, it was half lawyer work, half political work. Now, my football work is mostly political in nature.”

While the Jaguars have an in-house general counsel, Harden represents the franchise owner in matters such as lease contract negotiations, vendors and naming rights. While his work with the Jaguars is substantial, it does not account for all of his law practice.

Harden’s clients also include others who have contracts with the city of Jacksonville – including Waste Management, as well as businesses with land use and zoning issues – such as Home Depot and Target. Harden is also involved in land-use litigation and eminent domain claims.
“Harden,” continued from page 10

The land use and zoning part of Harden’s practice had subsided with the economic downturn several years ago, but that has changed recently. “There is a lot going on in Jacksonville,” said Harden. “There is more pending zoning activity now than in all of 2009, 2010 and 2011.”

Harden’s entry into the land use area of practice came during a time when it was more political than judicial, which he found appealing. Harden has always been interested in government and politics, making Florida State Law a great fit for him. While he was studying law, Harden worked for the Florida Legislature.

Today, because he represents many clients who have relationships with the city of Jacksonville, Harden is very active in local politics.

“Because of activity with the city council or their committees, just about every day I attend a zoning meeting or a city council hearing. The most recent big project for the football team was a $63 million north end zone expansion.”

Those who follow Jacksonville development in the media probably know that some of Harden’s work has been controversial. But negative press does not seem to bother Harden.

“You have to have thick skin in the arena. It comes with the territory. Pitching a $65 million project for a football team is not necessarily popular even though it is good for the economy. Negotiating a $750 million land fill contract for a company like Waste Management isn’t always going to be popular. Lawyers are advocates. Advocacy in a legislative setting doesn’t make you any less an advocate than pitching to a judge.”

The negative press is made easier because it often covers Harden’s successful advocacy on behalf of his clients, some of whom he has represented for decades.

“I’ve had most of the same clients for 30 years. I know them well and they are all pleasant to be around. Even when you have a controversial issue, if the people you are sitting with at the table are either sophisticated clients or understand the process, it makes the process not so difficult to handle.”

In part because of his work, Harden has seen his hometown change substantially since his childhood. His father, M.C. Harden, was very active in the community, serving chairman of the board of Baptist Hospital and as chairman of the school board. Harden followed Jacksonville politics from a young age.

What he loves most about Jacksonville as an adult is what he is able to enjoy in his free time.

“Jacksonville is just a wonderful city,” remarked Harden. “Two Saturdays ago, I had stayed at the beach, I got up at 6 o’clock in the morning, drove 20 minutes to the Guana Preserve, shot a turkey, had breakfast, played 18 holes of golf, then went fishing. It’s a pretty nice city to live in.”

Harden’s love of sports and the outdoors extends beyond the Jacksonville area. He also is a fan of horse racing and in May, he attended his 39th Kentucky Derby. “It’s my favorite sporting event. Hopefully this year’s winner will capture the triple crown.”

He also attends all of the Jaguars’ games – home and away – each season. “This year, our away schedule will be fun. We play at Washington, at Baltimore, at Philadelphia, at San Diego, at Cincinnati, at Indianapolis, and we play Dallas in London.”

While attending NFL games is exciting for Harden, he is often working when he is with the team. His office just becomes a 60,000-seat stadium on Sundays each fall.
Chief Judge Joseph Lewis, Jr.: An Inspiring Leader

By Christi N. Morgan

Growing up on the Southside of Tallahassee, Chief Judge Joseph Lewis, Jr. ('77) never imagined that a neighborhood where he used to collect pecans would one day hold so much significance for him.

“Where the law school annex sits, which was formerly the First DCA, there were pecan trees. I used to pick pecans from the very site of the old First DCA as a kid to sell for my North Florida Fair money. I never, ever dreamed that there would be a court on that very location and that I would be a judge on that court. It is simply amazing. At that time, I don’t think there were any African-American judges in Florida, and very few African-American lawyers.”

Although it was not what he envisioned as a young boy, many of the lessons he learned in childhood propelled him to the bench. Advice from his father, Joseph Lewis, Sr., was especially influential.

“My father never finished high school,” said Judge Lewis. “Even though he didn’t get a degree, he always stressed to me, ‘Son, you need to get an education.’ That stayed with me. Also, my father was a very hard worker. He had an incredible work ethic and a can-do attitude. His attitude was, ‘If others can do it, I can do it, too.’ He always stressed to me, ‘Always do your best.’ And, he would tell me, ‘You may not be as smart as the guy you are competing against, but you can certainly outwork him.’ That has been my philosophy throughout life.”

His father’s teachings were particularly helpful in law school. “You were competing against some of the brightest minds in the state. For me, rather than leave the law library at 10 o’clock at night, many times I was there until 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning.”

Judge Lewis decided to attend law school when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Montana, where he chose to study to broaden his horizons. “I had a host family in Missoula – Larry and Diana Riley. Larry was a trial lawyer and he became a mentor. I had the opportunity to go with him to hearings and I learned a lot from him. He played basketball in college and I played football in high school and a little bit in college, as well. We were both very competitive – I think to be a successful trial lawyer, you have to be competitive. I became interested in attending law school after seeing Larry in court and spending time with him.”

While in Montana, Judge Lewis spent summers working as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. Because some of the fires he battled resulted from lightning strikes in the
mountains, the job gave Judge Lewis an opportunity to explore Montana’s rugged terrain. Although he loved the beautiful scenery and wildlife in Montana, Judge Lewis missed home, so he returned to Tallahassee for law school.

Judge Lewis’s career progression after law school well prepared him for the bench. He honed his legal writing skills as a judicial research aide at the Florida Industrial Relations Commission; litigated criminal and civil cases at the Public Defender’s Office of the Second Judicial Circuit and at the Florida Attorney General’s Office, respectively; handled state and federal appeals as an assistant attorney general; and led the Attorney General’s Employment Litigation Section until he was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal in 2001.

During his tenure at the Attorney General’s Office, Judge Lewis gained an appreciation for the importance of Bar activities. Since then, he has been an active leader in local and statewide Bar groups. In addition, because the AG’s Office did not have regional general civil offices at the time, Judge Lewis gained valuable experience that is not available to attorneys in the same positions today.

“I was able to gain valuable civil jury trial experience handling all kinds of claims against the state in both state and federal courts. I litigated from Pensacola to Miami. I was also able to get state and federal appellate experience because generally, back then, if you tried a case and it was appealed, you handled the appeal. The Attorney General did not have a Solicitor General’s Office at the time I started there. I was fortunate to argue cases in four of the five DCAs, brief cases in all of the DCAs, and argue in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.”

Trying cases all over the state meant that Judge Lewis argued before many state and federal judges. One in particular prompted him to consider becoming a judge. “I recall litigating a federal case in Tampa before a visiting federal district court judge from Hawaii. It was an absolute pleasure litigating that case before that judge. After the trial was over, the judge called counsel back into his chambers for a cup of coffee and to sit down and chat. That conversation made such an impression on me and I said to myself, ‘I might want to be a judge.”

More than a decade into the job, Judge Lewis loves being an appellate judge.

“I enjoy my job immensely. It is an absolute pleasure to get up every morning and want to come to work and enjoy what I do. We have great judges who are a collegial group. I have one of the best staffs as well – I am fortunate to have a great JA and two outstanding law clerks, both graduates of the FSU College of Law,” said Judge Lewis, who likes the collaborative nature of his work, in particular. Sitting on the bench with two of his mentors – former Judges Michael Allen and Charles Miner – has been a highlight of his time at the court.

Judge Lewis’s responsibilities have grown substantially now that he is serving a 2-year term as chief judge. It has been challenging to take on the administrative and personnel functions associated with his post while maintaining his full caseload, but he tackles everything with the same can-do attitude he learned as a child.

“I have one of the best staffs as well – I am fortunate to have a great JA and two outstanding law clerks, both graduates of the FSU College of Law.”

“It can be time-consuming, but you get it done,” said Judge Lewis.

The First District Court of Appeal is located in an area with nice outdoor trails, so if Judge Lewis ever needs to take a break from the stresses of his to-do list, he can hop on his bike. Judge Lewis was introduced to biking by a former co-worker at the AG’s Office and now occasionally enjoys riding during lunch with some of his fellow judges.

Another activity Judge Lewis has relished is mentoring children at Bond Elementary, the school he attended. “Having gone back there to mentor kids – it meant a lot to the kids but it meant more to me. The first question they would ask was, ‘Are you really a judge?’ And I would say, ‘Yes, I am.’ And their eyes would just light up.

“Seeing me and knowing that I graduated from Bond Elementary on the Southside, they would think, ‘Gosh, he made it. I can make it, too.’”

Judge Lewis is a shining example of what you can accomplish with the right attitude and hard work, and he is an inspiration not only to the young children he mentored, but also to others.
Larry Kellogg Gives Additional $200,000 to the Law School

College of Law alumnus Lawrence A. “Larry” Kellogg, a 1981 graduate, has pledged $200,000 to create the Kellogg Family Professorship Endowment. The income generated from the endowment will be used to recruit or retain an outstanding legal scholar. Kellogg previously made a gift of $133,000 to endow the Kellogg Family Scholarship, which is awarded to students who worked their way through college or who are supporting children while attending law school. In recognition of the recent gift, a classroom at the law school was named the Kellogg Family Classroom.

“Earning a law degree from Florida State tremendously enriched my life and the lives of my family members, so I want to give back,” said Kellogg. “I have chosen to support the faculty with my latest gift because it is critical that we continue to provide Florida State law students with a world-class education. I’ve seen first-hand – through the Florida State grads that I hire – what a wonderful job our professors are doing in preparing students for practice.”

“We are all extremely grateful to Larry for his continued generous support of the law school,” said Dean Don Weidner. “What is remarkable is that, in addition to giving financially, he also stays very engaged with our students and is committed to helping them get jobs at his firm and elsewhere. Many of our students, graduates and faculty have been positively impacted by Larry.”

Kellogg is a 1981 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law and a member of its Board of Visitors. His son, Jason, is a 2002 graduate, and Jason’s wife, Cassandra, is a 2004 graduate. Larry and Jason are both partners at Levine Kellogg Lehman Schneider + Grossman LLP in Miami, where they focus on complex litigation and arbitration matters, including securities and fraud actions. Cassandra practices at Gautier & Hasty, P.L. in Coral Gables.

Florida State Ranked as Florida’s #1 Law School by U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report (2014) has ranked Florida State University College of Law as Florida’s #1 law school, and 45th best nationally. These are new highs for Florida State as the school continues its climb in national rankings.

The numbers make Florida State the nation’s 21st best public law school.

