



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

February 3, 2017

### From the Dean



On Monday, February 6, students will begin calling alumni as part of our three-week spring Phonathon. As we continue to celebrate our 50th year, I hope you will answer the call and help us reach our 31% annual fund participation rate goal. Many of you have formidable gatekeepers, so please consider asking them to allow our students to speak with you if you are available when they call. This month, we are also continuing our Student Give Back Campaign, which began in January. The campaign is a way to encourage students to donate their time or money to benefit the law school community. Students will have opportunities to volunteer, including at Phonathon, a silent auction and a golf tournament. It is my sincere hope that our Student Give Back Campaign will help to enrich our already strong sense of community and positive spirit toward the College of Law.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1981



In the fall of 1981, the College of Law adjusted from a quarter to a semester calendar system. This conversion required changes in courses, course content, sequence and credit. FSU Law also welcomed Donna R. Christie and Nat S. Stern to the faculty in 1981. Professor Emerita Christie was the founder of what is now our Environmental, Energy & Land Use Law Program, currently ranked the nation's 18th best and 1st in Florida by *U.S. News & World Report*. She retired from teaching in 2015. Stern, our John W. & Ashley E. Frost Professor, is a national constitutional law expert and one of the College of Law's most popular professors. He serves as the faculty advisor and a coach to our nationally competitive and award-winning moot court team.



Professor Stern in the 1980s

## Alum Profile: Rochelle Birnbaum Chiocca ('00)

[Rochelle Birnbaum Chiocca](#) is a partner at Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., in West Palm Beach. She represents private entities throughout Florida in commercial and insurance disputes. Chiocca also has experience in interpreting insurance policies and in rendering opinions on coverage, duty to defend, duty to indemnify and other insurance contract-related issues. In addition to being admitted to practice in courts throughout Florida, Chiocca is admitted to practice in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. She earned all three of her degrees – a bachelor's degree, master's degree and juris doctor degree – at FSU and is a life member of the Florida State University Alumni Association. She remains very involved in the law school, currently serving as secretary/treasurer of the FSU College of Law Alumni Board.



*“I am proud of the FSU College of Law’s progress and dramatic rise in the rankings since I was a student, and I am glad to continue my involvement with the law school as a result. While I was a student,*

*the faculty, administration and my classmates provided meaningful and proactive advice and support in my professional development. That encouragement has continued to this day, so I am gratified to give back to the law school through my involvement and financial contributions. I am especially pleased when my law firm, Cole, Scott & Kissane, hires another accomplished graduate from the FSU College of Law.”*

## **Student Profile: 3L Matletha Fuller**

In December, Matletha Fuller earned a Master of Public Administration degree along with her J.D. Originally from South Bay, Fuller holds bachelor's degrees in political science and English from the University of Florida. She would like to practice in the area of civil litigation and stay in the Tallahassee area, if possible. Fuller was intramural co-chair for the FSU Law Moot Court Team and a member of the Mock Trial Team. She was also an active member of the Black Law Students Association, where she served as 1L representative and social justice chair. Fuller's extensive work experience includes an externship for Legal Services of North Florida. She also clerked for the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, working under the supervision of the senior attorney for the Division of Certified Public Accounting. During her 2L year, Fuller was selected to be part of the Florida House of Representatives Legislative Intern Program, where she assisted in drafting bills and amendments, and presented to members of the House. Last summer, she clerked for Ausley & McMullen, preparing memoranda and pleadings for supervising attorneys and contributing to the development of state drone law research for a book to be published by the firm. During her final semester at FSU Law, Fuller served as a research assistant for Franita Tolson, our Betty T. Ferguson Professor Voting Rights. Fuller conducted research on various voting provisions throughout the country and their effects, as well as other research related to voting laws. Currently, Fuller is focused on preparing to take the Florida Bar Examination in February 2017. If you are interested in hiring her, please [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



*“I want to be in the courtroom. After my experiences with winning advocacy teams, I know that I want to build a career where I can actively participate in trial work and litigation.”*

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