

From the Dean



(L-R) BLSA mock trial competitors Jemma Takx, Mikayla Taylor, Tawanna Franklin and Joshua Funderburke



(L-R) BLSA Secretary Maria'h Givens and President Tawanna Franklin

We are delighted to report that, this past weekend, our Black Law Students Association chapter (FSU BLSA) won Medium Chapter of the Year honors at the SRBLSA Regional Convention in Birmingham, Alabama! The FSU BLSA team of Tawanna Franklin (3L), Joshua Funderburke (1L), Jemma Takx (1L) and Mikayla Taylor (1L), coached by alumna C. Erica White ('01), also placed second out of 15 teams in the regional Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition! Both honors qualify FSU BLSA students to compete for the corresponding national awards next month in Brooklyn, New York. In addition, Mikayla Taylor was named Best Advocate during the mock trial competition. Our BLSA students have a long tradition of excelling at the national level and we wish them luck as they prepare to compete in March. Congratulations to all of the BLSA students for their accomplishments, especially to FSU BLSA President Tawanna Franklin and the other mock trial competitors!

- Dean Erin O'Connor

Faculty Profile: Patrick T. Kinni

Patrick T. Kinni is teaching Civil Pre-Trial Practice this spring. He has been an adjunct professor at the College of Law since 2007 and has served as a coach for the FSU Law Mock Trial Team since 2014. Kinni serves as legal counsel to the Leon County-Tallahassee Intergovernmental Agency, a special district focusing on both infrastructure improvements and economic development for Florida's capital community. Previously, Kinni served as deputy county attorney for Leon County, where he practiced for more than 20 years. He has litigated employment, land use, contract, class action and other matters related to local governmental disputes at both the trial and appellate court levels. Prior to his work for Leon County, Kinni was a municipal prosecutor for the City of Fort Lauderdale. He holds a B.S. in political science from Jacksonville University and a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University College of Law. He recently established an externship position in his office to provide FSU Law students with an additional avenue to gain valuable work experience and anticipates creating a clerkship position this fall. In addition to coaching and teaching, Kinni has pledged \$25,000 to create the Mock Trial Coaches' Endowment at FSU Law. The income from the endowment will support team expenses, including costs to travel to competitions around the country.



"It is extremely satisfying to see so many students embracing and excelling in both the pre-trial and trial practice courses and the Mock Trial program. This curriculum provides the foundation upon which successful litigators are developed. And, it is indeed a pleasure to be part of the FSU College of Law, which has dedicated substantial resources toward providing our students with the practical skills necessary to successfully litigate a case from start to finish, right out of law school."

Alum Profile: Jessica Goodwin Costello ('09)

Jessica Goodwin Costello is an assistant statewide prosecutor at the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution in Tampa. Since joining the office in 2014, Costello has worked to combat complex, often large-scale, organized criminal activity. She works closely with federal, state and local law enforcement to coordinate the prosecutions of multi-circuit violations of Florida law, primarily related to gangs, human trafficking and fraud. In 2015, she was honored as Florida's Gang Prosecutor of the Year and in 2016, she was named to the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* "Up and Comers" Hall of Fame. Costello is very engaged in the legal community, serving on the board of directors of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and George Edgecomb Bar Association, and as programming chair for the Hillsborough County Bar Association. She is an alumna of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy's inaugural class and a member of The Florida Bar's Military Affairs Committee and Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. She also volunteers as a speaker throughout Hillsborough County schools and as a mentor and speaker at area law schools. She recently added the accolade of "mom" to her list of accomplishments, welcoming son Cameron William Costello to the world in November of 2017. Costello also gives back to the FSU College of Law by serving on the Alumni Association Board.



"I've always been taught that if you are proud of who you are and what you've become then you have a responsibility to give back to the places and things that have helped make you that person. This explains both my profession and why I remain involved with FSU College of Law. The opportunity to contribute to the future of the College of Law through volunteer work on the alumni board, and through my career as a prosecutor to do work that makes my community a better and safer place allows me to marry passion and purpose. I consider myself extremely lucky in that regard."

Student Profile: 3L Ashley Hamill

Desired Practice Location: Open to any location
Graduation Date: May 2018
Specialization: U.S. immigration law and international human rights law
Field of Law Sought: Immigration law, in a non-profit or pro bono environment



Originally from Tallahassee, Ashley Hamill earned an associate's degree at Tallahassee Community College, a bachelor's degree in Humanities from Florida State University and an M.A. in history and literature from Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Global Center in Paris. She is fluent in Spanish and French. Hamill is an articles section editor and blog editor for the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*. She is vice president of the International Law Students Association and a member of the International Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi. Hamill has participated in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, the Summer Program in Law at the University of Oxford, and the Florida Rural Legal Services Alternative Spring Break. During the first part of her 2L summer, Hamill worked for the FSU Public Interest Law Center Children's Advocacy Clinic. For the second part of the summer, she interned with Americans for Immigrant Justice in Miami, where she visited immigration detention centers to conduct weekly intakes, free legal consults and "Know Your Rights" presentations. She also represented indigent asylum seekers and victims of violence in immigration removal proceedings. During the fall 2017 semester, Hamill worked for FSU's Children in Prison Project, representing people sentenced as adults when they were children in post-conviction relief. She drafted constitutional amendments on juvenile justice and publicly addressed the Florida Constitution Revision Commission. Last semester, Hamill also worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Tallahassee. Currently, Hamill is externing with the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project in St. Louis. She is representing immigrants in removal proceedings in immigration court and affirmative petitions with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Hamill has also volunteered with FSU's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. If you are interested in connecting with Hamill, email her at amh10e@my.fsu.edu.

TALLAHASSEE ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
5:30-7:30PM

FEATURING
FSU PRESIDENT JOHN THRASHER('73)

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