

### From the Dean



Award-winning Juris Master Program team

Congratulations to our FSU Law Juris Master Program team—(pictured above L-R) Susan Bowers, Director Laura Sellati, Courtney Allen, Mary Ann Montague and Associate Dean Manuel Utset, Jr.—who recently won a Florida TaxWatch Productivity Award! The team increased enrollment in the online Juris Master degree program by 49 percent by implementing a streamlined admissions process and enhanced applicant support, growing the number of students enrolled in the program from 166 to 247 between spring 2019 and spring 2020. The new admissions process, which was first implemented for spring 2020 applications, saves students \$115 each due to no application fee and is supported by in-house staff. Casey Laurienzo, a J.M. student and contract administrator for the FSU Finance & Administration, Department of Procurement Services, and FSU Law alum Karen Oehme ('87), director of the FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies, also won awards. Florida TaxWatch Productivity Awards recognize and reward state employees and workgroups who find ways to improve services, increase efficiencies and save Florida taxpayers millions of dollars each year. FSU employees claimed a total of 14 Florida TaxWatch Productivity Awards, the most by any institution in the State University System.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

### BLSA Leadership Plays a Pivotal Role



BLSA hosted a Zoom panel on identifying racial trauma in November.

The December 18 issue of FSU Law Focus did not fully convey the details about the role that remarkable FSU Law students played in the law school community coming together following the highly publicized racial injustices of 2020. While the Student Bar Association (SBA) and other organizations played a pivotal role in the ally statements and vigil referenced in the previous newsletter, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was instrumental in these efforts and deserves credit for their leadership in bringing FSU Law together. BLSA worked diligently to create a community letter and to develop the ally statement framework so it would be easier for other student organizations to join with and support Black students. BLSA also collaborated with SBA and the Multicultural Law Students Association to plan and implement the community vigil. Members of BLSA also spoke during the vigil to bring awareness to the totality of systemic racial violence in the United States. In addition, BLSA students worked during the fall semester to continue to improve our community. They organized two widely attended events to raise awareness and continue the discussion about how to move forward: a panel on identifying racial trauma and a panel on the origins of the police and the movement for reform. The FSU Law community is working to ensure that diversity is embraced, inclusion persists and equity is advanced.

"Everyone, including students, faculty, staff and alumni, can play a role in combatting racism and white supremacy," said Daynica Harley, president of BLSA. "This semester, BLSA will continue the Racial Justice panel series, delving into topics that disproportionately affect the Black community, such as mass incarceration and the death penalty. As a law school, we must continue creating spaces that support all students, reflecting with our actions the values of diversity, equity and inclusion that we extol."

"Every lawyer I met during my first year of law school told me how vital relationships with your classmates are to your time in school and your career after graduation. I've seen the power of this in my friendship with Daynica Harley, who serves as president of BLSA," said Chad Reavis, president of FSU Law's Student Bar Association. "This year student leaders have not only had to work together, but hurt together and heal together, and bring members of the FSU Law family together not just with words but with action. Her leadership and her friendship have impacted me in ways that will last long after we graduate."

### Alum Profile: Fred E. Karlinsky ('92)

We're proud to announce that [Fred E. Karlinsky](#) is the new chair of the law school's Board of Visitors. Karlinsky is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, where he co-chairs the firm's Insurance Regulatory and Transactions Practice Group. Practicing out of the Fort Lauderdale and Tallahassee offices, Karlinsky represents insurers, reinsurers and a wide variety of other insurance-related entities on their regulatory, transactional, corporate and governmental affairs matters. He is an authority on national insurance regulatory and compliance issues and has served in leadership roles in many insurance trade organizations. Recently named among "The 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics" in Influence Magazine, Karlinsky is a leading strategist in insurance-related legislative and regulatory initiatives. He is experienced in transactional law, executive and legislative governmental affairs, administrative law, and corporate representation, and advises clients on operational, regulatory and compliance issues. Karlinsky served on the Florida Constitution Revision Commission from 2017 to 2018 and the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission from 2011 to 2014. Since 2014, Karlinsky has served on, and now chairs, the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission. He has served as an adjunct professor at FSU Law since 2008 and is teaching his popular Insurance Law and Risk Management course again during the spring 2021 semester.



*"I am proud to serve the capable law students of FSU by contributing to their educational experience to prepare them for the future. As the co-chair of Greenberg Traurig's Insurance Regulatory and Transactions Practice, I encourage my students to consider a legal career in the insurance industry. Working with numerous clients over many years in the insurance industry has been very rewarding for me."*

### Student Profile: Dec. 2020 Grad Morgan Lodes

**Desired Practice Location:** Prefers Tallahassee, but would consider various areas in Florida, as well as Texas or Louisiana, where she has family  
**Expected Graduation:** December 2020  
**Field of Law Sought:** Would love to work as a public defender and hopes to transition to postconviction work after several years of trial experience; is public-interest minded and would consider any employment focused on criminal defense, civil rights, family law or general public interest.



Originally from Norwich, Connecticut, Morgan Lodes attended high school in Fort Myers, Florida. She then earned a bachelor's degree in social work and a Leadership Studies Certificate from FSU. Lodes graduated *summa cum laude* and completed an honors thesis through the undergraduate honors program. She became a double 'Nole and earned her J.D. from FSU Law in December. During her last semester of law school, Lodes participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Gender and Family Justice Clinic. As a certified legal intern, she assisted clients with criminal histories ranging from arrest to incarceration on family law and civil law matters. Lodes appeared at final hearings and as counsel at mediation on timesharing and child support issues. During the fall 2020 semester, Lodes also was a teaching assistant for the FSU Law Juris Master Program's Healthcare Fraud and Abuse course. During her 2L year, Lodes externed and then volunteered for the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida. There, she drafted legal memoranda for federal habeas petitions on ineffective assistance of counsel claims, fifth amendment rights and attorney-client privilege. Lodes spent her 1L summer and the fall of her 2L year clerking at Legal Services of North Florida, where she conducted intake interviews and drafted petitions for dissolution of marriage, parenting agreements and motions for temporary relief.

Lodes is a member of the FSU Law Moot Court Team and has competed in two national competitions—one in Washington, D.C. and one via Zoom. She was awarded Best Brief for FSU's 2019 Intramural Competition. Lodes also recently received a Certificate of Distinguished Pro Bono Service from FSU Law for completing more than 40 pro bono hours in law school. She plans to continue her community involvement as an attorney. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Lodes, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

*"I am a first-generation college student and now the first lawyer in my family, so dedication and tenacity are particular strengths of mine. I am incredibly grateful for my education and excited to begin my legal career. Wherever I end up, my main priority is to utilize mentorships to grow as an attorney and to give back to my community through pro bono work."*

- GET INVOLVED
- SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE
- SHARE MY TORCH MOMENT
- MAKE A GIFT

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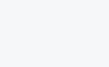
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