



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

**August 11, 2017**

### **From the Dean**



On Monday, we began welcoming employers to campus for our fall 2017 On-Campus Interviews (OCIs). Firms from all over the southeast, state and federal agencies, public defender and state attorney offices, and public interest organizations are coming to campus to interview students for summer jobs and full-time, post-graduation employment. Our Career Services & Professional Development Center is already receiving feedback from employers that our students are impressive! We are delighted that many of the attorneys who are

interviewing students are alumni. Thank you to the following graduates for participating in this semester's OCIs:

- Richard Barry ('00), GrayRobinson, P.A.
- Tanya Bower ('96), Tripp Scott
- Ashby Davis ('12), Mandelbaum, Fitzsimmons, Hewitt & Cain, P.A.
- Holly Dincman ('97), Coppins Monroe, P.A.
- Jennifer Dixon ('04), Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.
- Richard Englebright ('08), Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.
- Manuel Farach ('86), McGlinchey Stafford PLLC
- Virginia Gulde ('08), Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
- Jason C. Hill ('01), Fidelity National Financial
- Rex A. Hurley ('84), Hurley, Rogner, Miller, Cox & Waranch, P.A.
- Sarah Pape ('06), Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe P.A.
- Nicholas R. Paquette ('13), Foley & Lardner LLP
- Nathan Paulich ('10), Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing, P.A.
- Lauren Purdy ('11), Gunster
- Erin Raschke ('05), Phelps Dunbar LLP
- Margaret A. Rolando ('78), Shutts & Bowen LLP
- Amelia Savage ('06), Hopping Green & Sams
- Zackery Scharlepp ('10), Coppins Monroe, P.A.
- Russell Schropp ('84), Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.
- Ethen Shapiro ('03), Hill Ward Henderson
- Robert Shearman ('86), Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.
- Adam Shelton ('02), Shelton McKean
- Krista Sivick ('08), BakerHostetler
- Stephen Spaid ('10), Mandelbaum, Fitzsimmons, Hewitt & Cain, P.A.
- Andrew Steif ('07), Holland & Knight LLP
- Bart R. Valdes ('00), de Beaubien, Simmons, Knight, Mantzaris & Neal, LLP
- James VanLandingham ('13), Hogan Lovells
- Robert Wesley ('82), Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit

We are still scheduling interview sessions, so please contact the Career Services Center at 850.644.4495 or [careerservices@law.fsu.edu](mailto:careerservices@law.fsu.edu) if you are interested. If you are unable to travel to campus, please ask us about other ways we can connect you with our students.

- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: Students Lauren Pettine and Conor Burns before their OCI appointments earlier this week.*

**50-Year Anniversary: Featuring 2008**



For the first time, in 2008, the FSU Environmental Law Program was rated in the nation's top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report*. Since then, the program has consistently been rated among the nation's best. In March 2008, Professor Joseph Dodge testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. Dodge, a leading scholar on tax issues, spoke about alternatives to the nation's current estate and gift tax laws. In its second year, FSU Law's "Tri-for-Gey" triathlon team nearly doubled in size and raised more than \$68,000 (compared to the previous year's \$37,000) for ALS research in honor of Professor Steve Gey. During the spring 2008 semester, students enrolled in Civil Rights Litigation were taught by one of the most successful and well-respected civil rights attorneys in the nation. Adjunct Professor Fred Gray taught the course with Adjunct Professor Daniel M. Soloway ('85). Gray was an attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, the Montgomery Bus Boycott and hundreds of other major civil rights cases and provided FSU Law students with riveting accounts of his experiences. In 2008, *Hispanic Business* magazine named the College of Law the fifth best law school in the nation for Hispanics. This was the fifth year in a row that the law school was named in the top 10 and the highest ranking ever for Florida State Law. Also in 2008, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD) created a new Law Student Division and named its first president, FSU Law student Joseph Percopo ('09). The Law Student Division provides an extension of the YLD's work to familiarize young lawyers with the services offered by The Florida Bar as they transition from law students to lawyers.

*Pictured above: Historic civil rights attorney and author Fred Gray during a 2015 visit to the law school.*

## **Alum Profile: Marlon A. Hill ('95)**



[Marlon A. Hill](#) is a partner in the Miami office of Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP. He has practiced in the areas of corporate law, intellectual property law and government transactional law for more than 20 years. His experience also includes filing numerous business immigration petitions for investor entrepreneurs, specialty occupation professionals, intra-company transferees, and entertainers and artists. In addition, Hill serves as outside general corporate counsel to several entrepreneurs, corporations, sovereign governments and related agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.

In 2015, Hill and his law firm established a partnership with Brownsville Middle School in Miami's Brown-Sub neighborhood and commenced the development of a law academy curriculum at the school. The program included a guest speaker series featuring members of the local legal community and Law Day field trips to local circuit, federal and appellate courts. As one of the inaugural [BMe](#) Miami Leaders in 2016, Hill first received a \$10,000 grant to support the law academy program at Brownsville Middle School. Later in 2016, at the request of the [William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust](#) and in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public School's Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Hill applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Kenan Trust to further leverage the development of the program. With these proceeds secured, Miami-Dade County Public Schools agreed to fund the 50% balance needed to design and renovate two classrooms on the campus of the school into a 21st century mock courtroom and learning space. The HMB Brownsville Law Academy Courtroom is expected to open during the spring of 2018, in time for ABA Law Day 2018 activities.

*Pictured above: Hill (far right) with HMB Brownsville Law Academy students participating in an ABA Law 2016 field trip to the City of Miami Police Training Academy and Children's Courthouse for a briefing of "Miranda rights" and a mock trial with Circuit Court Judge Orlando Prescott.*

## Student Profile: 2017 Grad Abigail Altman

Abigail Altman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in criminal justice. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she graduated from FSU Law in May 2017. During her law school career, Altman was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honors Society and the Association for Criminal Justice, serving as president her 3L year. She was also the writing and research editor for the *FSU Business Review* and an article and notes editor for the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. She served as a student ambassador for the FSU Law Admissions Office and was a commissioner for the FSU Student Government



Association's Election Commission. Altman's work experience includes interning at the Florida State Attorney's Office, Second Judicial Circuit the summer after her 1L year. The summer after her 2L year, Altman interned for the Honorable Thomas D. Winokur at Florida's First District Court of Appeal, where she wrote decision recommendations for the judge and conducted extensive research on case issues. The second semester of her 3L year, Altman clerked at the Executive Office of the Governor – Office of Policy and Budget. In this role, she analyzed local and claim bills and compiled research to be presented to the Florida governor. Also during her 3L year, Altman worked as a certified legal intern at the FSU Law Family Law Clinic, where she handled her own cases involving dissolution of marriage, custody and visitation, and conducted hearings and depositions. She even took a case to trial and obtained a favorable outcome. Altman received the book awards for Florida Dissolution of Marriage and for the Family Law Clinic. She recently moved to Tampa and hopes to practice criminal law or family law. If you are interested in hiring Altman, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*“Attending FSU Law was the best decision I could have made. The clinical experiences and job opportunities are one of a kind and greatly prepared me to conquer the post-graduation world! Go Noles!”*

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