



## COLLEGE OF LAW

# FSU LAW FOCUS

October 27, 2017

### From the Dean



On Monday, we held a reception to welcome five law students from the University of Puerto Rico who have joined our community for the fall 2017 semester. The students began arriving earlier this month after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Under an agreement with the University of Puerto Rico, which has been approved by the American Bar Association, the students are attending classes here for credit. We could not be more proud of how our students, faculty members and alumni have welcomed the UPR students into the FSU Law family! The outpouring of support has made me even more honored to be a member of this community. From offering housing and

financial assistance to serving as mentors to inviting the students to local legal events, our alumni have gone above and beyond to assist the students. Our current students have also stepped up to make the UPR students feel at home – they have offered to cook meals, are serving as peer mentors and many of our student organizations co-hosted Monday's reception. The Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida, Inc. has also provided financial assistance. Thank you to everyone for supporting these amazing students! We are so glad to be able to help them!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Pictured above: A UPR student talks with other FSU Law students at the welcome reception.*

## Faculty Profile: Lawrence S. Krieger

Larry Krieger, Clinical Professor and Co-Director of Clinical Externship Programs, co-directs the externship program and supervises criminal justice externships at the College of Law. His teaching focuses on litigation skills and the sources of lawyer professionalism. Krieger is internationally recognized for his research on the well-being, satisfaction, values and motivations of law students and



lawyers. He was selected as a subject for the 2013 Harvard Press book, *What the Best Law Teachers Do*, based on his approach to legal education and his impact on students. Krieger's publications on law student well-being and career planning have been used at more than half of the law schools in the United States, Canada and Australia, and he is often quoted as an expert in this area. Krieger's co-authored study, "What Makes Lawyers Happy?: A Data Driven Prescription to Redefine Professional Success" was cited by the *American Bar Association Journal*, *The National Jurist*, *The National Law Journal*, the *Daily Business Review* and other national media outlets. This study has several thousand downloads on the Social Science Research Network, and *The New York Times* report on it was the most shared article in the *Times* for two days. His study of law student motivation and well-being established new understanding among social science academics and was the most downloaded article of the year in the prestigious *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. This summer, Krieger was quoted in *The New York Times* piece, "The Lawyer, the Addict" and the ABA report, "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being" heavily relied on his work. Krieger leads a weekly meditation and mindfulness group for students, where he promotes the strong and broad benefits of creating a meditation practice for health, well-being and stress reduction that can carry students into their law practice. Krieger is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Law and has been a member of the FSU Law faculty since 1991.

*“ It has been a thrill to be able to teach and research at FSU Law, in an area I find fascinating and which seems to genuinely help the members of our law school and attorney communities,” Krieger said. “ I hope to extend this work to demonstrate the critical intersection seemingly escaping most lawyers and judges today – that professionalism is based in the same qualities shown in this research to generate lawyer well-being and satisfaction. As this connection gains acceptance across the profession, I believe we will be able to more effectively address our professionalism and mental health issues, since both proceed from healthy attitudes, priorities, and choices each lawyer can learn to favor.”*

## **Alum Profile: Christin F. Gonzalez ('11)**

Christin F. Gonzalez is a partner at Novey Law, where she practices marital and family law, including family law appeals. She is certified in collaborative law and has experience in family law matters relating to property division, alimony, custody and support of children, and stepparent adoptions. Gonzalez served as president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers for 2016-2017 and has served on the board since 2013. She recently joined the Legal Aid Foundation board of directors, is president of the board of directors for the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, and is an active member of the First District Appellate American Inn of Court. She also provides pro bono legal services for survivors of human trafficking. Gonzalez is a J.D. Advisor for FSU Law, counseling students who are interested in marital and family law, and has served as a guest speaker in the law school's Florida Family Law Practice course.



*“I’m thankful to FSU Law for providing me with the education, skills and confidence to establish a rewarding career, and for opening the door to a wonderful community of lawyers and professionals. I’m thrilled to return to FSU Law as a J.D. Advisor and hope that I can provide students with the same level of mentorship that I received as a law student.”*

## **Student Profile: 3L Victoria Cortez**

**Desired Practice Location** : Would love to remain in Florida, where her home and heart are; interested in practicing in either Central or North Florida.

**Expected Graduation** : December 2017

**Specialization**: criminal or civil litigation

**Field of Law Sought** : Litigation



Victoria Cortez will be graduating from FSU Law this December. Originally from Ocala, Cortez earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and psychology from FSU. During law school, she has been involved with the Women's Law Symposium and the Association for Criminal Justice. She is also an FSU Law student ambassador. Cortez has worked as a mentor at Griffin Middle School and volunteers weekly at the Leon County Teen Court. During the summer after her 1L year, Cortez clerked at Friedman & Abrahamsen in Tallahassee, where she conducted extensive legal research and drafted legal documents for both criminal and civil litigation matters. Since her 2L year, Cortez has clerked at the Florida Office of the Attorney General in the State Programs Bureau. She works on major state cases conducting electronic discovery, researching and writing. Last summer, Cortez worked as a certified legal intern at the Florida State Attorney's Office, Second Judicial Circuit. In this position, Cortez handled her own caseload in the misdemeanor division. She prepared each case for litigation, handling every facet of the case from beginning to end. She represented the state in all types of proceedings, including motion hearings and bench and jury trials. If you are interested in hiring Cortez after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#) .

*“I was driven to complete law school early because I am eager to begin my career in litigation. Florida State College of Law has provided me with the education, skills and opportunities to be able to successfully accomplish this goal.”*

# Homecoming 2017

November 17-18

Register at [law.fsu.edu/homecoming](http://law.fsu.edu/homecoming)

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