



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

From the Dean

I'm thrilled to introduce you to *FSU Law Focus*, the College of Law's new weekly digital newsletter. It is my hope that this publication will provide a regular, brief snapshot of some of the impressive students, faculty and alumni who comprise the FSU Law family. It will also provide information about the exciting current events that are happening here. For the initial issues of the newsletter, we will also celebrate our 50-year anniversary with stories and recollections of our rich history. As part of our efforts to document the past, we invite alumni to share their "Torch Moments" – experiences or events at FSU Law that helped shape your passions, professionalism, career or life. We sincerely hope that our focus enables you to join our journey into an ever-promising future at FSU Law!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

50-Year Anniversary: 1966

The College of Law officially opened on November 1, 1966! Our dean was Mason Ladd, the assistant dean was Ron



Anderson, and we had a teaching faculty of three: Professors Dave Dickson, Pete Millett and Ray Phillips. Our librarian at the time was Elizabeth Leeman. The charter class arriving on campus that fall included many notable alumni, including two former Florida Bar presidents – John W. Frost, II, and Terrence Russell – James McConaughay, and the Honorable Susan Roberts. Many of our charter class alumni are still extremely engaged with the law school. Frost, the first alum to sponsor a courtroom in our Advocacy Center building, recently spoke to new students during orientation and welcomed them to the profession.



Charter class member John Frost ('69) speaks to new students at orientation.

Alum Profile: Salesia Smith-Gordon ('92)

West Palm Beach attorney Salesia Smith-Gordon focuses her practice on personal injury and wrongful death litigation at [Salesia V. Smith-Gordon, P.A.](#) Also a registered pharmacist, Smith-Gordon maintains active memberships in multiple pharmacy and legal organizations. She was the first African American female to serve as a commissioner on the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics and served as chair of The Florida Bar's Grievance Committee-Div. D and as president of the Cunningham Bar Association. She is a member of the College of Law's alumni board and recently made a pledge of \$25,000 to the law school to create the Salesia V. Smith-Gordon Endowment. The income distributed from the endowment will be used to support the activities of the Florida State University College of Law's award-winning Black Law Students Association. In recognition of her commitment, the law school named a faculty office the Salesia V. Smith-Gordon Faculty Office.



Student Profile: 3L Brittany Cobb

Third-year student Brittany Cobb, an Orlando native and USF undergrad, is interested in practicing business, tax or criminal law after she graduates in May. Cobb is one of our top students and has obtained a wide variety of hands-on legal experience during her law school career. This year, she is participating in the Florida House of Representatives Legislative Intern Program and serving

as a research assistant for Dean O'Connor. During the summer after her 2L year, Cobb worked for Judge Robert Gross at the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm, where she was exposed to criminal, civil and family law. Additionally, she earned law school credit by working remotely for alum Al Dominguez ('97), who is a senior VP general merchandise manager at Walmart. At the end of the summer, Cobb joined Dominguez and members of his team on a tour of several Walmart locations under construction in Florida. If you are interested in hiring Cobb for a job after graduation, please [click here to visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



"I always knew I wanted to go to law school, but I never thought I'd have an experience like this. I've had the opportunity to understand a broad range of the law and how it affects varying interests. My experience at FSU Law has empowered me; now, I feel like there isn't anything I can't accomplish during my legal career."

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