The jump in rankings is, in large part, a result of the school’s extremely strong employment rates. According to the U.S. News data, Florida State is Florida’s #1 law school, and the nation’s 39th best, in terms of the percentage of 2012 graduates employed nine months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs. Florida State is also the nation’s 18th best public law school in terms of that metric. Florida State’s environmental program is ranked the nation’s 14th best.

“We are thrilled that U.S. News has rated us the #1 law school in Florida,” said Dean Don Weidner. “The student success at getting jobs shows the value of a degree from Florida State.”
Terence Gross Gives Additional $50,000 to the College of Law

Terence A. Gross, a 1979 graduate of the law school, has made a cash gift of $50,000 to supplement the existing Terence A. Gross Diversity Enhancement Scholarship. The new gift follows $50,000 in earlier gifts made by Gross to create and expand the endowment and brings the total gifts to this endowment to $100,000. The income generated from the endowment is used to support law school students who are from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession. In recognition of the new gift, a conference room at the law school has been named the Terence A. Gross Faculty Conference Room.

“Giving back to the College of Law is very important,” said Gross. “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend law school and want to make sure others do as well – especially students who might not have thought the legal profession was an option for them.”

“We are all extremely grateful to Terry for his generous support of the law school,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Alumni support is critical as we try to attract top students and provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the worlds of law and business.”

Gross is a partner with the law firm of Gross & Schuster, P.A., in Pensacola. He practices in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death litigation. He has two sons, Marcus Gross (’12) and Tyler Gross (’14), who also are graduates of the College of Law. In addition, Gross is very involved in The Florida Bar, has taught at Pensacola State College for 20 years and hosts two talk radio programs.

“About ten years ago, I started hosting a radio program,” said Gross. “It’s two hours once a week. It’s not really legal, so much, as political commentary – talking about whatever is happening in the world that day. It’s fun! And I just started a new talk show that’s all sports. I’m very passionate about FSU sports, so I get to talk about that.”

College of Law Hires Entrepreneur in Residence to Lead New Clinic

The Florida State University College of Law has appointed Richard Benham as its Entrepreneur in Residence to lead and teach its new Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. Law students who enroll in the clinic will be able to earn academic credit by helping Benham advise business and social entrepreneurs at Florida State University. Benham will also teach Entrepreneurial Law and Contract Drafting.

“Richard has been a successful entrepreneur in his own right who has represented start-ups, including those involving scientists and others at Florida State, since he graduated from our law school in 2005,” said Dean Don Weidner. “The clinic will provide a wonderful bridge between our excellent academic offerings and the real world.”

Before attending law school, Benham co-founded and led a successful software development and information technology consulting company. Since earning his law degree with honors, he has represented businesses in technical, creative and scientific fields. He has counseled the founders of several businesses engaged in the commercialization of university intellectual property in areas including business formation, capital acquisition, business planning and start-up operations. He also has taught Contract Drafting as an adjunct professor at the College of Law.
3+3 Programs Lower Cost of Degree

The College of Law is now accepting applications from college juniors at Florida State and will be accepting applications for fall 2015 admission from University of Central Florida students as part of two new 3+3 programs. Under the programs, students who meet certain admission requirements can complete a bachelor’s degree and a law degree in six years rather than the traditional seven, saving a year of time and costs.

“I am extremely excited that our new 3+3 program at Florida State has been approved and that UCF President Hitt has welcomed our new relationship with UCF’s outstanding academic programs.” said Dean Don Weidner. “In short, under these programs, the first year of law school is double-counted: that is, it is credited both to the law degree and to the undergraduate degree. The result is that students and/or their families save the entire cost of the fourth year of college.”

Undergraduate students who gain admission into the J.D. program through the 3+3 programs will follow the usual prescribed course of study for full-time, first-year law students. Upon successful completion of the first year of law school, the 30 credits earned will be counted toward the undergraduate degree, sufficient to complete university requirements for the bachelor’s degree. The Juris Doctor degree will be awarded upon successful completion of the required minimum 88 total course credits in the law school (including the 30 hours earned as part of the 3+3 program) and all other J.D. graduation requirements.

To learn more about the 3+3 admission requirements, visit [http://law.fsu.edu/prospective_students/threeplusthree.html](http://law.fsu.edu/prospective_students/threeplusthree.html).

Distinguished Federal Judge Antoon Visits College of Law

On April 3, the Honorable John Antoon, II, of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, visited the law school. A 1971 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law, Judge Antoon was nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton on February 9, 2000, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 24, 2000. He took senior status on June 3, 2013. Prior to his appointment to the federal court, Judge Antoon served as a circuit judge for Florida’s Eighteenth Judicial Circuit and as a judge on the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal. He also previously worked as a prosecutor, an assistant public defender and in private practice. In addition to a law degree, Judge Antoon earned LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia in 2001.

Judge Antoon is a steadfast supporter of the Florida State University College of Law. He has hired four Florida State law graduates to clerk for him in the past and has been a mentor to students and graduates for many years. While visiting his alma mater, Judge Antoon had breakfast and lunch with students, visited Professor Ehrhardt’s Evidence class and Professor Markel’s Sentencing Law Seminar, and met with faculty members.
Godinez-Samperio Can Get Law License

On May 12, Governor Rick Scott signed into law a bill that will allow alum Jose M. Godinez-Samperio (’11) to practice law. The bill, which was approved by lawmakers during the 2014 session, came after a March 2014 ruling by the Florida Supreme Court that it could not grant a law license to Godinez-Samperio because he is not a citizen. At the time, justices wrote, “The Florida Legislature is in the unique position to act on this integral policy question and remedy the inequities that the unfortunate decision of this Court will bring to bear.”

Godinez-Samperio’s story has made national headlines in recent years. He immigrated from Mexico with his family when he was 9 and is not a U.S. citizen, but is in the country legally. After graduating from law school with honors, he passed the Florida Bar Exam. Throughout his attempts to become licensed in Florida, he has been represented by Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, a former Florida State University president and a professor at the College of Law, and Patsy Palmer (’07).

College of Law Offers New 1-Year Program for Non-Lawyers

The Florida State University College of Law has recently approved a new Juris Master Degree program. The program, which will take effect in the fall of 2014, is intended for professionals who possess a bachelor’s degree and who want to attend law school to advance their careers with a year of legal studies and training. The program is designed to be flexible – students can tailor their curriculum for the specific professional advancement they have in mind.

“I am delighted that we are offering this new degree for a professional workforce that is increasingly interested in legal training,” said Dean Don Weidner. “We think there are many groups who would benefit from the program, including people in financial services, health care, agriculture, real estate, as well as other businesses, either in the private sector or on the regulatory side. Compliance officers might be particularly interested.”

The 30-credit curriculum will include two courses specifically designed for Juris Master students: Introduction to Legal Studies and Introduction to Legal Research. Students also will be required to take at least two courses from the J.D. core curriculum. The remaining courses are elective and will be selected by students according to their professional interests. The curriculum may be completed on either a full-time, one-year schedule or on a part-time basis that lasts no more than three years.

To learn more about the admission requirements for the program interested students can visit http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/juris_master/index.html.
More than 250 graduates of the Florida State University College of Law gathered on Saturday, May 10 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center for the 2014 commencement ceremony. The group included 12 LL.M. graduates – two in environmental law and 10 in American law for foreign lawyers. College of Law alumnus Margaret Ann “Peggy” Rolando, a 1978 graduate, gave the commencement address. A reception on the law school’s green followed the ceremony.
(L-R) LL.M. graduates Alexander Brick, Joseph Whealdon, III, Leonardo Arias Vera (Cuba), Maria Agurto Robelo (Nicaragua), Darin Duch (Cambodia), Cecilia Manrique Barrenechea (Peru), Kristofer Savy (France), Cristina Draguta (Moldova), Odell Wahrmann (Jamaica), Arslan Kalandarov (Uzbekistan), Clifford Knaggs (Haiti) and Jiaoting Shi (China)

(FAR LEFT) Shannon Dolson, Jennifer Dreyer and Nesha Drummond prepare to enter the Civic Center.

(LEFT) Peter Pidermann, Shannon Endres, Alexandra Aparicio and Michael Bonner celebrate at the reception on the law school green.
WILLIAM W. GALLOGLY was the recipient of The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the Fourth Judicial Circuit for 2014. He also received Jacksonville Area Legal Aid’s Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award for 2014. For the past 16 years, he has been serving low-income persons through Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

FRED CUMBIE, an attorney at Overstreet, Miles, Ritch, Cumbie & Finkenbinder, P.A., has left the Kissimmee Utility Authority’s board of directors after a decade of volunteer service. To honor his service, a dog park inside Kissimmee’s Mill Slough Park is being named The KUA Cumbie Canine Court.

PETER M. DUNBAR is now of counsel at Dean Mead in Tallahassee, Florida.

STANN W. GIVENS, of Givens Givens Sparks, P.L.L.C., was selected for the 2014 Best Lawyers in America list. U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers also have awarded Givens Givens Sparks a Tier One ranking in the area of family law.

NANCY G. LINNAN, an attorney at Carlton Fields, was named the 2014 Tallahassee Real Estate “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers in America.

GEORGE E. TRAGOS, managing partner of The Law Offices of Tragos & Sartes, P.L. in Clearwater, has been elected to the vice-chairmanship of the Pinellas County Personnel Board and has again been selected for Best Lawyers in America in the area of criminal defense, white collar and non-white collar.

BRUCE BEUFORD BLACKWELL is now serving as executive director of The Florida Bar Foundation. He previously was a founding shareholder with King, Blackwell, Zehnder & Wermuth P.A. in Orlando. Blackwell also is a past president of the Foundation and the 2011 recipient of its Medal of Honor Award. Prior to becoming president, Blackwell served on The Florida Bar Foundation’s board for 10 years and on The Florida Bar Board of Governors for four years.

JEFFREY B. TRAMMELL married his partner of many years, Stuart Serkin, in October 2013. Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor presided over the same-sex wedding ceremony at the Supreme Court.

ROBERT ALLEN COLE published an article, “The Perfect Storm: The Need for E-Discovery Mediation in Florida,” in the Fall 2013 issue of Trial Advocate Quarterly. He is a shareholder and mediation counsel at Upchurch, Watson, White & Max in Jacksonville.

TONY LA RUSSA was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in December. He is the third-winningest manager of all time. La Russa also was named chief baseball officer of the Arizona Diamondbacks in May.

TERESA J. “TERI” SOPP has retired from the private practice of criminal defense and has been named senior lead counsel for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for Region 1 in Tallahassee.

GARY WALKER, a shareholder with Allen Dell in Tampa, has been named to the 2014 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of health care law.

