

From the Dean



(L-R) ALA National Moot Court Competition Champions Tuck and Curry

We are delighted to report that the FSU Law Moot Court Team has won first place in the 2020 Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition, which was held virtually November 6-7. Florida State beat University of California-Hastings—whose moot court team is ranked second in the nation—in the finals. Winning team members are third-year law students Holly Parker Curry and Erin Tuck. In addition, third-year student Alexandra Goffre participated in the brief writing portion of the competition. Courtney Brewer, a shareholder at The Mills Firm in Tallahassee, and FSU Law alum Judge Stephanie W. Ray ('95), of the First District Court of Appeal, coached the team to victory. FSU Law's team also won the Appellate Lawyers Association National Moot Court Competition in 2017. In addition, Brewer and Judge Ray previously coached an FSU team to victory in the 2015 J. Braxton Craven, Jr. Memorial Moot Court Competition. We are very proud of our talented Moot Court students and thankful for their dedicated coaches. Winning a virtual moot court national championship bolsters the team's already strong record of success.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Jules Coleman Presents Public Lecture



Jules Coleman presents "What the Kentucky Derby Can Teach Us About Law."

Last Thursday, November 5, FSU Law had the honor of hosting Jules Coleman, who is widely recognized as one of the most important legal minds in modern times, for a special public lecture. Coleman presented "What the Kentucky Derby Can Teach Us About Law," where he probed one of the many ethical dilemmas presented in his forthcoming book, *Everyday Ethics*. He discussed his three tenets for analyzing legal problems and used a real-life example from the 2019 Kentucky Derby to illustrate the relationship between law and philosophy. In the example, the horse who crossed the finish line first was disqualified after a complaint was filed by a team not directly wronged by the infraction of the horse who crossed the line first, prompting questions of who had standing. The team that lodged the complaint benefited from it by being named the eventual winner after the other horse was disqualified. Coleman delved into legal and ethical issues in the case and contemplated other outcomes that might have been more just than the actual outcome.

Coleman most recently was the professor of philosophy, professor of recorded music, senior vice provost for academic planning emeritus at New York University. He previously was a law professor for decades at Yale University. He has given endowed lectures across the world and we are very fortunate that he joined us last week and that he will be teaching an ethics course at FSU Law in the spring.

New FSU Law Racial Justice Advocacy Fund Supports Students



Our Public Interest Law Center as well as our criminal law- and civil rights-focused programs already serve as a pipeline for students to fight for racial justice. With private financial support, we can expand the number of students in these programs. Pictured in 2019 are students from the Gender and Family Justice Clinic, with the clinic's director, Professor Carla Laroche.

The FSU College of Law continues its commitment to racial equity with a new Racial Justice Advocacy Fund. Recent killings of Black and Brown Americans and subsequent protests have highlighted the unequal and unevenly distributed justice that pervades our country through voting rights, access to employment, housing, lending and education. Through the Racial Justice Advocacy Fund, established by FSU Law alumnus Bruce Wiener ('93), a member of the law school's Board of Visitors, students at the FSU College of Law can receive financial support as they help stem the tide of systemic racism.

Law students focused on improving racial disparity can apply for stipends that will offset the cost of what is usually unpaid work in the areas of the law that are crucial to creating a more equitable society. Students will participate in externships, internships and programs in areas where racial injustice has been most prevalent. Examples include the Public Defender's Office and racial equality focused work with organizations such as the NAACP, Color of Change, The Innocence Project, and the National Urban League, among others, to effect change through our courts, trial work and advocacy. The Racial Justice Advocacy Fund will also support our student fellows participating in the efforts of the new Florida Law Schools Consortium for Racial Justice, which FSU Law joined this summer with the 11 other Florida law schools.

"One of the best things we can do now is invest in real change agents, our future attorneys," said Wiener. "The success of this fund will require a collective effort of law firms and attorneys, with so many already stepping up to raise awareness and help further the college's commitment to making positive change."

Law firms wishing to donate to the Racial Justice Advocacy Fund can contact FSU Law Director of Development Hovik Arakelian at 850.644.6357 or harakeli@law.fsu.edu. Or firms can [donate directly online](#).

Alum Profile: Alejandro Espino ('97)

[Alejandro "Alex" Espino](#) is a member of Taylor Espino Vega & Tourn, PLLC in Coral Gables. He practices in the area of construction litigation and has been board certified in construction law by The Florida Bar since 2006. Clients call upon Espino to draft and negotiate contracts, address issues during construction, resolve disputes and litigate a range of claims, including nonpayment, delay, inefficiency, differing site conditions and defect claims. He has been recognized in Florida Trend's Legal Elite, Florida Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America. Espino served on The Florida Bar Construction Law Certification Committee from 2014 to 2020, serving as its chair during the 2017-2018 term. He is a member of The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section's Construction Law Committee and the American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry. Espino is also a construction arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association. Espino has served on the FSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2018.



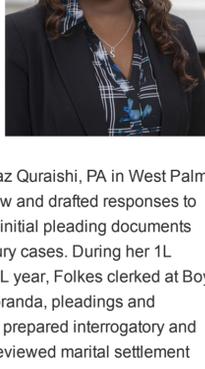
Student Profile: 3L Samantha Folkes

Desired Practice Location: South Florida or New York

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Field of Law Sought: Personal injury, insurance defense or family law; also open to other practice areas

Originally from Jamaica, Samantha Folkes moved to New York in 2014, where she attended and graduated *summa cum laude* from Monroe College with a degree in criminal justice and a minor in legal studies. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2021. Last summer, Folkes interned at the Law Office of Maaaz Quraishi, PA in West Palm Beach, where she researched applicable case law and drafted responses to motions for summary judgment. She also drafted initial pleading documents and settlement demands for various personal injury cases. During her 1L summer and throughout the fall semester of her 2L year, Folkes clerked at Boyd & Durant, P.L. She researched and drafted memoranda, pleadings and proposed orders in family law cases. Folkes also prepared interrogatory and production requests and drafted, proofread and reviewed marital settlement agreements.



Folkes is a member of the FSU Trial Team and was awarded Best Opening Statement in the 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. National Civil Rights Trial Competition. She is also a member of the Black Law Students Association and served as member-at-large for the 2019-2020 academic year. Folkes was a Class VI participant of Thunderdome Tallahassee, an innovative, hands-on leadership and pro bono family law training program with the Legal Aid Society. Additionally, Folkes is a member of the Women's Law Symposium. If you are interested in connecting with Folkes or hiring her after graduation, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

"My time at FSU Law has provided the opportunity to participate in various mock trial competitions and rewarding internship opportunities, and has fostered mentorship relationships with various faculty/staff members. I am confident that the FSU Law experience has equipped me with the necessary skills to be a well-rounded and successful attorney. It has been an amazing journey to see my dreams and aspirations coming to fruition, and I am excited to embark on the next chapter of my legal career."

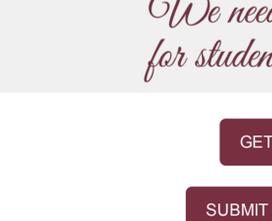
Event Reminders



2020 Alumni Awards Presentation
November 18, 2020, 6 pm

[Registration link](#)

2020 alumni award recipients, clockwise from top left, Nancy Daniels ('77), Melanie S. Griffin ('06), Jeffrey A. Stoops ('84) and David L. Markell.



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 to learn more and give online today.

We need your support for student scholarships!

GET INVOLVED

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT

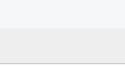
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