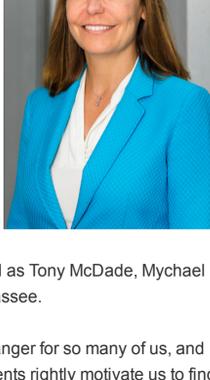


From the Dean: On Commitment

In the past couple of weeks I have watched with horror as Ahmaud Arbery was chased and killed for something I've done many times—walk into a house under construction to view the layout and progress toward completion. Days later, George Floyd was murdered in the most despicable act of domination I have ever witnessed, by a police officer suffocating Floyd with his knee to Floyd's neck and his hands in his pockets like he was out on a Sunday stroll. These heinous acts have sparked outrage and protest across the world, and they have created energy to shine a light on other police killings of Black community members, including but sadly not limited to Breonna Taylor in Louisville, as well as Tony McDade, Mychael Johnson, and Wilbon C. Woodard here in Tallahassee.



These events have caused pain, frustration and anger for so many of us, and they represent an assault on humanity. These events rightly motivate us to find a way to use our legal skills to advocate for change. We must work to prevent the killing of unarmed citizens, and we must fight to preserve the rule of law. Justice, equality, and legality are the goals of the legal profession, and we all owe an obligation to do our very best to promote these values.

At the same time, these killings all involve Black victims, and they symbolically represent the killing of countless other Black members of our communities by the state or in state-sanctioned environments. The oppression and brutality against our Black community members has a centuries-long history, and it causes deep pain, fatigue, and a sense of hopelessness among many of our Black colleagues, friends, and neighbors. They need us to make a commitment to stand with them and to help carry the torch of justice, equality, and legality for them while they mourn and support one another. This need was beautifully, powerfully, and professionally expressed by the leadership of our Black Law Students Association in a [statement provided earlier this week](#). That said, we need to empower our Black colleagues to lead us, when they are ready, toward positive change in our communities and elsewhere.

We've begun this journey at the College of Law. Many student organizations have pledged to be allies in the fight for justice. A Community Zoom meeting provided a space for Black students to express their pain, their hope, and the advancements in diversity, inclusion, and equity they would like to see at the law school. It also enabled those of us newly awakened to this injustice to better understand how we can both support and assist. And we hope to have opened a dialogue about how we heal and move forward both here and elsewhere. Next week we will host a Zoom panel discussion on the role of police training, police policies, and legal reforms in the prevention of police brutality. We are crafting future programming designed to support our students of color and provide additional education and conversations around these crucially important issues.

I could not be prouder of our students, faculty and administrative team for making a commitment to support our Black students and to work to promote desperately-needed change. The conversation is difficult, and the changes proposed are not easy. But I am confident that the FSU Law community is poised to bring about positive change both locally and nationally. In this process, we challenge our alums to make a commitment to do the same, in the form that matches your passions rather than your comfort levels. Please join us in finding a way to support our Black students, alumni, staff, faculty and colleagues, and please make a commitment toward the prevention of oppression and injustice toward our Black neighbors, as well as the advancement of diversity, inclusion, and equity in your local communities.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Alum Profile: Laura Chilcutt ('08)

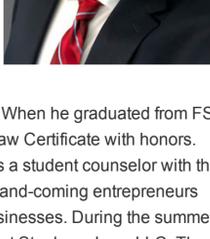
Dr. Laura Chilcutt is a pediatric resident at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando. She graduated from the University of Central Florida College of Medicine in 2019. Chilcutt maintains her law license and focuses her work as a physician on advocacy, including working to establish a medical-legal partnership and a mobile clinic at Nemours. She is also working to develop a residency advocacy curriculum. "My time at FSU instilled in me a dedication to life-long service. I hope this curriculum will help provide residents training and motivation to integrate advocacy into their work as pediatricians," Chilcutt said. Prior to medical school, Chilcutt concentrated on immigration and human rights law and served as an Equal Justice Works Fellow representing immigrant victims of human trafficking. Following her fellowship, she operated her own immigration law practice in Tampa. She plans to continue her work as a pediatrician in Central Florida after residency.