VICTORIA L. WEBER was selected as one of the Tallahassee Democrat’s “25 Women You Need to Know” for 2014. She is a partner at Hopping Green & Sams.

GERALD T. “JERRY” BERRY, a partner of Berry, Day & McFee P.A. in Naples, has been selected for inclusion on Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list.

THOMAS F. KIRWIN is now general counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

DOMENICK R. LIOCE, who practices at Nason Yeager in West Palm Beach, is president of the national board of directors of the American Association of Attorneys-CPAs.
1980
SONIA CROCKETT received The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Award for the Second Judicial Circuit at a ceremony held at the Florida Supreme Court on January 30, 2014. She received the award for her pro bono work through Legal Services of North Florida and the Second Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program.

BRUCE D. LAMB, a shareholder at Gunster in Tampa, was selected for the Legal Elite Hall of Fame by Florida Trend.

BRYAN E. HOPKINS released a book, Legal Risk Management for In-House Counsel and Managers, offering expert legal advice. He is a law professor at Sejong University in Seoul, Korea and of counsel to Apex LLC.

NANCY ERICKSEN WRIGHT, who practices at the office of Nancy E. Wright, received The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Award for the Eighth Judicial Circuit at a ceremony held at the Florida Supreme Court on January 30, 2014.

1981
GARY JOHN ANTON was featured in a September 1, 2013, Bar News article, “Lawyer by day; bluesman by night.” He practices at The Law Offices of Gary Anton in Tallahassee.

JOHN FAGAN served as chairman of a Boy Scouts of America 12-Point Award presentation. He is an attorney with First Coast Accident Lawyers in Jacksonville.

1982
STEVEN A. GELLER, a shareholder in the Fort Lauderdale office of Greenspoon Marder, has been named to the Sun Sentinel’s South Florida 100, a select forum of leaders from Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

ROBERTA J. KARP opened Roberta J. Karp, P.C., in Houston, Texas, where she will continue to represent plaintiffs in pharmaceutical and medical device litigation cases.

JOHN W. LITTLE, III, a shareholder at Gunster in West Palm Beach, was selected for the Legal Elite Hall of Fame by Florida Trend.

1983
PHILIP T. KING, JR. has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America for 2014. He is a partner at Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap, P.A. in Orlando.

1984
MARK S. ELLIS, executive director of the International Bar Association, wrote an article, “Adolf Eichmann is convicted for his role in the ‘Final Solution,’” that was featured on the ABA Journal Web site and published in the November 2013 issue of the magazine. He also received the Florida State University College of Social Science Alumni Award.

1985
CURTIS J. MASE, of Mase & Lara P.A., has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the Miami admiralty & maritime “Lawyer of the Year” in the 2014 edition of Best Lawyers.

MARTHA OLIVE-HALL was selected as one of the Tallahassee Democrat’s “25 Women Your Need to Know” for 2014.

1986
ALAN B. FIELDS has joined WFG National Title Insurance Company to serve as its national agency counsel. He is based in Tampa and can be reached at afields@wfgnationaltitle.com.
1990

CRYSTAL T. BROUGHAN joined Marks Gray, P.A. as of counsel in Jacksonville. Her practice focuses on intellectual property matters, including trademark, patent and copyright infringement cases.

SAMUEL P. QUEIROLO, a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP in Tampa, was selected for the 2014 Best Lawyers in America list.

SUSAN V. CARROLL received The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit on March 30, 2014, at the Florida Supreme Court. She practices at Carroll Law, P.A. in Panama City.

1991

BARBARA PETERSEN, president of the First Amendment Foundation in Tallahassee, was appointed to Florida’s new User Experience Task Force. She and other members of the task force will recommend design of a consolidated website, bringing together multiple sites now maintained by different agencies, providing public access to operational and financial data.

1992

SALESI A. SMITH-GORDON, of the West Palm Beach-based Saleisia Smith-Gordon, P.A., was appointed to the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics. She is the first African American female to be designated to the post and the first African American to serve on the commission on behalf of the joint bar associations including the Palm Beach County Bar Association, the F. Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association and the Palm Beach Hispanic Bar Association.

1993

FRED E. KARLINSKY has been appointed general counsel of regulatory affairs for the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. He also was named to the advisory council of the Florida State University Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center. He is a shareholder with Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky, Abate & Webb, P.A.

CHARLES H. LEO, an attorney at Law Offices of Charles H. Leo P.A., was recertified for the third time in workers’ compensation and has been continuously board certified since 1998. He also has been chosen as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers, has an A.V. rating by Martindale-Hubbell, and was named a Florida Super Lawyer by Law & Politics for the sixth straight year.

SHARON B. JOHNSON is president at the Law Office of Sharon B. Johnson, P.A. in Jacksonville.

1994

DINA A. KEEVER-AGRAMA has joined McCabe Rabin, P.A. in West Palm Beach as senior counsel. She specializes in securities and whistleblower litigation.

SEAN PITTMAN, CEO of Pittman Law Group, had a conference room named after him in Tallahassee’s historic John G. Riley House.

1995

RYON M. MCCABE, of McCabe Rabin, P.A., has been elected president of the Palm Beach Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He also co-authored an article, “Florida Updates Qui Tam Whistleblower Statute,” that was published in the February 2014 Florida Bar Journal.

JUAN C. MARTINEZ, a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Miami, has been recognized as a “Top Lawyer” by the 2014 South Florida Legal Guide.

BRUCE RICARDO MEEKS was selected as inspector general of Citizens Property Insurance by Florida Governor Rick Scott and members of the Florida Cabinet.

1996

STEVEN V. BLOUNT opened Blount Law, PL, in Naples, on January 1, 2013. The firm specializes in the areas of general counsel services, civil litigation and business law.

CHRISTIAN C. BURDEN, a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP in Tampa, has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America for 2014.

JOEL D. ARNOLD, an assistant public defender for the Second Judicial Circuit, presented, “Motions to Correct Sentence Pursuant to Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.800(b),” as part of the appellate program of the Florida Public Defender Association’s Trial with Style Winter Conference in Sarasota.
JASON A. MCGRATH, of McGrath & Spielberg, PLLC in Charlotte, North Carolina, is now chairperson of the Mecklenburg County Bar’s Solo Practitioner and Small Firm Section. He previously served as vice-chair and his focus continues to be providing practical benefits and resources for the section’s members, as well as promoting business development for members.

1997

JASON CAMPBELL is a partner at a new firm, Gillis Way & Duncan, that he opened with alums H. TIMOTHY GILLIS (’98) and ETHAN ANDREW WAY (’98). The firm has offices in Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach and Tallahassee.

1998

GEORGE B. ABNEY has joined Alston & Bird as a partner in the Atlanta office. He is a member of the firm’s tax controversy group and focuses his practice on civil and criminal tax controversy matters.

1999

H. TIMOTHY GILLIS and ETHAN ANDREW WAY have opened a new firm, Gillis Way & Duncan, with JASON CAMPBELL (’97). The firm has offices in Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach, and Tallahassee. Gillis is based out of the Jacksonville office and Way leads the Tallahassee office.

MATTHEW R. WILLARD has been selected to serve a second term as president of the Tallahassee chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He, along with alums KRIS DUNN (’03) and THOMAS DICKENS (’08), also launched a non-profit organization, Patriotic Partners of North Florida, which promotes and supports veteran owned-family small businesses.

2000

GINGER BARRY BOYD is a partner in Broad and Cassel’s Destin office. She is a member of the commercial litigation and labor and employment practice groups.

The most avidly read section of Florida State Law is “Class Action.” The law school’s more than 8,500 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 rshepher@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

**Send Us Your News**

The most avidly read section of Florida State Law is “Class Action.” The law school’s more than 8,500 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 rshepher@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
RYAN B. CAPPY has been certified as a life member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. He practices at Ligori & Cappy in Tampa.

CHRISTINA M. O’BRIEN has been elected to the Association of Family Law Professionals board of directors. She practices at the law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Myers.

2001

SARAH S. BUTTERS is now a partner at Holland & Knight, LLP in Tallahassee. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the law school.


MATTHEW W. REARDEN is now corporate vice president of business affairs for SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment.

A. YVONNE SANFORD is now senior contracts specialist at Healthways in Phoenix.

NATALIE F. SMITH is executive director of regulatory management at NextEra Energy Transmission, LLC in Palm Beach.

2002

JEANNE B. CURTIN served as a facilitator during, “A Day of Dialogue: For Women, About Women, By Women.” The event, hosted by the Tallahassee Community College Leadership Institute, was a combination of presentations and breakout sessions that explored the qualities, characteristics and values that support women in reaching their full potential in both their professional and personal lives. She is the director of development at the Florida State University College of Law.

SEAN M. ELLIS, a partner at the Fort Myers office of Roetzel & Andress, has been elected president of the Real Estate Investment Society.

MELISSA N. VANSICKLE was selected as one of the Tallahassee Democrat’s “25 Women Your Need to Know” for 2014. She is a shareholder at Clark Partington Hart Larry Bond & Stackhouse in Tallahassee.

MICHAEL WENGER is now senior counsel for the Power Generation Division at Siemens Energy, Inc. in Orlando.

2003

JENNIFER SULLIVAN DAVIS is now a shareholder of Guilday, Schwartz, Simpson, West, Hatch & Lowe, P.A. in Tallahassee. She defends catastrophic injury and death claims arising from trucking-transportation accidents, professional liability and employment claims, and construction defect claims. Davis is AV rated, the past president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers and currently serves as the legislative director for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She can be reached at 850.224.7091 or jen@guildaylaw.com.

KRIS DUNN, along with alums MATTHEW R. WILLARD (’98) and THOMAS DICKENS (’08), has launched a non-profit organization, Patriotic Partners of North Florida, which promotes and supports veteran owned-family small businesses.

2004

JENNIFER R. DIXON, a senior associate at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., has received an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

JANEIA DANIELS INGRAM was selected as one of the Tallahassee Democrat’s “25 Women Your Need to Know” for 2014. Ingram is assistant dean for student affairs at the Florida State University College of Law.

BRENT T. ZIMMERMAN is now a partner at Jimerson & Cobb, P.A. in Jacksonville, where he practices in the areas of construction law and business litigation.

2005

AMANDA BERRY has joined Baker Donelson’s Orlando office as of counsel and a member of the firm’s Financial Institutions Advocacy Group and Residential Mortgage Lending and Servicing Team.

NATHAN D. CHAPMAN is a partner at Wargo & French LLP, practicing in the areas of complex commercial litigation and labor & employment, with a focus on class action defense. He also has been included on Georgia’s list of Rising Stars in Georgia Super Lawyers magazine every year since 2011.

