

**From the Dean**



The Honorable Mary Scriven ('87) met with students virtually this week as part of FSU Law's Jurist in Residence Program.

On Tuesday, October 13, we hosted Judge Mary Stenson Scriven ('87), of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, as our first virtual jurist in residence. Judge Scriven spoke with FSU Law students via Zoom about the value of judicial clerkships, what students can do to make themselves strong candidates for clerkships, the work performed by judicial clerks and the often lifelong relationships that are formed between judges and clerks. She shared personal experiences and answered student questions.

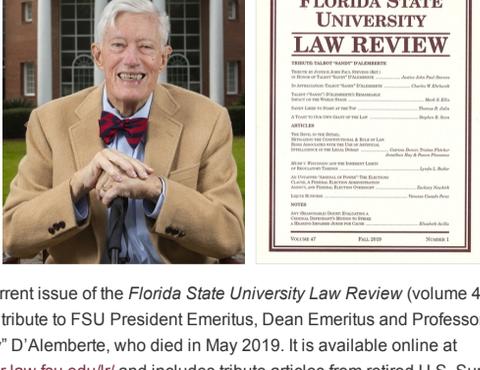
The importance of legal writing was covered several times during the session. "The number one thing lawyers can do to learn how to write is to read," said Judge Scriven when asked by a student how to improve legal writing skills. "Read legal writing. You don't have to have flowery legal writing, it doesn't have to be full of turns of phrases, it just needs to be very good, strong legal writing. I think in the world of Westlaw and Lexis and other tools, lawyers have stopped reading. When you read cases, you develop style."

When asked about ways lawyers can exhibit professionalism, Judge Scriven said, "Have common compassion for your co-counsel and your opposing counsel. Treat them the way you want to be treated—be nice to people, return phone calls, extend professional courtesy that you can extend without damaging your clients' interests. For example, if interrogatory responses are due and it's two days before Thanksgiving, give the people an extension of time until after Thanksgiving. I have 300 civil cases and 190 criminal cases pending at any one time, yours is not on the front burner unless it's about to go to trial or there is an injunction motion, so giving someone a basic extension of time is not going to hurt you."

Judge Scriven was nominated by President George W. Bush on July 10, 2008, and took her seat on the bench on September 30, 2008. She had previously served as a magistrate judge in the district for more than 10 years. When she became a magistrate judge in 1997, she became the first African American woman to serve on the federal court in Florida and the second to serve on the federal court in the Eleventh Circuit. Prior to that, Judge Scriven was a shareholder with Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, P.A. She previously served on the FSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. It was our pleasure to welcome Judge Scriven to speak with our community! She provided extremely valuable insight and advice to students, and we are grateful to her and the many other alumni who make time to engage with FSU Law students.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

**FSU Law Review D'Alemberte Tribute Issue**



The current issue of the *Florida State University Law Review* (volume 47, issue 1) is in tribute to FSU President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus and Professor Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, who died in May 2019. It is available online at <https://lr.law.fsu.edu/lr/> and includes tribute articles from retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, FSU Law Professor Emeritus Charles W. Ehrhardt, Mark S. Ellis ('84), Thomas R. Julin and Stephen R. Senn ('89).

"When Sandy ran successfully for the Florida House of Representatives in the late 1960s, his campaign slogan was 'Remember the Name that's Hard to Remember,'" wrote Ehrhardt in his *Law Review* article. "As a result of the tremendous impact he made on Florida State and the State of Florida, as well as the country and far beyond, that slogan foretold his life—Sandy D'Alemberte is a name that will be long-remembered."

The *Florida State University Law Review* is the flagship journal of the Florida State University College of Law. It is staffed and edited by second- and third-year law students and published four times per year.

**Benavides Accepts National Professionalism Award**

Earlier this month, Associate Dean Nancy Benavides accepted the 2020 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Professionalism on behalf of FSU Law's Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program. The award recognizes the nation's



exemplary, innovative and on-going professionalism programs in law schools, bar associations, courts and other legal organizations that help ensure the maintenance of the highest principles of integrity and dedication to the legal profession and the public. The committee cited the Raising the Bar Program's depth and innovative approach to preparing law students for a life in the law by exposing them to exceptional professional development resources and role models. In addition to hosting many alumni speakers, the program matches all interested 3Ls with professionalism mentors. Benavides, the FSU Law Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Advancement, conceived of and manages FSU Law's program. She accepted the award via Zoom on October 3.

**Alum Profile: John D. Neumann ('01)**

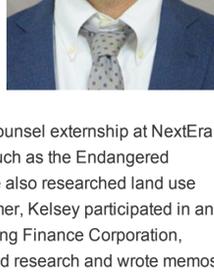
John D. Neumann is vice president, general counsel and secretary of The North American Coal Corporation and its publicly traded parent company, NACCO Industries, Inc. He also acts as NACCO's chief legal officer and oversees legal services provided to the company and its subsidiaries. His role also includes business oversight of the company's environmental mitigation banking business and oil and gas operations. Prior to joining North American in 2009, Neumann practiced at Jones Day in Cleveland, Ohio, and at Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Virginia. He currently lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife and two children. In honor of FSU and its host city, the family named its Labrador Tallahassee.



*"I remain a big fan of FSU and its law school, which equipped me well for mergers and acquisition private practice and in-house legal work. I encourage younger corporate lawyers to consider an in-house career if an opportunity presents itself. Benefits include a greater appreciation for business issues and an opportunity to develop an outward-facing business/business development role. The combination of legal practice and business dealings is hard to beat."*

**Student Profile: 3L Tanner Kelsey**

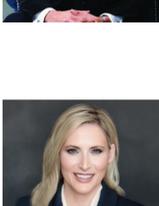
**Desired Practice Location:** Would like to practice in California (preferably Northern), Florida, Central Texas or Denver  
**Expected Graduation:** May 2021  
**Field of Law Sought:** Interested in environmental, business, civil rights and tort law



Originally from Seguin, Texas, Tanner Kelsey earned both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in accounting from Texas State University. When he graduates from FSU Law in May 2021, he will also earn the Environmental Law Certificate. During the spring semester of his 2L year, Kelsey participated in an in-house counsel externship at NextEra Energy. He researched environmental statutes such as the Endangered Species Act and its implications for pipelines. He also researched land use codes for new solar projects. During his 1L summer, Kelsey participated in an in-house counsel externship at the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, where he drafted administrative orders, conducted research and wrote memos for employment complaints against the company. He also attended hearings at the Florida Department of Administrative Hearings and meetings between Florida Housing and opposing counsel. During law school, Kelsey was a member of the Tax Law Society. If you are interested in connecting with Kelsey or hiring him after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

*"I really appreciate FSU giving me the opportunity to be the first lawyer in my family and I am excited to join the legal community."*

**Event Reminders**



Trailblazers in Law Speaker Series: Judge Carlos Moore ('02), President-Elect, National Bar Association  
October 16, 2020, 2 pm  
[Zoom Link](#)  
Meeting ID: 978 7635 6794  
Passcode: FSULAW



Notes to the Polls: From the Bench to the Ballots with The Honorable Laurel Lee, Florida Secretary of State  
October 23, 2020, 12 pm  
[Zoom Link](#)  
Meeting ID: 977 0699 9975

*We're almost there!*

We are within \$50,000 of our **Pave the Way** campaign goal and need your support for student scholarships. Please visit [law.fsu.edu/pavetheway](http://law.fsu.edu/pavetheway) to learn more and give online today.

*We need your support for student scholarships!*

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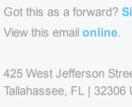
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