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The Honorable Mary Scriven ('87) met with students virtually this week as part of FSU Law's Jurist in Residence Program. Judge Scriven spoke with FSU Law students via Zoom on October 23, 2020.

Mary Scriven is a Federal District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. She graduated from FSU College of Law in 1987. After graduation, she clerked on the Honorable John H. Roll’s United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She then practiced law in Florida with the firm of Boyd & Ellis. In 2002, Judge Scriven was appointed to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. Judge Scriven has served in a number of positions, including as the Chief Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and was the first woman to serve as Chief Judge in the Middle District of Florida. Judge Scriven currently serves as the Chair of the Federal Circuit Judges Executive Council, the first woman to serve in that position since the Council’s creation in 1999. Judge Scriven is a recipient of the E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association and the Raising the Bar New Professionalism Award from the Florida Bar. She is married with two children.

Judge Scriven when asked by a student how to improve legal writing skills: "The number one thing lawyers can do to learn how to write is to read," said Judge Scriven. "Read legal writing. You don’t have to have flowery legal writing, it doesn’t have to be full of turns of phrases, it just needs to be very good, strong legal writing. I read legal writing. Reading develops style." Judge Scriven also shared personal experiences and answered student questions.

FSU Law Review D'Alemberte Tribute Issue

In celebration of Don Ehrhardt, who served as a law professor and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the Florida State University College of Law from 1989 to 2019, the Florida State University Law Review will publish a special tribute issue. This issue will feature articles about Ehrhardt and his contributions to law education and professional development.

Earlier this month, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Advancement, conceived interested 3Ls with professionalism mentors. Benavides, the FSU Law Review, was asked by a student how to improve legal writing skills. "The number one thing lawyers can do to learn how to write is to read," said Judge Scriven. "Read legal writing. You don’t have to have flowery legal writing, it doesn’t have to be full of turns of phrases, it just needs to be very good, strong legal writing. I read legal writing. Reading develops style." Judge Scriven also shared personal experiences and answered student questions.

To her and the many other alumni who make time to engage with FSU Law students, Judge Scriven said, "We are grateful to her for her time and insights, for the opportunity to work with her. She has been an extremely valuable mentor to our students, and we are grateful to have her as a part of our community."