TOR J. FRIEDMAN is managing partner at Friedman, Frank & Abrahamsen in Tallahassee.
STACIE B. HARRIS was named Human Trafficking Prosecutor of the Year at the Florida Human Trafficking Summit in Tampa. She is an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

TEEKA K. HARRISON is now an associate at Polsinelli in Atlanta, where she specializes in the area of employment litigation.

RASHA LUTFI is now president and CEO at Lutfi Law, PA. in Melbourne.

CHRISTOPHER MELLOTT is assistant vice president – legal at Deutsche Bank. He currently is doing a rotation in the bank’s London office for the Global Business Service Group.

SEAM PARK and JENNIFER SHELFER (’06), welcomed a son, Alexander Shelfer Park, on November 30, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia. Seam works for CarMax Business Services, LLC, and Jennifer is an associate in the litigation practice with Arnall Golden Gregory LLP.

2006

ADAM L. BANTNER, II is now practicing at the Law Office of Ingrid M. Hooglander, P.A., in Brandon. He specializes in the area of criminal defense.

JENNIFER F. CERASA is assistant general counsel at the University of Central Florida Foundation, Inc.

SHARLEE L. EDWARDS is an associate at Colodny, Fass, talenfeld, Karlinsky, Abate & Webb, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

STEFANO M. GRACE is now the senior advisor at East Capital AB in Estonia.

SAQIB ISHAQ is now a shareholder with GrayRobinson in Orlando.

MOIN H. KHAN is now a senior legal consultant at the International Development Law Organization in Afghanistan.

KRISTINA N. KLEIN has joined InterContinental Hotels Group as an attorney – employment & operations. She works at the company’s headquarters in Atlanta.

AMELIA SAVAGE is now a partner at Hopping Green & Sams in Tallahassee.

ADAM G. SCHWARTZ is an associate at Akerman LLP in West Palm Beach. He is a member of the firm’s National Consumer Finance Litigation Practice Group.

CHRISTINE N. SENNE is operations counsel at INVISTA in Wichita, Kansas.

JENNIFER SHELFER and SEAM PARK (’05) welcomed a son, Alexander Shelfer Park, on November 30, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia. Jennifer is an associate in the litigation practice with Arnall Golden Gregory LLP. Seam works for CarMax Business Services, LLC.

KAREEM J. SPRATLING is now a shareholder in Bryant Miller Olive’s Tampa office.

2007

SARAH FINNEY KJELLIN was named partner at Watson Spence, LLP, in Albany, Georgia. She maintains a litigation practice concentrating on complex commercial, estate and fiduciary and general civil litigation.

2008

JULIE ANGELINI joined Littler Medelson, P.C. as an associate in the Atlanta office.

THOMAS DICKENS, along with alums MATTHEW R. WILLARD (’98) and KRIS DUNN (’03), has launched a non-profit organization, Patriotic Partners of North Florida, which promotes and supports veteran owned-family small businesses.

LIZA SMOKER FAW married Thomas R. Faw in June. She also was named partner at Rogers, Morris & Ziegler LLP, and currently serves as president-elect of the Broward County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section.

BENJAMIN GIBSON married Jordan Gibson on July 13, 2013 in Ormond Beach. He is assistant general counsel for the Executive Office of the Governor of Florida.

MICHAEL H. MOODY has joined Greenberg Traurig, P.A., as a fifth-year associate in the firm’s Tallahassee office. He focuses his practice at the firm on health care law, corporate defense, and complex business litigation in Florida state and federal courts.

ALAN C. NASH, an associate in Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin’s Fort Lauderdale office, has received an AV Preeminent Rating from LexisNexis Martindale- Hubbell.
MARK SCHELLHASE is now a senior associate practicing in the areas of commercial litigation and banking law at GrayRobinson in Boca Raton.

2009

CAROLYN HASLAM has joined Akerman LLP as a land use associate in the real estate department of the Orlando office. She also recently married Zach Rickert. She can be reached at 420 South Orange Avenue, Ste. 1200, Orlando, FL 32801, 407.419.8584 or Carolyn.Haslam@akerman.com.

CHRISTEN L. SPAKE joined Quarles & Brady LLP as an associate in the Naples office, where she is a member of the commercial litigation practice group.

LUCAS S. LANASA is the managing member at Lanasa Law Firm, LLC in Tallahassee.

ALYSSA S. LATHROP is assistant general counsel at the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

C. PRESTON MCLANE is an environmental administrator at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Air Resource Management.

2010

ALVAN BALENT, JR., is now a staff attorney at Florida’s Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in Fort Lauderdale.

JESSAMY CAUTHEN is now a project attorney at the Florida Department of Management Services in Tallahassee.

TERIN BARBAS CREMER was inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s Up and Comers Hall of Fame in November 2013. Cremer was selected from more than 400 nominations for her contributions to the community and her profession. She is associate general counsel at Bankers Financial Corporation in St. Petersburg.

NICHOLAS DYAL was appointed to the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. He is an associate in Gunster’s Jacksonville office.


JACQUELYN REDMOND is now an adjunct professor teaching contract drafting at the New England School of Law in Boston. She is an associate at J. Redmond Law, PC.

MIRIAM R. SOWINSKI is a 2014 Holland & Knight Chesterfield Smith Fellow, focusing on Public-Private Partnerships and Infrastructure Finance. She is an associate in Holland & Knight’s Jacksonville office.

JOSE L. FLORES has opened the Law Offices of Jose L. Flores, P.A. in Miami, where he specializes in immigration law.

RAQUEL A. MATO is an adjunct professor at Saint Leo University in St. Leo, Florida.

MICHAEL T. MAGUIRE is now a senior tax consultant at True Partners Consulting in Tampa.

CHRISTOPHER KRAMPERT is vice president of public policy at the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce.

EMILY WHELCHEL married CLINTON MORRELL ('11) on October 18, 2013. The legal ceremony was officiated by the honorable CLAUDIA ISOM ('75), an alum for whom Morrell previously clerked. Following the legal ceremony, the couple had a larger wedding ceremony in Mexico.

2011

LAURA MCDONALD DENNIS has joined the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee as an associate. She focuses her practice in the areas of administrative law, litigation and appellate law for regulated industries.

RAFAEL A. DIAZ has joined the Miami office of Roig, Tutan, Rosenberg, Martin & Stoller, P.A. as a civil defense litigation associate.

STEPHANIE TERESE DUSKIE is a senior estate analyst at Comerica Wealth Management in Boca Raton.

NATHAN HILL has joined Gunster’s business litigation practice in the firm’s West Palm Beach office.

HEATHER M. JONCZAK has joined Carlton Fields Jorden Burt as an associate in the Miami office. She practices in the firm’s construction practice group.

KATHERINE L. JACKSON obtained a $1.16 million dollar judgment in Rockdale County, Georgia. As a result she was featured on the front page of the Daily Report in December 2013. She is a personal injury attorney at McAleer Law near Atlanta, Georgia.

MICAH T. KETCHEL is counsel for the State Government Leadership Foundation and the Republican State Leadership Committee in Washington D.C.

SALOMON LAGUERRE is now a commercial litigation attorney at Baker & Hostetler LLP in Orlando.
MAEGAN MCCANN is now working for the patent law division at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Switzerland.

CLINTON MORRELL is now an attorney with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP in Tampa. He can be reached at cmorrell@slk-law.com. He also married EMILY WHELCHEL ('10) on October 18, 2013. The legal ceremony was officiated by the honorable CLAUDIA ISOM ('75), an alum for whom Morrell previously clerked. Following the legal ceremony, the couple had a larger wedding ceremony in Mexico.

LAUREN PURDY has joined Gunster’s business litigation practice in the Jacksonville office.

CHARLES FIELDS “C.J.” RIVENBARK, II is now assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee.

LUKE WATERS is now a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Atlanta.

SEAN WHITE is a staff analyst at the Florida Senate.

2012

JACOB ABRAMS is an associate at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP in New York City.

JONATHAN TAYLOR BAKER is now practicing at Walters Levine Klingensmith & Thomison in Sarasota.

JARED H. BLANCHARD is a staff attorney at the Goldwater Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

ASHBY C. DAVIS is now an associate at Mandelbaum, Fitzsimmons, Hewitt & Cain, P.A. in Tampa.

MAXWELL JASON DAUERMAN is an associate at Ritter Chusid, LLP in Coral Springs.

DANIEL P. FRASER is an associate at Gaebe, Mullen, Antonelli & DiMatteo in Coral Gables.

ASHLEY E. (DINUNZIO) GAULT has joined Dean Mead in Tallahassee as an associate. Her practice focuses on real property and administrative law.

GORDON C. “G.C.” MURRAY, JR. became engaged to MELISSA MEARS ('15) on December 14, 2013. He proposed on stage during a live performance of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. Murray is legislative counsel for the Florida Justice Association.

BENJAMIN MELNICK and his wife, Rachel, are the proud parents of Bria Madison. Bria was born on October 18, 2013, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 20.1 inches. He is an attorney at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee.

SAMANTHA K. POZNAK is now practicing at Mark W. Howes, LLC in Annapolis, Maryland.

JOEY M. CHINDAMO is an assistant state attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida in Orlando.

JOSHUA KENT CRAWFORD is an associate at Robert J. Kulas, P.A. in Port St. Lucie. He focuses his practice in the areas of elder law and Medicaid services.

ELIZABETH DEHAAN has joined Banker Lopez Gassler P.A. as an associate in Pensacola. He concentrates his practice in the defense of hospitals, medical professionals and other healthcare providers against medical negligence claims.

KRISTINA L. DIAZ has joined Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

KATE STEELE DOWLING is an attorney at DAC Bond in Orlando.
Class Action

KELLY E. DUNN is an associate in the Jacksonville office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, where she practices corporate and healthcare law.

NELSON A. FAERBER, III, is a First Lieutenant with the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

MICHAEL FLEGIEL is an attorney for the Florida House of Representatives in Tallahassee.

BRADLEY D. FRIEDMAN has joined the Fort Myers office of Eraclides, Gelman, Hall, Indek, Goodman & Waters. He can be reached at BFriedman@eraclides.com.

ASHLEY ELAINE HOFFMAN is an associate at GrayRobinson in Orlando.

ASHLEY A. ISTLER is an attorney for the Florida Senate in Tallahassee.

MIKE N. KOULIANOS is an associate at the Law Offices of Christopher P. Calkin in Tampa.

ADAM S. KRAMAROW has joined Gunster’s West Palm Beach office as a member of the firm’s corporate and technology practice teams.

