



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

May 26, 2017

### From the Dean

A relatively new program at FSU Law is our 1L Judicial Externship Program, which allows rising second-year students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience as externs for judges around the nation each summer. We developed the program to expand the summer work opportunities available to 1Ls, which are limited compared to students who have completed their second year of law school. This summer, a record 32 students are participating in the program, which translates into 21% of the class! Several students are externing for federal judges and, while most students are at courts in Florida, some are working at courts in Alabama, California, Louisiana and South Carolina. Several of the supervising judges are FSU Law alumni. Students are earning credit while working in a wide variety of types of courts – from county to criminal to appellate. Their assignments include researching, drafting memoranda and orders, and observing legal proceedings. Every week, they submit reports to the law school on their activities and what they are learning. We are all so proud of these students for using their summers to obtain wonderful work experience that will benefit them their entire careers!



- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: Student Alina Avalos is externing at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida through the 1L Judicial Externship Program.*



## 50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 1997

In 1997, FSU Law welcomed Paul LeBel as the school's seventh dean. LeBel, a professor at William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates. Also in 1997, two long-time faculty members retired—William VanDercreek and Robert Kennedy, after serving on the FSU Law faculty for 28 and 21 years respectively. VanDercreek was credited with building the College of Law's successful Moot Court team, serving as its advisor for 24 years and building the team from four to 40 students. The law school also continued to adapt to technological advances in the late 1990s. In 1997, the law school's website ran the American Bar Association Administrative Law database and hosted the website for Florida's Constitution revision process. The fall 1996 semester saw the school's first Cyber Law course and the spring 1997 trial practice course utilized chat rooms for the first time. The Summer 1997 issue of *FSU Law* magazine touted that about a third of the faculty communicated with students via email and posed questions about spending large amounts of money on hardware and software that would, at best, have a three-year useful life. "Down the road I see the day when all students will have laptop computers and will interact with their professors and classmates over a computer network," said Professor David Powell, chair of the law school's Technology and Library Committee. "I also see a day when classrooms will be wired for computers and high-tech presentation equipment. The question is, how do we get there?"



*Pictured above: Professor William VanDercreek*

## Alum Profile: Manuel "Manny" Farach ('86)



Manuel “Manny” Farach is a member in the Ft. Lauderdale office of McGlinchey Stafford. He focuses on real estate, business and appellate law. Farach’s experience includes counseling lenders and borrowers in complex transactions and complex commercial litigation. He also has provided counsel in corporate mergers and acquisitions, financial and debtor-creditor matters, landlord/tenant disputes, and construction and real estate development matters. Farach has been instrumental in connecting FSU law students with The Florida Bar’s Business Law Section and Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section. For the past couple of years, he and other Business Law Section members have facilitated the attendance of our students at the section’s Annual Retreat in Naples, Florida. At the events, Farach ensured that students had many opportunities to network with prominent lawyers and judges. In 2015, Farach established the Farach Family Endowed Scholarship to support a Florida State Law student who has demonstrated a commitment to practicing real estate law. In addition, Farach will be teaching Real Estate Law at FSU Law in the fall.

*“Florida State Law had a profound influence on my life, from learning the rule of law to meeting with distinguished professors, lawyers, judges and other professionals in Florida’s capital. I’m honored to be able to give back to the school that gave me so much.”*

*Pictured above: (L-R) 2L T’Keyah Gadson, 3L Sarah Parrow, Manuel Farach, 3L Alexandra Salerno and 2L Jorge Torres at The Florida Bar Business Law Section’s annual retreat in September 2016 .*

## **Student Profile: 2017 Grad Megan Gottschall**

Megan Gottschall is a May 2017 FSU Law graduate from Land O’ Lakes. She earned her bachelor’s degree from FSU with a double major in political science and literature. This

July, Gottschall will relocate to Nashville, Tennessee and is highly committed to practicing there. During her law school career, Gottschall served as both secretary and election chair for the FSU Law Trial Team. She received a Top Advocate Award at the 2015 Florida Justice Association Mock Trial Competition, and last fall, her trial team went undefeated to claim a national championship in the 2016 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition. Gottschall also served as president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and represented the organization at the national 2016 Animal Law Conference. Since her 1L summer, Gottschall has clerked for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, where she researches Florida beverage law issues, drafts memos that synthesize rules of law, and represents the division during administrative hearings. During the spring of her 2L year, Gottschall externed for the Innocence Project of Florida. She reviewed case files of convicted individuals, analyzed the factual and legal circumstances that led to those convictions and drafted memoranda for office attorneys detailing indications of a wrongful conviction. This spring, she performed more than 100 hours of pro bono service volunteering for the Second Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender. In this role, she conducted depositions in preparation for trial, drafted motions to be filed in court proceedings, aided office attorneys in preparation for trial and negotiated early termination of probation on behalf of clients. Gottschall is enthusiastic about criminal defense work, but is also interested in continuing her work in administrative law. If you are interested in hiring Gottschall, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



*“ In law school I found my passion for advocacy and my voice as a litigator. I am now ready to step into the courtroom and put my skills to practice. ”*

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

MAKE A GIFT