"Pediatrics places a strong emphasis on advocating for patients at the individual, community and legislative levels. This provides a natural transition from my work as a public interest attorney to working with patients disproportionately affected by social determinants of health. My work on the medical-legal partnership allows me to use my unique background in both medicine and law to help doctors learn how to make lawyers part of the healthcare team."

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Ryan Colón

Desired Practice Location: Tampa Bay area
Specialization: Business law
Field of Law Sought: Would like to practice corporate/business law; also interested in estate planning work



Ryan Colón is from Wesley Chapel, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in pre-law from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Colón participated in the UCF/FSU 3+3 accelerated law program, completing a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor in six rather than seven years. When he graduated from FSU Law in May 2020, he also earned the Business Law Certificate with honors. During the fall semester of his 3L year, Colón was a student counselor with the FSU Business Law Clinic, where he assisted up-and-coming entrepreneurs with the formation and operation of their small businesses. During the summer after his 2L year, Colón was a summer associate at Stephens Law, LLC. There, he drafted requests for production, interrogatories, notice and demand letters, motions to compel, and preliminary and permanent injunctions, and attended construction law arbitration. During both the 2019 and 2020 tax seasons, Colón was a tax preparer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, providing free tax return services to individuals and families in the Tallahassee area. During his 1L summer, Colón clerked for the Castro Firm, Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware. He drafted personal injury settlement demands and other legal pleadings, attended family law and workers' compensation hearings, and conducted research regarding family law and civil litigation matters.

Colón was a member of the Business Law Society, the Tax Law Society and the Cuban American Bar Association. If you are interested in hiring Colón, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"My decision to attend FSU Law was one of the best decisions I could have made. I am excited to head out into the world and help people using the great knowledge and experience I have gained at the College of Law."

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Young Kang

Desired Practice Location: Would like to work in any major metropolitan area, with preference for Washington, D.C. and Chicago; also open to positions throughout Florida with preference for Tampa and Tallahassee
Specialization: Environmental, administrative and international law
Field of Law Sought: Prefers to practice in environmental law, secondary preference for other topics that regularly involve administrative law; strong preference for positions in state or federal government, as well as non-profit public interest organizations



Originally from Ocala, Florida, Young Kang earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Florida State University. When he graduated *magna cum laude* from FSU Law last month, he also earned the Environmental Law Certificate. Last fall, Kang clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, where he researched and participated in oral argument moot courts, created legal memoranda and reviewed draft oral arguments while working under legal memoranda litigators. During the summer after his 2L year, Kang clerked for Earthjustice. There, he conducted legal research, examined discovery materials, drafted motions and attended meetings to coordinate with minority advocacy groups. Using his science education, he also advised and informed attorneys on complex and technical energy policy issues. During the spring semester of his 2L year, Kang clerked for Hopping Green & Sams. His duties included conducting legal research, creating legal memoranda, drafting motions and similar materials, and creation of materials to assist in generation of business, such as CLE presentations. During the fall of his 2L year, Kang clerked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where he assisted attorneys in the operation of General Counsel with cases and the operation of the department's programs. From August 2018–May 2020, Kang was also a research assistant to Professor Robert E. Atkinson. Kang researched issues related to jurisprudence and the application of those ideas to public policy issues. During his 1L summer, Kang externed for the Honorable F. Scott Boyd. Kang prepared memoranda of law, observed administrative hearings on a wide range of topics, and discussed cases and decisions with other administrative law judges.

During law school, Kang participated on the Jessup International Moot Court Team, which won a brief award for placing in the top 10 highest briefs in the 2019 Rocky Mountain Regional Competition. He was also an article selection editor for the *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law* and published an article in a forthcoming issue. If you are interested in hiring Kang, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"While my degree in biological science does not appear to immediately lend itself to the practice of law, it has been my experience that it has provided more value than one would expect. Nearly all of my employers have relied on my science education to help understand issues, provide solutions and otherwise assist in the practice of law. I personally enjoy using my undergraduate education in this manner and hope to continue bringing this perspective to the public interest sector."



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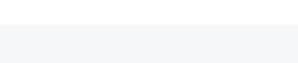
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SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

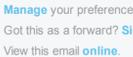
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