SANDRA KRAVALE is practicing at Steffas & Associates, P.C. in Marietta, Georgia.

AMY E. LIPFORD is a research librarian at the Florida State University College of Law’s Research Center.

CHAD E. LIPSKY has joined the Miami office of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell as an associate.

KENNETH LOGAN LINEBERGER has joined the Office of the State Attorney, Fifth Judicial Circuit in Ocala.

JESSICA ROBYN LOKEINSKY and ERNEST BRADLEY “BRAD” WESTERHOLD have opened a firm, Attorneys W, in Miami.

Annual Fund

Please help us reach our goal of 31 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by June 30 to: Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, 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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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.
PEDRO ZASCIURINSKIS LOPES is a staff attorney at Florida Rural Legal Services in Fort Pierce.

GLENN EDWARD LOVETT is an associate at Clark, Partington, Hart, Larry, Bond & Stockhouse in Pensacola.

CHANCE LYMAN is a staff attorney at Florida’s Second District Court of Appeal in Lakeland.

DOUGLAS MCALARNEY has opened Douglas McAlarney, Attorney at Law, P.L. in Tallahassee. The firm is a general practice, with specialization in first amendment issues.

ANDREW W. MCCAIN is an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit in New Port Richey.

KENDRA G. MCCAN has joined the Tampa office of de Beaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris & Neal, LLP as an associate.

JASON ANTHONY MCINTOSH is an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in West Palm Beach.

DANIEL O. MCLEOD has joined the Orlando office of Wicker Smith O’Hara McCoy & Ford P.A. as an associate.

JAVIER R. MESA is staff attorney at Lutheran Services Florida in Tampa.

STEPHANIE MIDDLETON has joined Geyer Fuxa Tyler, PLLC in Sunrise.

ADRIAN THOMAS MOOD, JR. practices at the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit in Tallahassee.

KENYETTA M. MULLINS is an associate at Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. in Tallahassee.

ELIZABETH C. MUNRO is now managing attorney at Vanguard Attorneys in Tampa.

JORGE ANDRES NUNEZ is now practicing at Touron Law in Miami.

NICHOLAS R. PAQUETTE joined the Tallahassee office of Foley & Lardner LLP as an associate.

DEEPAK PATEL is an international tax services associate at PwC in Miami.

ERIC G. POLAND joined the Kansas City, Missouri office of Armstrong Teasdale as an associate.

FORREST S. PITTMAN is a judicial law clerk at the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal in Daytona Beach.

LAUREN M. PIZZO is an associate at Carlton Fields Jorden Burt in Tampa.

ADRIAN THOMAS MOOD, JR. practices at the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit in Tallahassee.

EVAN J. ROSENTHAL is an associate at Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. in Tallahassee.

LAUREN MEREDITH RYAN is an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, Seventh Judicial Circuit in Daytona Beach.

ERIC D. SCHAB is a graduate fellow at the Florida State University College of Law’s Public Interest Law Center.

DAVID W. SCHELL is practicing at the Office of the Public Defender, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Tampa.

KRISTINA SCHLESSEL is a judicial law clerk at the Florida First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee.

APRIL ROAM SCOTT is now working at The Law Offices of John F. Tolson, Jr. in Orange Park.

WILLIAM ASHTON SCOTT has joined The Law Offices of John F. Tolson, Jr. in Orange Park.

JENNITO SIMON is an assistant state attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit State Attorney’s Office in Tallahassee.

BRENNEN DONALD SOUCY is an associate at Levine Kellog Lehman Schneider + Grossman LLP in Miami.

CARLY E. SOUTH is an attorney at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration in Tallahassee.

SAMUEL B. STEINBERG is an assistant attorney general at the Florida Attorney General’s Office in Tallahassee.

CHRISTOPHER STOKES is an associate at Graham Law PC in Marion, Virginia.

CHRISTOPHER CREAD STRANBURG is a staff attorney at the Florida House of Representatives in Tallahassee.

BRELL TARICH has opened The Tarich Law Firm, P.A. in Aventura.

OLIVIA H. TEYTELBAUM is an associate at the McMillen Law Firm in Orlando.

PRAYUT “ALEX” THERATHANAKORN has joined PwC as a tax associate in Los Angeles, California.
ANDREW THORNQUEST is a staff attorney at Florida Agency for Health Care Administration in Tallahassee.

CLAYTON WICHLIFE THORNTON is practicing at Thornton, Davis & Fein, P.A. in Miami.

PETER L. TRAGOS is an associate at the Law Offices of Tragos & Sartes, P.L. in Clearwater.

MICHAEL VAGHAIWALLA has joined The Orlando Family Firm, where he specializes in family law.

HALEY CHRISTINE VAN EREM is clerking for the Honorable John Antoon, II, of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida.

JAMES L. VANLANDINGHAM is an associate at Hogan Lovells in Miami.

SHIWANK “KRIS” VARMA has joined JPMorgan Chase in San Antonio, Texas.

RICARDO VEGA is practicing at the Office of the State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit in Jacksonville.

LIESL NADINE VOGES is a senior planner in the City of Tallahassee’s Growth Management Office.

JUSTIN J. WALLACE is earning his LL.M. in Taxation at the New York University School of Law.

VANESSA NICOLE WHEELER-SANCHEZ is an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit in Jacksonville.

THOMAS E. WHIGHAM is assistant regional counsel at the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the Fifth District of Florida.

BEN JACOB WHITMAN is an associate at Wicker Smith O’Hara McCoy & Ford P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

SEAN B. WIGGINS is an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit in Orlando.

MATTHEW CLAYTON WILLIAMS is an assistant public defender at the Public Defender’s Office, Second Judicial Circuit.

STEPHANIE MICHELLE ZACHARY is the Palm Beach County outreach coordinator for U.S. Congresswoman Lois Frankel.

DEBORAH E. ROSE ('96) passed away on January 17, 2014 in Bradenton.

In Memorium

SIDNEY M. CRAWFORD ('75) passed away in January 2014. He served as a Lieutenant in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service. He was one of the first civil trial attorneys to be board certified and practiced law for 37 years in Lakeland.

ROBERT “BOB” ERVIN passed away February 5, 2014. Although not an alum, Ervin was on the four-member committee appointed to guide Florida State University in the creation of the law school and is considered a founder of the College of Law. In 1966, the committee selected the first dean of the Florida State University College of Law. He was very active in attending law school functions.

THOMAS E. WHIGHAM is assistant regional counsel at the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the Fifth District of Florida.
STUDENT NOTES

Demi Busatta (2L), Stephanie Fritzhall (2L), Cory Kirkwood (2L), and Ellen Ryan (2L) comprised the Phi Alpha Delta, Terrell Chapter Mock Trial Team that won second place and best defense at the National Phi Alpha Delta Mock Trial Competition in March. This is the first time Florida State competed in the national competition. Florida State competed against more than 25 teams from schools including the University of Florida, Syracuse University and the University of Illinois. Florida State’s team was coached by alum Jennito Simon (‘13), who is an assistant state attorney in Tallahassee.

Christine Clolinger (2L), a passionate animal advocate, has been voted to serve on the board of Pets ad Litem, a Tallahassee non-profit.

Chase Den Beste (1L) published a poem in the spring 2014 issue of the HEAL Newsletter about his experiences in Immokalee through the Alternative Spring Break program.

F. Wade Holder (3L) will clerk for the Honorable Scott Makar, of the Florida First District Court of Appeal, following graduation.

William “Jay” Repko (2L) will clerk for the Honorable Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, following graduation.

Lauren Reynolds (3L) was selected to receive the 2013 Gunster Environmental Law Scholarship and Clerkship.

Carrie Rosato (2L) and Maggie Spicer (3L) tied for first place in the best oralist category at the Vis Pre-Moot held in Miami in March. Rosato and Spicer participated in the competition as part of the Florida State team that went on to compete in the international Vis Moot Competition in Vienna in April. The team, which also included Julia Claypool (3L), Courtney McCowen (3L), and Bryan Yasinsac (2L), was Florida State’s first-ever to participate in the prestigious international competition. They finished in the top 64 of 270 teams from around the world — only nine teams from the United States finished in the top 64.

The Florida State University chapter of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law Student Division hosted a Raising the Bar event on February 22, 2014 at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tallahassee, Inc. FSU Law Student Division Governors Beccah Clark (1L), Melanie Kalmanson (1L), Joseph Varona (2L) and Katie Walton (3L) coordinated a home-goods necessity drive for the two weeks leading up to the event.

Nine of Professor Jarrod Reich’s Legal Writing and Research students prepared a memorandum for the Public Interest Law Center, analyzing a frequent, not yet analyzed, legal issue facing the center’s clients. The 1L students, Allie Akre, Stefan Barber, Gio Bush, Drew Butler, Kirstin Grice, Kristen Lonergan, Chancey Smith, Brooke Tharpe and Ashley Tinsley worked together to produce (without academic credit) an effective, thoughtful, and well-written memorandum. This was the first collaborative/integrated assignment ever completed at the law school.
Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of Florida State Law.

Frederick M. Abbott
EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR


Wendi Adelson
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

Article: Child Trafficking and the Unavoidable Internet, 19 Sw. J. Intr’t L. 281 (2013). Presentations: Saving our Youth: Faces of Human Trafficking (Tallahassee, Keynote Speaker, February 2014); Share Our Stories: Human Trafficking Awareness Seminar (Tallahassee, Master of Ceremonies, February 2014); Out of Bondage: Combating Sex Trafficking in South Florida (Boynton Beach, Moderator, January 2014); The Medical Community and Human Trafficking (Tampa, Florida Human Trafficking Summit, October 2013). Recognition: Adelson’s book, This is Our Story, has been selected by Florida State University for distribution at the fall 2014 convocation, through the One Book, One Campus initiative. The university’s 7,000 incoming students receiving the book will read about human trafficking and public interest lawyering. In addition, Adelson will be the featured speaker at New Student Convocation.

Kelli A. Alces
LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS PROFESSOR


Paolo Annino
GLASS PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

Presentations: Hidden Children: Medically Fragile Children (Tampa, Friends of Joshua House Foundation – Child Abuse Awareness Luncheon, Keynote Speaker, April 2014); The Plight of the Uninsured
(Tallahassee, Florida State University College of Medicine Cover the Uninsured Week, Panelist, March 2014); Florida’s History of Institutionalizing Children with Disabilities (Tallahassee, National Council on Disability, Medicaid Managed Care: Building Community Systems of Care, February 2014). **Recognition:** Received the university’s 2013-14 Distinguished Scholar Award for his scholarly activities, particularly in the area of children in prisons.

