



COLLEGE OF LAW

FSU LAW FOCUS

April 7, 2017

From the Dean



On Tuesday, we attended FSU Day at the Capitol. It was a pleasure to celebrate Florida State with the many alumni, students and friends who were there, working during the legislative session. Each year, countless FSU Law students and alumni participate in the legislative process as legislators, legislative staffers, lobbyists, analysts and interns. Some of our wonderful students are currently interning with House committees, subcommittees and leadership offices through the very selective Florida House of Representatives Legislative Intern Program. They are gaining in-depth insight into the legislative

process as they conduct research, draft and analyze bills, and perform other tasks related to legislative policy-making. Congratulations to the following students who are currently serving as interns through this valuable program: 3L Brittany Cobb, 3L Lazaro Fields, 2L Jonathan Grosso, 2L Stuart Ninceheler, 3L Katherine Perdomo, 3L Keith Pridgen, 3L Alex Sarsfield, 3L Justin Tamayo and 3L Travis Voyles.

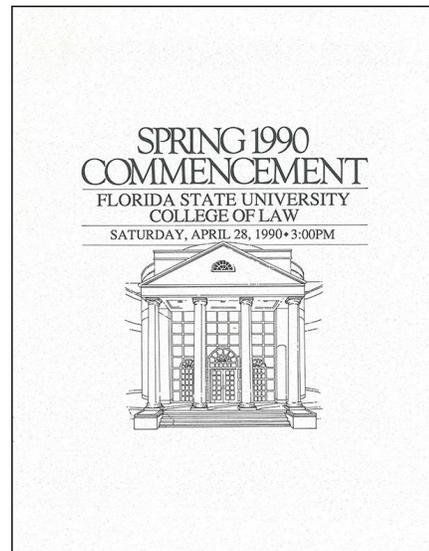
- Dean Erin O'Connor

Pictured above: During the 2017 FSU Day at the Capitol, alum Nathan L. Bond ('88), policy chief and attorney for the Florida House of Representatives, stopped to talk with Dean O'Connor while a prospective student learned more about our programs.



50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1990

As a way to remember and celebrate the FSU Law charter class, the "Class of 1966" was created in 1990. The individuals inducted into this class are non-alums who donate countless hours toward helping our students in various ways, including preparing for Moot Court and Mock Trial competitions, teaching courses and providing valuable work experiences. Also in 1990, a pro bono graduation requirement went into effect. To satisfy the requirement, which is still in effect today, all degree-seeking students must complete a minimum of 20 hours of pro bono work as a condition of graduation. The requirement was proposed by Professor Steven Goldstein, who suggested law schools have a duty to prepare students to understand the unique obligations of the legal profession and have a responsibility to instill a sense of professionalism in their students. In April 1990, the College of Law commencement keynote was given by the Honorable Lawton Chiles, Jr. His visit to campus was the year after he served in the U.S. Senate, while he was running for Florida governor. Chiles served as U.S. senator from 1971 to 1989 and as governor from 1991 to 1998.



Alum Profile: Brian D. O'Neill ('71)

Brian D. O'Neill ('71) is a partner with Van Ness Feldman LLP in Washington, D.C., where he focuses his practice in the area

of energy regulatory law. He primarily represents natural gas, oil and LNG companies, as well as pipelines and electric utilities on regulatory matters before the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and federal courts. O'Neill also advises clients regarding corporate and commercial matters and on energy privatization and energy acquisition and supply. O'Neill and his wife, Bonnie R. O'Neill, have been consistent supporters of the law school over the years and recently made a new pledge of \$35,000 to create the Brian D. and Bonnie R. O'Neill Endowment for Excellence. The income distributed from the endowment shall be used for purposes such as student scholarships, faculty incentives, general discretionary dollars and funding for co-curricular activities. In recognition of their commitment, the law school has named a faculty office the Brian D. and Bonnie R. O'Neill Faculty Office.



“My career in the law began with, and is certainly attributable to, the excellent educational opportunities I had at the FSU College of Law. I am grateful for that and take great pride in the ongoing success of my law school.”

Student Profile: 3L Mario Errico

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Mario Errico earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy with a minor in Italian studies from the University of Minnesota. He serves as co-editor-in-chief of a student-started and student-run sports and entertainment law blog, fromthellegalfield.com. He is a member of the Tallahassee Bar Association Student Division and was a member of the BLSA Mock Trial Team that won the southeast region Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition and competed in the national competition in 2016. Errico's work experience includes interning for the Juvenile Division of the Fourth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville the summer after his 1L year. During his 2L year, he interned for the Second Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in Tallahassee. The summer after his 2L year, Errico clerked at Spielberger Law Group LLC in Tampa, where he worked on employment discrimination cases, drafting responses to defense counsel, filing charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and performing research. Last semester, Errico externed with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida. Currently, Errico is a certified legal intern with the Second Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in



Tallahassee. He has his own caseload and represents clients in juvenile court. After graduation, he would like to live in Orlando, Jacksonville or Tampa. Errico is passionate about litigation and attributes his comfort with public speaking to his years of stand-up comedy and improv training. He is very interested in the criminal field, yet open to other forms of litigation, such as business, commercial or civil. If you are interested in hiring Errico for a job after graduation, please [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

“I am passionate about working with others and being a part of a cohesive team. I am also really into fitness, training in Crossfit, which has allowed me to set tough goals for myself. The mentality and drive I have developed from my time with Crossfit has allowed me to set goals in my educational career as well, and has given me a great drive to succeed.”

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