

From the Dean

During the month of July, we hosted numerous events for incoming 1Ls through our new Elevate Pre-Orientation programming. The virtual sessions were hosted by FSU Law professors, students and administrators, and were designed to provide first-year students with opportunities to get to know more about the law school and its community members.

Highlights included informal meetings with 1L professors—including tea and coffee breaks and a board game session, a social justice session with professors from our Public Interest Law Center, a “Pet Show & Tell” with students from our Animal Legal Defense Fund, a town hall meeting with our Student Bar Association, a conversation about careers with Co-Director of Clinical Externship Programs Adria Quintela, a “Staying Fit and Healthy” session with a current student, and a murder mystery game session with Associate Dean Nancy Benavides. The optional sessions were well attended and offered 1Ls many opportunities to engage with one another, which we know is important to our new students.

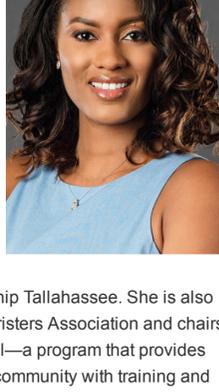


Students will have more opportunities to connect during orientation programming, which is scheduled for August 10-21. Our mandatory orientation sessions are being held remotely this year, but the material covered will be similar to years past. Sessions will include a special presentation by Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson ('87) on “How to Be an Effective Law Student While Taking Care of Yourself & Enjoying Life;” optional lunch sessions with Florida Solicitor General Amit Agarwal and International Bar Association Executive Director Mark Ellis ('84); a panel discussion with several more of our engaged and successful alumni; a “Finding Success in Law School” panel featuring current students; sessions with administrators from our Career Services, Academic Programs, Student Advancement and Technology offices; “Meet Your 1L Faculty Panels” featuring professors for each section; a wellness session with Professor Larry Krieger; a case briefing workshop with legal writing professors; a virtual student organization fair; a session on implicit bias; and a wide variety of optional sessions on financial aid and planning. Students will also attend Contracts classes, where I am looking forward to interacting with them as I and five of my colleagues teach the sessions. An innovative app launched earlier this week will allow students to manage their orientation schedule and engage further with FSU Law community members. We are delighted to be welcoming this new class of students to the FSU Law family!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Alum Profile: Jasmyne N. Henderson ('15)

Jasmyne N. Henderson is a government law attorney and director of government affairs at Pittman Law Group, P.L. As an attorney, Henderson works within the intersection of government law and government affairs, utilizing her legal education and experience in public administration and community sciences to provide counsel and advocacy to local governments, corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals throughout the state of Florida. Henderson serves on The Florida Bar’s Governmental and Public Policy Advocacy Committee and is a member of the current classes of The Florida Bar William Reece Smith Leadership Academy and Leadership Tallahassee. She is also immediate-past president of the Tallahassee Barristers Association and chairs the annual Pearls of Perfection Day at the Capitol—a program that provides minority female teenagers from the Tallahassee community with training and opportunities to advocate for important issues before members of the Florida Legislature. Henderson’s passion for community and politics inspired her to charter “Biscuits and Ballots: An Early Voting Initiative.” Biscuits and Ballots, first hosted before the 2018 primary and general elections, increased voter engagement and turnout for college students and young professionals in Florida’s capital city. Going forward, Biscuits and Ballots continues to encourage voter engagement in young and minority voters. Henderson has been honored as a “Rising Star of Florida Politics” by *INFLUENCE Magazine* and was selected for the National Bar Association’s “40 Under 40” Award in 2016. She also serves on the law school’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.



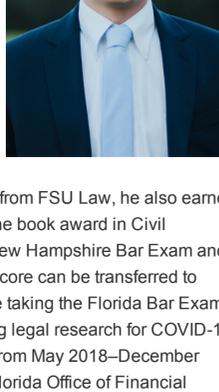
“While the experience of being a law student is difficult, I always look fondly at my time at FSU Law. Oftentimes we have a gift or spark that other people see, that we have yet to recognize. FSU Law alumni, administrators and professors created an environment for me to explore that spark and cultivate it into a career.”