**Rob E. Atkinson, Jr.**
GREENSPOON MARDER PROFESSOR

**Article:** Philanthropy’s Future: Questioning Today’s Assumptions, Re-Affirming Yesterday’s Foundations, 4 WM. & MARY POL’Y Rev. 251 (2013).

**Shawn J. Bayern**
LARRY AND JOYCE BELTZ PROFESSOR OF TORTS


**Courtney Cahill**
DONALD HINKLE PROFESSOR

**Article:** Abortion and Disgust, 48 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 410 (2013).

**Donna R. Christie**
ELIZABETH C. & CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR


**Joseph M. Dodge**
STEARNES WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON PROFESSOR


**Charles W. Ehrhardt**
EMERITUS PROFESSOR

**Book:** Ehrhardt’s Florida Evidence (West 2013 ed.).

**Shi-Ling Hsu**
LARSON PROFESSOR

**Article:** Capital Rigidities, Latent Externalities, 51 Houston L. Rev. 719 (2014). **Presentations:** Capital Rigidities, Latent Externalities (Bloomington, Indiana, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, March 2014) (Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Wake Forest University School of Law, March 2014) (Montreal, Canada, Montreal Natural Resources and Environmental Economics Workshop, Centre inter-universitaire de recherché en économie quantitative, February 2014); The Case for a Carbon Tax (Atlanta, Georgia, Citizens Climate Lobby Southeast Regional Meeting, January 2014). **Recognition:** Serves as co-editor of the recently launched Law & Economics Prof Blog.

**Steve R. Johnson**
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

**Presentations:** Reasoned Explanation and IRS Adjudication (Durham, North Carolina, Duke University School of Law, 44th Annual Administrative Law Symposium, February 2014); Florida Bankers Ass’n v. Treasury: Treasury Regulations and International Tax Enforcement Cooperation (American Bar Association Section of Taxation Administrative Practice Committee National Telephone CLE, February 2014).
Jeffrey H. Kahn  
CHARLES W. EHRHARDT PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Article:** The End of Cash, the Income Tax, and the Next 100 Years (with Gregg D. Polsky), 41 Fla. St. U. L. Rev. 159 (2013).

Marshall Kapp  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND LAW


**Articles:** Florida’s Health Care Certificate of Need: Is Florida’s Certificate of Need Program Necessary? (with Leslie M. Beitsch), Health Foundation of South Florida (January 2014); The POLST Paradigm for Patients With Advanced, Irreversible Illness: A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Basis for Legal Codification, 32 Med. & L. 373 (2013).

Lawrence S. Krieger  
CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

**Presentations:** New Data on Lawyer Well-Being, and the Law School Context (New Orleans, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, February 2014); What Makes Lawyers Happy? (New York City, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, January 2014); Personality Coherence and Attorney Well-Being (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan College of Law, Conference on Power in the Law, November 2013).

David E. Landau  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS


Tahirih V. Lee  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**Presentations:** The United States Court for China: A Hodgepodge Judicial Institution That Reflected Local Needs (New York City, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2014); Media Transmissions as Case Law in China (New York City, Federalist Society Faculty Conference, January 2014).
**Jake Linford**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**


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**Wayne A. Logan**  
**GARY & SALLY PAJCIC PROFESSOR**


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**Dan Markel**  
**D’ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR**

**Presentations:** Catalyzing Fans (Florida International University, March 2014) (New York City, Federalist Society Faculty Conference, January 2014) (Malibu, California, Pepperdine University, December 2013); *Luck or Law: Remedia Considerations* (Malibu, California, Pepperdine University, Prawfsfest!, December 2013).

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**Bruce A. Markell**  
**JEFFREY A. STOOPS PROFESSOR**


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**David L. Markell**  
**STEVEN M. GOLSTEIN PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

**Chapter:** Civil Remedies (with E. Hammond), in *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law* (Gerrard & Freeman, editors) (2nd ed., American Bar Association 2014). **Article:** *EPA Enforcement: A Heightened Emphasis on Mitigation Relief*, 45 Trends 13 (March/April 2014) (ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources). **Recognitions:** Continued to serve as a member of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation National Advisory Committee; Serves as a member of the Organization of American States Sustainable Development Advisory Committee.

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**Murat Mungan**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**


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**Garrick Pursley**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

For the Record

Mark B. Seidenfeld
PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH


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


Mark Spottswood
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Fernando Tesón
TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR


Franita Tolson
BETTY T. FERGUSON PROFESSOR OF VOTING RIGHTS

Presentations: The March Ongoing: Voting Rights in the 21st Century (Atlanta, Jewish Council for Public Affairs Plenum, March 2014); The Popular Sovereignty Foundations of the Right to Vote (University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, February 2014); Congressional Authority to Protect Voting Rights after Shelby County and Arizona Inter Tribal (New York City, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2014).

Manuel A. Utset, Jr.
WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK PROFESSOR

Presentation: Timely Reliance (Miami Gardens, St. Thomas University School of Law, International Conference on Contracts, February 2014). Recognition: Serves as co-editor of the recently launched Law & Economics Prof Blog.

Hannah Wiseman
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Public Interest Law Center and Annino Featured in Documentary

A documentary that is being screened at film festivals this spring and summer tells the story of Kenneth Young, who has been represented by Professor Paolo Annino and his students at the Public Interest Law Center. On August 4 at 10 p.m., “15 to Life” will be broadcast on PBS stations around the nation. 28-year-old Young was serving four life sentences without parole for robberies that occurred in a 30-day period between his 14th and 15th birthdays. Under a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that life in prison without the opportunity for parole represents cruel and unusual punishment for juvenile offenders who did not commit homicide, Young was granted a resentencing hearing where he was represented by the Public Interest Law Center.

In addition to Annino, the film features former law students Corinne (Koepen) Lojo and Valentina Villalobos. Other former law students who worked on the case, but are not in the film, include: Lauren Cobb-Collins, Chantel Cooper, Carolyn Devita, Donna Duncan, Chelsea Enright, Theresa Prichard, Chelsea Boehme Rice, Eric Schab, Haley VanErem and Theresa Yuricic. For more information about the documentary, visit http://15tolifethefilm.com/.

For the Record


Samuel R. Wiseman
Assistant Professor


Mary Ziegler
Assistant Professor

**Faculty Media Hits**

**Fred Abbott** was quoted in the January 10 *World Politics Review* article, “Global Insider: NGOs Push Public Health Interests in Trade Negotiations.” He was also quoted in the March 6 *Tampa Bay Times* article, “Lawmakers must decide whether illegal immigrant can practice law.”

**Wendi Adelson** was quoted in the January 15 *Sun-Sentinel* article, “Sex trafficking victim to tell her story at symposium.” She also was quoted in a February 25 *WFSU* article regarding a human trafficking event in Tallahassee for which she served as master of ceremonies.

**Paolo Annino** and his work at the Public Interest Law Center are featured in the March 17 *FSView* article, “'15 to Life’ explores criminal justice system.”

**Rob Atkinson** was quoted in the January 22 *Orlando Weekly* article, “Florida Bar sets its sights on 1-800-Ask-Gary, 411-Pain and other lawyer-referral services.”

**Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte** was quoted in the January 15 *Bloomberg BNA* article, “California Ruling May Boost Admission Bids of Undocumented Immigrants in Other States.”

**Steve Johnson** authored the December 3 article, “Johnson: Impressions of Woods,” that was posted on the *TaxProf Blog*. He was quoted in the January 17 *Law 360* article, “Challenge to Nonresident Reporting Regs Fails.” He also was quoted in a February 14 *Tax Notes* article, “Challenge to Nonresident Reporting Regs Fails.”

**Marshall Kapp** was quoted in a February 14 *WFSU* article, “Nurses, Pharmacists, Doctors Gearing Up For Annual Scope of Practice Fights.”

**Larry Krieger** was the subject of an *ABA Journal* article, “Lawyers in prestige positions aren’t as happy as those in public service-jobs, study finds,” published March 17. He and his research also were featured in the March 31 *Law Times* article, “The Lawyer Therapist: Authenticity, not money, key to lawyers’ happiness.” On April 3, he was featured in the *Business Insider* article, “Why Higher Pay Doesn’t Make Lawyers Happy Workers.” He also was quoted in an article in the April issue of the *Washington Lawyer*, “Escaping the Trap of Job Dissatisfaction.”

**Jake Linford** was quoted in an April 10 *Pittsburg Post-Gazette* article, “Another bill from Duke?”

**Wayne Logan** and his co-authored article were mentioned in a December 3 *The Life of the Law* blog post, “A Criminal Debt.”

**Dan Markel** was quoted in a May 1 *Los Angeles Times* opinion article, “What kind of penance might Donald Sterling do?”

**Bruce Markell** was quoted in a March 25 *Wall Street Journal* article, “Detroit Case Judge Seeks Own Expert.”

**Franita Tolson** authored the January 23 *Huffington Post* article, “The Importance of Tunnel Vision in Fixing the VRA’s Coverage Formula.” On January 23, she was quoted in a *Constitutional Law Professor Blog* post, “Daily Read: Franita Tolson on the Voting Rights Act Amendment Act of 2014.” She was the subject of a January 23 *Election Law Blog* post, “Franita Tolson to Congress: Don’t Touch Bail In in Voting Rights Act Amendment.” She also was mentioned in the January 25 *Washington Post* article, “Justice Kagan was wrong: Alabama would not be covered under new Voting Rights Act.” On January 31, she was quoted in a *WFSU* article, “Can AGs Pick and Choose Which State Laws to Defend, Like Gay Marriage Bans?” She was quoted in a March 17 *Naples Daily News* article, “Florida lawmaker wants all public officials drug-tested, results kept secret.” She also authored a March 24 blog article for the *Huffington Post*, “What About the Voters? Requiring Proof of Citizenship to Register to Vote in Federal Elections.” She was featured...

Don Weidner was quoted in the March 6 Tampa Bay Times article, “Lawmakers must decide whether illegal immigrant can practice law.” He was also quoted in a March 27 Daily Business Review article, “FSU College of Law to Start Juris Master Program.”

Hannah Wiseman was quoted on December 10 in The Register-Guard article, “Scientists: Lack of Data Means Fracking Impacts Unknown.” She also was quoted in a December 19 News Observer article, “NC fracking panel passes chemical disclosure rule.” On January 14, she was quoted in the News Observer article, “NC fracking panel passes chemical disclosure rule,” and the Law 360 article, “Waste Shipment Fracas Threatens Fracking Expansion.” She was quoted in the January 15 Charlotte Observer article, “NC fracking panel passes chemical disclosure rule.”

