

From the Dean

In May, we began our Spear the Bar 2020 programming, knowing that this was an especially stressful time for recent graduates whose plans for taking bar exams were surrounded by much uncertainty due to COVID-19. Last week, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners (FBBE) announced that the July in-person administration of the Florida Bar Examination had been canceled and that an online examination would be administered on August 19 instead. We are very grateful to the FBBE and Florida Supreme Court for finding a safe path forward to licensure for our graduates.



As we continue our previously scheduled sessions, we are making adjustments to help prepare Florida exam takers for this new format and new exam date. We bolstered the virtual components of our annual supplemental bar prep resources this year, so we could continue to support our recent grads wherever they are located. Our Spear the Bar programming includes weekly workshops held via livestream that are also recorded, taught by Professor Phil Sandon and Professor Jonathan Grossman. Professor Sandon has also been available during bi-weekly virtual office hours and by appointment for small group Zoom calls.

In addition, our Spear the Bar 2020 initiative includes a Facebook group and Canvas website exclusively for FSU Law graduates taking bar exams. The resources are being utilized to share workshop recordings and materials, inspirational words of wisdom from alumni, information from the FBBE, exam study tips, outlines and wellness resources. In June, we sent bar exam care packages to our grads preparing for bar exams. Also, alumni who volunteered to serve as bar prep mentors throughout the summer have been matched with students to provide individual advice and encouragement. Many thanks to everyone who is assisting our students as they prepare for bar exams!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Ziegler Provides International Expertise on U.S. Supreme Court Abortion Case

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its much-anticipated opinion in *June Medical Services v. Russo*. The court struck down a Louisiana law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have active admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, but Chief Justice John Roberts, who cast the deciding vote in the case, transformed the rules that govern abortion cases, making it more likely that states will be able to introduce abortion restrictions in the future. FSU Law's [Stearns Weaver Miller Professor Mary Ziegler](#), a nationally recognized authority on the abortion debate, has been the go-to expert on the case. The day of the decision, Ziegler was interviewed in *The New Yorker* and appeared on *NPR's* "All Things Considered," *CNN's* "The Lead with Jake Tapper" and "PBS NewsHour." In addition to joining scholarly panels on the case, Ziegler authored opinion pieces on *June Medical* for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *CNN*, *The Atlantic* and *Time*. She has also consulted with a variety of media outlets on abortion, including the *BBC*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian*, *CNBC*, *MSNBC*, *Fox News*, *Huffington Post* and *Vox*, and she has been interviewed in leading publications in countries from France, Spain and Germany to Australia, China, South Korea and Japan.



Ziegler's international reputation stems from the three books and numerous articles she has written on the legal history of the abortion debate. Her most recent book, the timely *Abortion and the Law in America: Roe v Wade to the Present* (Cambridge University Press 2020), makes sense of the history behind *June Medical* and what is likely to come next. The book studies how the terms of the abortion debate have changed fundamentally in the decades since *Roe v. Wade*. Ziegler shows that as those on opposing sides have battled about what abortion in America is really like, polarization on abortion has only grown deeper, breaking down consensus about the difference between science and spin.

"The chief justice of the Supreme Court infuriated conservatives once again Monday by siding with his four more liberal colleagues to strike down a Louisiana law that would have sharply restricted the availability of abortion there by requiring providers of the procedure to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. For abortion foes and no doubt President Trump, the defeat is infuriating. But it's their own fault. The case, June Medical Services v. Russo, was the wrong one to bring to the Supreme Court. In their impatience to restrict the procedure, abortion opponents miscalculated by asking the court to uphold a law virtually identical to one in Texas that the court had rejected four years ago. And for Chief Justice John Roberts, that was too much." - excerpt from Ziegler's opinion piece in *The New York Times* on June 29, 2020

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Tiffany Osei-Owusu

Desired Practice Location: Tampa

Field of Law Sought: Criminal law, employment law or any practice

Originally from Tampa, Tiffany Osei-Owusu earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Florida. She graduated from FSU Law in May 2020. The summer after her 2L year and throughout her 3L year, Osei-Owusu clerked at the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the Second District of Florida. She worked in the appellate division and reviewed trial records, prepared and proofread legal briefs, and researched pertinent case law regarding admission of evidence and constitutional issues. During her 2L year, Osei-Owusu interned at Project on Accountable Justice, a non-partisan criminal justice policy think tank, where she attended committee hearings on criminal justice at the Florida Capitol and created policy suggestions for the Florida Legislature concerning criminal justice. For one project, Osei-Owusu interviewed formerly incarcerated women and collected information about their time in jail. The summer after her 1L year, Osei-Owusu volunteered for Legal Services of North Florida. There, she drafted summaries of client cases for volunteer attorneys. Osei-Owusu was also a student ambassador for the legal research company Casetext during her 3L year. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Osei-Owusu, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).



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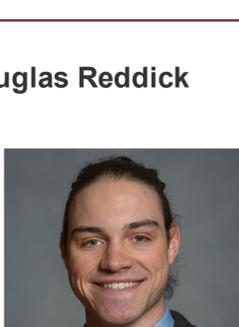
"My time at Florida State University College of Law has given me a strong legal foundation to excel in the practice of law."

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Douglas Reddick

Desired Practice Location: Tampa

Field of Law Sought: Interested in practicing estate and probate law; also interested in real estate and other transactional areas of law

Douglas Reddick is originally from Lake Wales, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies with a minor in English from Stetson University. He graduated *cum laude* from FSU Law in May 2020. From his 1L summer through spring of his 3L year, Reddick clerked at The Sketchley Law Firm. During his time there, he worked on a wide array of estate planning, probate, guardianship and other elder and estate law matters, including legal research and document drafting. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Reddick, email him at dpr17@my.fsu.edu.



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"Community has always been extremely important to me. FSU Law provided a fantastic community for me to be a part of during my time at law school. Now, I am looking forward to finding a career that will provide a new community for me to find my place and help build!"

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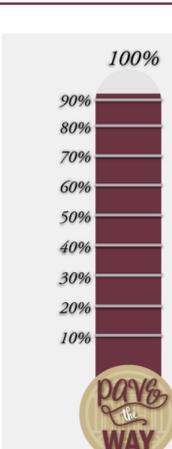
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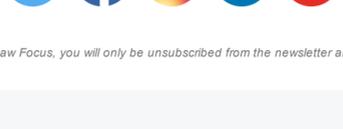
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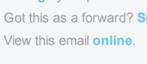
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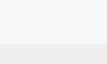
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