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Collin Phillips

Desired Practice Location: New Hampshire, Maine or Massachusetts, north of Boston; willing to work remotely

Specialization: Real estate, financial regulation, business law

Field of Law Sought: Estate planning for New England snowbirds



Originally from Pensacola, Collin Phillips earned a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in business administration from Pensacola Christian College. He earned a joint J.D./M.B.A. from Florida State University in December 2019. When he graduated *cum laude* from FSU Law, he also earned the Business Law Certificate. He was awarded the book award in Civil Externship. Phillips passed the February 2020 New Hampshire Bar Exam and was admitted to practice in May 2020. His UBE score can be transferred to Vermont, Maine or Massachusetts, and he will be taking the Florida Bar Exam in February 2021. Currently, Phillips is conducting legal research for COVID-19 compliance for New Hampshire campgrounds. From May 2018–December 2019, Phillips was a certified legal intern at the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, where he drafted administrative complaints, recommended final orders, wrote research briefs, prepared discovery productions, took depositions, negotiated with licensees and lead training presentations. From January 2018–May 2018, Phillips was an in-house counsel extern for Ruvos LLC. He reviewed contracts, reviewed HIPPA and privacy policies for regulatory compliance and reviewed I-129 forms for non-citizen workers. From September 2017–December 2017, Phillips interned at the Florida Office of Public Counsel, where he reviewed and proofread appellate briefs, wrote research briefs on aquifer discharge and reviewed utility customer complaints for legal sufficiency of compliance violations.

During law school, Phillips was a member of the Christian Legal Society and served as president, vice president and community service chair. He was also a member of the Federalist Society and Business Law Society (BLS). He participated on the BLS FSU Law Negotiation Team and competed at the 2018 American Bar Association Law Student Division Negotiation Competition. If you are interested in hiring Phillips or helping him make connections in the New England area, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

“As one of the few New England ‘Noles, I am excited to expand the reach and value of our alumni network.”

Student Profile: 2020 Grad Felicia Warren

Desired Practice Location: Staying in Tallahassee for 2-3 years; taking the D.C. bar exam in February 2021 and hoping to relocate to Washington, D.C.

Specialization: Policy and legislative research; international law

Field of Law Sought: Would like to work in the area of international and foreign policy with a focus on conflict resolution/peace studies; interested in working for the United Nations, Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress or in any other policy analyst/counsel position



Felicia “Fe” Warren was born in San Diego, California, but she went to high school in Ormond Beach, Florida, and considers it her hometown. Warren earned her bachelor’s degree in English literature with a minor in French from Florida State University. This summer, she will complete a joint pathways program, earning both a J.D. and M.I.S. The master’s degree in information science through the FSU College of Communication & Information is focused on information access, dissemination, cataloging, archives and policy. Through this program, Warren has learned how to analyze metadata, interpret information policies, and bridge the digital divide to ensure the public has fair and equal access to information—especially from an open, transparent government. Warren was awarded the Law Library Fellowship from the FSU School of Information and spent two years conducting a research internship with the FSU Law Research Center. She even taught a legal research workshop for students as part of her internship. Warren also worked on research projects for faculty members, including helping Professors Mary Ziegler and Wayne Logan with publication efforts. Last summer, Warren worked with Professor Terry Coonan at the Center for the Advancement of Florida Rights, where she updated the 2020 Human Trafficking Report for the Florida Legislature to apprise them of minor sex trafficking issues and a nationwide survey of safe harbor statutes. During the spring 2019 semester, Warren was a legislative intern with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and attended committee hearings at the Florida Legislature during the 2019 session. She helped edit bill summaries and reports for the school district superintendents for K-12 and higher ed during an especially interesting session to work on school legislation—it directly followed the 2018 Stoneman Douglas shooting and guns in schools was a prominent issue of debate and discussion. From August 2017–August 2018, Warren clerked and was a summer associate at civil defense firm Orr Cook, formerly Dawson Orr. There, she conducted research, drafted pleadings and memoranda, and assisted in bench and jury trial preparations.

Warren joined FSU Law as a transfer student and was secretary for the Transfer Students Organization. At her previous institution, she was a member of the Moot Court Honor Board, president of the Academic Honor Students Association and pro bono vice president of the International Law Board. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Warren, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

“While at FSU Law, I took advanced legal research courses in administrative law research and international and foreign legal research. I have worked tirelessly—in addition to my legal studies—to improve and refine my research abilities. This, along with strong writing and editing abilities, are skills that can be used in a significant way to advance a firm’s or institution’s objectives.”



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