Mary Ziegler was quoted in a November 19 Sports on Earth (a USA Today Sports Media Group company) article, “A-Rod’s Margin Call.” She also authored the January 24 Orlando Sentinel article, “Mixed results on LBJ’s objectives: Front Burner.” She authored an opinion article published by Jurist on April 28, “Evaluating Florida Supreme Court’s Anti-Discrimination Decision.”
On January 31, the law school hosted scholars and movement members of national prominence for an “After Marriage” symposium. The event, coordinated by Florida State’s Donald Hinkle Professor Courtney Cahill, explored what a national marriage equality precedent would mean for gay rights, marriage, the family and anti-discrimination law more generally. According to Cahill, “Numerous conferences and symposia have been devoted to exploring the road toward marriage equality for same-sex couples. This symposium was devoted instead to the road after marriage equality.”

Co-hosted by the Florida State University Law Review, the symposium utilized the two marriage equality cases recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court as an opportunity to think about what the future holds for these areas of the law in the wake of marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Attendees, who participated in person and via the Web, were treated to a lively and thought-provoking keynote address by William N. Eskridge, Jr., who is the John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School. The program also included several panel discussions and a reception sponsored by alum Donald M. Hinkle (’80). Featured panelists included:

- Mary L. Bonauto, Esq., Civil Rights Project Director, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders
- Courtney Cahill, Donald Hinkle Professor, Florida State University College of Law
- Mary Anne Case, Arnold I. Shure Professor of Law, University of Chicago Law School
- Dennis G. Collard (’01), Partner, Kessler & Solomiany Family Law Attorneys
- Kara S. Coredini, Esq., Executive Director, MassEquality
- Martha M. Ertman, Carole & Hanan Sibel Research Professor of Law, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
- Hayley Gorenberg, Deputy Legal Director, Lambda Legal
- Michael Klarman, Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- Melissa Murray, Professor of Law, University of California - Berkeley School of Law
- Douglas NeJaime, Professor of Law, University of California - Irvine School of Law
- Angela Onwuachi-Willig, Charles M. and Marion J. Kierscht Professor of Law, The University of Iowa College of Law
- Laura Rosenbury, Professor of Law and the John S. Lehmann Research Professor, Washington University School of Law
- Elizabeth F. Schwartz, Attorney, Elizabeth F. Schwartz Attorneys & Mediators
- Marc Spindelman, Isadore and Ida Topper Professor of Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- Deborah A. Widiss, Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law
- Mary Ziegler, Assistant Professor, Florida State University College of Law

“Numerous conferences and symposia have been devoted to exploring the road toward marriage equality for same-sex couples. This symposium was devoted instead to the road after marriage equality.”
Participants, including alum Dennis G. Collard ('01), attended a reception sponsored by alum Donald M. Hinkle ('80).

Yale Law School’s William N. Eskridge gave the conference’s keynote address.

Florida State’s Courtney Cahill, who organized the event, welcomed fellow panelists and participants.

Conference panelists
Interdisciplinary Environmental Law Conference Features National Scholars

This spring, the law school held a conference to initiate a cross-disciplinary discussion of the economic, political, psychological and sociological forces that shape attitudes toward environmental law and regulation. The February 28 event, “Environmental Law Without Congress: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Environmental Law,” convened experts in law, policy, and the social sciences, with a view toward providing a holistic and comprehensive perspective on environmental law.

Conference panelists addressed the fact that Congress has not passed a major piece of environmental legislation since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Meanwhile, federal agencies have embarked upon a series of regulatory initiatives, and regional, state, and local governments have experimented with a variety of environmental laws. Speakers discussed what the past suggests about the future role of Congress in environmental law.

The CLE conference was spearheaded and moderated by Florida State’s Shi-Ling Hsu, the Larson Professor. Presenters included:
- Keynote Speaker Richard Lazarus, the Howard and Katherine Aibel Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- Todd Aagaard, Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law
- Dallas Burtraw, Darius Gaskins Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future
- Daniel A. Farber, Sho Sato Professor of Law, University of California-Berkeley School of Law
- William Funk, Lewis & Clark Distinguished Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School
- Alexandra B. Klass, Professor of Law, University of Minnesota Law School
- Nathan Richardson, Resident Scholar, Resources for the Future
- J.B. Ruhl, David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair in Law, Vanderbilt Law School
- Janet Swim, Professor of Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University
- Sandra Zellmer, Robert B. Daugherty Professor of Law, University of Nebraska College of Law

Vanderbilt Law School’s J.B. Ruhl, who previously taught at Florida State

The College of Law’s Shi Ling Hsu, who organized the conference, welcomed national experts to Florida State.
(L-R) Federalism and Administrative Law panelists Funk, Farber and Aagaard

University of Minnesota Law School’s Alexandra Klass

Professor Dave Markell looks on as an audience member asks a question.
Abbott Publishes New Book on Patent Globalization

Florida State’s Frederick M. Abbott, the Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, has published a new co-edited book in the area of patent law. *Emerging Markets and the World Patent Order* (Edward Elgar Publishing 2013) examines the impact of the BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – and other emerging economies on the global patent framework.

“As entrepreneurs and research institutions within emerging markets approach technological parity with counterparts in the United States, Europe and other established technological powers, their domestic interest in patent protection is growing,” said Abbott. “At the same time, the BRICS are experimenting with different approaches to implementation of patent law. They are actively pursuing policies designed to enhance local production and they are addressing their own unique social and developmental issues.

“The idea for the book sprang from a 2012 conference hosted by the Florida State University College of Law that convened experts from around the world to explore critical issues raised by patents and our more deeply integrated global economy. Abbott, with Carlos M. Correa of the University of Buenos Aires and Peter Drachos of the Australian National University and Queen Mary University of London, coordinated the conference and co-edited the resulting book.

Abbott is highly regarded worldwide for his scholarship and professional activities in international intellectual property and global economic issues. Abbott is a consultant to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Program. He serves as Rapporteur for the Committee on International Trade Law of the International Law Association, and regularly acts as a dispute settlement panelist for the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. He is the author of numerous books and articles in the fields of international intellectual property law, public health law, international economic and public international law.

“Patents are playing an important role in economic and development policy, and differences in approach have been a major source of friction in international economic relations. This book should help patent law experts and policy analysts better understand why different approaches to patents are being adopted, and why these differences reflect a healthy alternative to a uniform rigid framework.”
Bayern Publishes New Book on Closely Held Businesses

Shawn Bayern, the Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts, has published a new casebook in the area of business law.

_Closely Held Organizations_ (Carolina Academic Press 2014) examines the law of closely held businesses. Using cases, statutes, and original informational notes and commentary, the book covers agency law, partnership law, the law of close corporations, and the law of limited liability companies.

“The book adopts a functionalist approach to law rather than a formalistic one,” said Bayern. “Of course, it covers the legal doctrine, but it also shows the logic behind the doctrine and equips students to evaluate difficult cases. It relies heavily on economic understanding, but not exclusively so – and it avoids being driven by the ideologies, rather than the more neutral descriptive assessments, of the legal economists.”

Bayern is one of many faculty members that form the basis of Florida State’s burgeoning business and tax law program. His research focuses on common-law issues, primarily in contracts, torts, and organizational law. He has recently written articles criticizing formalism and economic simplifications of the law. At Berkeley Law School, Bayern was the editor-in-chief of the _California Law Review_. Before joining Florida State, he was a visiting assistant professor at Duke Law School. He has also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Harris Hartz of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Alumni and Professors Address Joint Law and Medicine Conference

Florida State’s Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law hosted an event on February 5 that featured College of Law alumni and professors. Alums Donald Hinkle (‘80), of Hinkle & Foran in Tallahassee, and Clemente Inclan (‘91), of Saalfeld, Shad, Stokes, Stoudemire & Stone, P.A. in Jacksonville, as well as Greenspoon Marder Marder Professor Robert E. Atkinson, Jr., served on a panel entitled, “Ethics, Public Policy, and the Tort System.” Professor of Medicine and Law Marshall Kapp, who directs the Center, organized the event and moderated a panel, “The Role of the Patient/Consumer in Containing Health Care Costs.”

The CLE event continued a tradition of the Colleges of Law and Medicine collaborating to host timely events on topics that affect both professions.

(L-R) Panelists included alum Donald Hinkle (‘80), Kenney Shipley, Professor Rob Atkinson and alum Clemente Inclan (‘91).
Black Law Students Association Brings Home the Gold!

In March, our Black Law Students Association took home first place in the National Black Law Students Association’s Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Eighteen teams from around the nation participated in the competition, including teams from Harvard, University of Florida, University of Missouri, University of Washington, and Washington and Lee University. Florida State’s team was undefeated throughout six rounds of competition.

Winning team members were third-year law students Nesha Drummond from Fort Lauderdale, Josiah Graham from Fort Lauderdale, and Kyesha Mapp from Fort Lauderdale, and first-year law student Louis Jean-Baptiste from Palm Beach. They were coached by Florida State law alumna C. Erica White (’01), who practices law at the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation.

To advance to the national competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Florida State’s BLSA won first place in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition for the Southern Region Black Law Students Association, held February 13-16 in Jacksonville. One of 18 teams competing, Florida State’s team defeated a team from the University of Florida in the final round of competition. Other law schools participating in the regional competition included Vanderbilt University, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest University and Tulane University.

In addition, Florida State’s Black Law Students Association was named a Regional Chapter of the Year in February. This was the third time in five years that Florida State won the award.

“We are thrilled that our Black Law Students Association once again brought home the gold,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Special congratulations to the mock trial competitors and to BLSA President Tiya Rolle.”

Eighty-four Percent of Students Give to Annual Fund

Eighty-four percent of current Florida State University College of Law students made cash gifts to the law school during an annual student drive held February 2-8. To inspire student giving, a record 41 faculty members made challenge gifts.

“We’re all thrilled by this result, which represents an extremely gratifying expression of student support for our program,” said Dean Don Weidner. “The students warmly responded to challenge gifts by the faculty.”
Moot Court Team Wins Right to Represent North America in World Finals

The Florida State University College of Law Moot Court Team has won the right to represent North America in the World Finals of the 2014 Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. They did so by taking first place in the North American Regional Competition held at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C., on March 28-29. The team will compete in the World Finals in Toronto in October. Florida State previously won first place in the international competition in 2011.

Fourteen law schools participated in the competition, including University of California – Davis, Cornell University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, University of Michigan, University of Virginia, William and Mary, as well as Canada’s McGill University Institute of Air & Space Law.

Winning team members are third-year law student James Burleson, from Keystone Heights, and second-year law student Jessica Fernandez, from Miami. Burleson also was named Best Oralist for the competition. Tallahassee attorney Arthur Stern coached the team. Stern has coached many Florida State Law moot court teams to victory in previous years.

