

## From the Dean

Congratulations to [Shawn Bayern](#), our Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts, on his selection for membership in the American Law Institute (ALI)! Election into ALI is a prestigious honor, bestowed on the nation's most prominent judges, lawyers and law professors. The institute is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize and improve the law. ALI members draft, discuss, revise and publish Restatements of the Law, Model Codes, and Principles of Law that are influential in the courts and legislatures, as well as in legal scholarship and education. Additional FSU Law professors who are members of the ALI are Wayne Logan, our Gary & Sallyn Pajcic Professor, and Don Weidner, Dean Emeritus and Alumni Centennial Professor.



- Dean Erin O'Connor

*Editorial note: Congratulations as well to Dean O'Connor, who also was selected for ALI membership this month!*

## Faculty Profile: Kelli Alces Williams

[Kelli Alces Williams](#), the FSU College of Law Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property, is an expert on corporate governance, fiduciary duties and securities regulation. She is currently working on an article about consumer disclosure regulations. Professor Williams teaches Contracts, Corporations, Securities Regulation and Bankruptcy. Prior to joining the Florida State University College of Law faculty in 2007, Professor Williams taught at the University of Richmond School of Law as a visiting professor. She has also been a visiting professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, the George Mason University School of Law and the University of Chicago Law School. Before entering academia, she was an associate at the Chicago law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas. Williams holds a B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary and a J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.



*"In my Corporations class, I try to make sure that the students with no business background at all leave with the business knowledge and sophistication they need to succeed in practice. Lawyers have to have a basic understanding of business principles and business organizations in every area of practice. Even family law attorneys need to understand the businesses their clients own and how the law allows people to protect assets."*

## Alum Profile: Fred Thomas "Tommy" Ratchford, Jr. ('73)

Fred Thomas "Tommy" Ratchford, Jr. was a longtime criminal defense attorney in Pensacola before passing away on June 3 after a short battle with illness. He had officially retired from practice on May 31. Prior to his health declining, Ratchford also regularly appeared on BlabTV's "Justice for All." In addition to his legal career, Ratchford was a proud rock and roll band leader. Over the course of many decades, he was the lead singer and keyboard player for numerous bands, including The Song Byrds, The Pensacola Super Band, The Xenos, Soul-7, Laymen, George Emmanuel Trio and Six Ts. Ratchford also was a veteran of the United States Navy. A formal memorial service was held at Olive Baptist Church Warrington Campus on June 9. You can read more about Ratchford's legacy and watch music videos featuring him at [ratchfords.us](http://ratchfords.us).



## Student Profile: 2018 Grad Paul Parton

**Desired Practice Location:** Prefers West Palm Beach, but open to the South Florida area

**Specialization:** Business law

**Field of Law Sought:** Interested in real estate law, antitrust law, contract law, corporate law; open to other areas as well



Paul Parton holds bachelor's degrees in economics and Chinese language and culture from Florida State University. When he graduated from FSU Law in May 2018, he also earned the Business Law Certificate. Born and raised in New York, Parton currently resides in Palm City, Florida. He was a member of the *Journal of Transnational Law & Policy* and vice president of the Asian Law and Culture Association. The summer after his 2L year, Parton interned at the Office of the Public Defender, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in Ft. Pierce. He worked with assistant public defenders performing various legal services, including helping clients with financial applications, attending court hearings and trials, conducting client interviews at the county jail, and research and file preparation. The summer after his 2L year, Parton interned at the State Attorney's Office for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in West Palm Beach. In this position, he worked alongside assistant state attorneys in the homicide unit of the felony division, attending hearings, conducting legal research and preparing files. Parton loves to travel and learn new things. If you are interested in hiring Parton, contact him at [pjp11b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:pjp11b@my.fsu.edu).

*"During my undergraduate time I lived and studied in Tianjin, China for three semesters. I have also achieved professional working proficiency in Mandarin and continue to study and practice it daily. I have a deep understanding of how Chinese culture and business works."*

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
ALUMNI BREAKFAST**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 8-8:45 AM**  
**ORLANDO WORLD CENTER MARRIOTT**

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800.788.7097 OR ALUMNI@LAW.FSU.EDU**  
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for student scholarships!*

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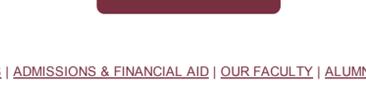
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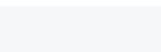
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