“This victory is another testament to the sophistication and professional skills of our students,” said Dean Don Weidner. “We never get tired of being #1.”

The judges for the final round were Joanne Gabrynowicz, a director of the International Institute of Space Law and a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, Daniel A. McNulty, vice president and general counsel for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, and Jay Steptoe, associate general counsel for international law at NASA.

Law School Hosts Former Lawyer for Donald Trump

In March, attorney John Bernstein spoke to Dean Don Weidner’s Real Estate Finance class and met with students during a Networking Nosh lunch. Bernstein is a well-known New York real estate, finance, and work out attorney, as well as a principal in many joint ventures. During his 35+ years of real estate experience, he has structured and executed more than $20 billion of sales, acquisitions, joint ventures and other transactions for private companies and other entities. Bernstein has represented Donald Trump, among others, and personally trained more than 250 young lawyers during his career. He received his J.D. from Rutgers Law School. Rachel Davidson (’12) works for him and we understand more FSU alums may be following in her footsteps.
Alumni Continue to Nosh with Students

We are grateful to the many alumni who met with students during the spring 2014 semester through the Placement Office’s Networking Nosh program. In addition to alums, several non-alumni visited the law school for Networking Noshes, including Barry Richard, of Greenberg Traurig, who represented former President George Bush in the 2000 presidential election litigation. Emmy-winning actor Tony Hale, whose brother is an alumnus, also spoke with students. The following alumni noshed with our students – either in-person or via video conference – during the spring 2014 semester:

- Sandra Brown (’94), Law Offices of Sandra L. Brown, P.C., Atlanta
- Virginia Dailey (’99), Hopping Green & Sams, Tallahassee
- The Honorable Charles Dodson (’77), Second Judicial Circuit of Florida, Tallahassee
- Ryan Garrett (’95), Butler Pappas Weilmuller Katz Craig LLP, Tallahassee
- Michael Hale (’93), Georgia Pacific, Atlanta
- T. Larry Hill (’74), Moore, Hill & Westmoreland, P.A., Pensacola
- Sara Huff (’12), GrayRobinson, PA, Orlando
- George Levesque (’02), Florida Senate, Tallahassee
- Patricia Nelson (’00), Florida Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform, Tallahassee
- Ralph Peterson (’80), Beggs & Lane, LLP, Pensacola
- Robert Pierce (’74), Ausley & McMullen, P.A., Tallahassee
- Christopher Polaszek (’97), Morgan & Morgan, Tampa
- Howard Scholl (’03), Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., Tampa
- Lansing Scriven (’87), Trenam Kemker, Tampa
- Susan Spradley (’89), GrayRobinson, P.A., Orlando
- Sally Still (’91), Ward, Damon, Posner, Pheterson & Bleau, West Palm Beach
Mock Trial Team Hosts Second Annual Invitational Competition

From March 21-23, Florida State's Mock Trial Team hosted its second annual National Mock Trial Competition at the Advocacy Center. Twelve teams competed in event, the fictitious problem for which centered around a negligence and nuisance case. In the problem, a water bottling company sued an agricultural concern for massive withdrawals of water that allegedly caused Natural Bridge to collapse during a Civil War reenactment and the plaintiff's spring to dry up. A team from Faulkner University School of Law (Montgomery, Alabama) won first place in the competition. The other schools competing were:

- Brooklyn Law School (Brooklyn, New York)
- SUNY Buffalo Law School (Buffalo, New York)
- Catholic University's Columbus School of Law (Washington, D.C.)
- Charleston School of Law (Charleston, South Carolina)
- Fordham University School of Law (New York, New York)
- Georgia State University College of Law (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Golden Gate University School of Law (San Francisco, California)
- John Marshall Law School (Chicago, Illinois)
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Lansing, Michigan)
- University of Alabama School of Law (Tuscaloosa, Alabama)
- University of Wisconsin Law School (Madison, Wisconsin)

In addition to hosting the competition, Florida State’s Mock Trial Team participated in several competitions this spring. The team placed second at the Florida Justice Association’s 2013 E. Earle Zehmer Mock Trial Competition in December. Winning team members were: Melissa Grimm-Maddox (3L), Corey Kirkwood (2L), Ryan Molaghan (2L) and Michelle Visconti (3L). They were coached by alums and attorneys Brandy Elliott ('08) and Stacy S. Sharp ('09).

National Law Journal and Moody’s Rate FSU Law School One of the Nation’s Best for Job Placement

A recent National Law Journal report rates Florida State as Florida’s #1 law school, and the nation’s 25th best, in terms of the percentage of 2013 graduates employed nine months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required jobs not funded by the school. The report, which was published April 21, is based on American Bar Association data.

“We are thrilled that yet another external organization has rated us the #1 law school in Florida in terms of job placement,” said Dean Don Weidner. “We would not be #1 in Florida and the nation’s 25th best without our extremely engaged alumni network. Our alumni provide everything the students need, including networking no-shows, mock interviews, regional placement networking receptions and, of course, their job openings.”

Florida State’s job placement numbers were also recognized by Moody’s in May. A 2014 Moody’s report rates Florida State as Florida’s #1 law school, and the nation’s 28th best, in terms of job placement.

In addition, the National Law Journal report rates Florida State the nation's #3 law school in terms of placing graduates in government and public service jobs.
During the spring 2014 semester, the law school hosted several events that brought experts in the area of environmental law to Florida State. In February, environmental law scholars from around the nation convened at Florida State for a conference, *Environmental Law Without Congress: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Environmental Law*. More information about the event is included in the “For the Record” section of this publication.

Our Spring 2014 Environmental Forum, *Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River System: Legal, Scientific and Policy Issues*, was held April 2. The event sought to educate the public about issues associated with the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin, the waters of which the state of Florida requested in October 2013 that the United States Supreme Court equitably apportion. Professor David Markell, the Steven M. Goldstein Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, served as moderator for the forum and law student Sarah Spacht introduced the panelists, who included:

- Jonathan A. Glogau, chief of complex litigation for the Florida Office of the Solicitor General,
- Ted Hoehn, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and
- Matthew Z. Leopold ('05), general counsel for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

On April 11, the law school hosted a continuing legal and judicial education program on hydraulic fracturing. Organized by Professor Hannah Wiseman, one of the nation’s top scholars on the topic, *The Evolving Law of Hydraulic Fracturing and Unconventional Oil and Gas* featured the following panelists:

- Richard S. Brightman, shareholder, Hopping Green & Sams,
- Dale Calhoun, vice president, G. David Rogers and Associates,
- Timothy Riley, associate, Hopping Green & Sams,
- Floyd R. Self ('86), partner, Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan, LLP, and member of the firm’s Energy, Communications and Utilities Section in the Commercial Law Group, and
- Hannah Wiseman, assistant professor, Florida State University College of Law.
Florida State University College of Law students spent five days during the 2014 Spring Break in Immokalee, Florida, assisting migrant farm workers with legal issues. The “Alternative Spring Break” program is part of the law school’s Medical-Legal Partnership clinic at the Public Interest Law Center. The program aims to help students understand some of the psychosocial realities and legal challenges that impact health and to help them acquire legal skills. This is the seventh year in a row that students have participated in the program, which is organized by Clinical Professor Wendi Adelson.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer our students this enriching program during spring break,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Alternative Spring Break helps our students understand the positive impact they can have in the lives of others.”

“I was honestly surprised by the hope I saw, because the conditions in Immokalee could easily engender feelings of hopelessness,” said 1L Christie Arnold. “As an international relations major in college, I’ve served in impoverished villages in third world countries. But I hadn’t realized that similar conditions existed here in my own state. Migrant families in Immokalee face abject poverty, sub-standard housing, unhealthy diets and unfair pay. Abuses on the job often go unreported by the workers, for fear of deportation and immigration issues. There have also been cases of human trafficking there, as many farm working conditions and policies leave workers vulnerable to such exploitation.

“As a first year law student, I can’t yet make the kind of legal change I want to see one day. But I can support the community and am excited for what will come out of this trip in my own life and at FSU College of Law.”

Law students were joined by students from Florida State’s College of Medicine during the March 7-11 trip. In addition to providing legal assistance with immigration issues at health fairs and other points of outreach in Immokalee, law students translated for medical students and helped obtained medical information.

“My students had the chance to expand their notions of what it means to be a lawyer, and to use the law as a tool for social justice,” said Professor Adelson. “We returned to Tallahassee with a renewed sense of purpose and possibility and enthusiasm for the privilege of studying the law and representing those most in need.”
Alum Senator Thrasher Visits Law School

On March 24, Senator John Thrasher addressed a packed room of law students and faculty members as part of the Student Bar Association’s Distinguished Speaker Series. A 1972 graduate of the law school, Thrasher was elected to the Florida Senate in 2009. He previously was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, serving as speaker of the House from 1998-2000, and is a former chairman of the Board of Trustees for Florida State University. During his career, he was in private practice in Daytona Beach and Tallahassee, served for 20 years as general counsel of the Florida Medical Association, and was a partner in a Tallahassee-based governmental relations firm. Senator Thrasher also was instrumental in helping the law school get funding for the Advocacy Center.

During his remarks to students, Senator Thrasher – who was joined by his wife Jean – talked about his time in law school and about his career. He also urged students to “give something back.”

“This opportunity to go to law school, we should never take for granted,” said Senator Thrasher, who started law school four days after returning from military service in Vietnam. “It is such a special privilege. That opportunity gave me the ability to do a lot of things in my life that I know I would have never had the opportunity to do.

Florida Senator John Thrasher talks with a student.

Spring Break Course Introduces Students to Insurance Law Leaders

Alumnus Fred Karlinsky, a shareholder at Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky, Abate & Webb, P.A., again offered his popular Law & Risk Management course during the 2014 spring break. More than 60 students participated in the class, which included guest lectures by some of the state’s most distinguished leaders and the nation’s top insurance law experts. Speakers included Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (pictured), Florida Insurance Consumer Advocate Steve Burgess, USAA Vice President & Counsel Robert Henderson, and Florida Deputy Insurance Commissioner Richard Koon.

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi
The National Jurist magazine (2013) ranks Florida State the nation’s #9 “Best Value” law school.

In 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2013, our Student Bar Association received the national Student Bar Association Award, a top honor, from the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association.

In our extensive clinical externship program, law students earn academic credit by working in one of 100+ outside law offices or courts. Placement areas include judicial, criminal, civil, legal services, appellate, business and international.

Hispanic Business magazine (2013) ranks Florida State the nation’s #5 law school for Hispanic students.
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