

From the Dean



2019 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program participants listen to program benefactor and alumnus Wayne Hogan ('72) at the Florida Capitol.

We are now accepting applications for our 2021 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program, which will take place virtually June 1–June 25. The award-winning program is the largest and oldest of its kind, and its primary goals are to acquaint students with the study of law and to assist them in acquiring skills that will benefit their undergraduate and future law school studies. This year's virtual program will be similar to our in-person program and will include daily classes taught by law school professors, sessions on law school admissions and programming on careers in the law. Our 2021 schedule includes virtual visits to the Florida Supreme Court, moot court oral arguments and guest speakers, including prominent attorneys and judges from a variety of practice areas. If you know rising sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in law school, please encourage them to [visit our website](#) to learn more and apply. The program has no application fee and is completely free. Additionally, the 60 students from around the nation selected to participate in the 2021 program each will receive a \$500 stipend upon program completion.

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Professor Morley Chairing AALS Election Law Section

FSU Law Professor [Michael T. Morley](#) was elected chair of the Section on Election Law of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) for 2021 at the AALS Annual Meeting, held virtually January 5–9, 2021. The AALS Section on Election Law encourages research, promotes teaching, facilitates discussion, and sponsors programs relating to election law, voting rights, campaign finance and related topics.



Morley joined FSU Law in 2018. He teaches and writes in the areas of election law, constitutional law, remedies and the federal courts. His research focuses on election emergencies, as well as the respective powers of state legislatures and Congress with regard to federal elections. Morley has been prominently featured as an expert in the news media this year regarding COVID-19's effects on elections, litigation impacting the presidential election and other election-related topics.

"Being chosen by my colleagues to chair the AALS Section on Election Law is a tremendous honor," Morley said. "Especially in a time where so much disinformation and distrust has permeated public discussions about elections, it's important to provide a venue in which scholars can come together to share their research and develop ways of reforming the electoral process to safeguard the fundamental right to vote, ensure widespread participation, protect the integrity of the process and bolster public confidence in the system."

Alum Profile: Tara R. Price ('12)

[Tara R. Price](#) is an associate at Holland & Knight in Tallahassee, where she is a member of the firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Appellate practice groups. Price concentrates in administrative, commercial and appellate law, with a focus on assisting public and private clients in navigating the intersection of litigation, regulation and politics. Her experience includes representing governmental clients, including the Florida Senate and Florida secretary of state, in high-profile matters. Price's appellate experience includes representing clients before state district courts of appeal, the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Prior to joining Holland & Knight in 2015, Price clerked for the Honorable Adalberto Jordan, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Honorable Robert L. Hinkle, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. She is engaged in Florida Bar and American Bar Association committees and is a fellow of The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy. Price also serves on the law school's Alumni Association Board of Directors.



"You can study the law anywhere, but only at FSU Law can you obtain a high-quality education, get the tools to successfully embark on your legal career, and experience the unique, genuine camaraderie among the students and faculty. I'm so thankful to have been able to begin my legal career at FSU Law and now, as an alumna, to give back to what is truly a special legal community."

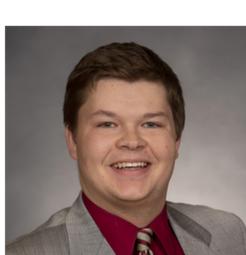
Student Profile: 3L Walker Smith, IV

Desired Practice Location: Prefers Orlando, but open to Washington, D.C. or Tallahassee for the right position

Specialty: Constitutional law

Expected Graduation: Spring 2021

Field of Law Sought: Government law



Walker Smith was raised in Gifford/Vero Beach, Florida, but he now claims Orlando as his home. He earned a degree in political science with a minor in writing and rhetoric from the University of Central Florida. He will graduate from FSU Law this spring. Currently, Smith works at Marie Mattox, P.A., where he heads the complaints department—interviewing clients, drafting their complaints and explaining the court process to them. He started as an unpaid intern drafting motions and discovery responses and was soon hired as a complaints drafter. A month later, he began heading the department and implementing new organizational software and policies to streamline the complaints drafting process. He has also been asked to participate in trials, hearings, mediations and depositions in high profile or labor-intensive cases, such as the Askew case against the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Zachary Wester drug planting case, the Bay County Hurricane Michael mold case and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity class action unemployment suit. Smith is also participating in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Gender and Family Justice Clinic this spring. During the spring semester of his 2L year, Smith externed for Judge Clay Roberts ('91) of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. Smith as the reviewer taught him the important distinctions of appellate work as he reviewed full records of cases on review, appellate briefs, motions and other pleadings, and drafted case summaries and an opinion for the judge. During his 1L year, Smith operated the Spanish Voter Assistance Hotline for the Leon County Supervisor of Elections, where he helped voters check the status of and cancel their Florida voter registration, and compiled records of felon files for voter disqualification (before and after passage of Amendment 4).

Smith is the founder and two-term president of the FSU Law student organization Lawyers Uniting to Communicate Knowledge (LUCK), a professional development organization preparing students for the practice of the law via three major components—short-term shadowing sessions with legal professionals, attending conferences and hosting legal professionals at the school. He is also a member of the Aviation and Space Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta and the Student Bar Association. Smith is a licensed Florida notary, a certified legal intern and a certified PADI Open Water Diver. He is also a TEFL certified English language teacher and spent a year in China teaching English to children. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Smith after graduation, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"My life goals are to be happy and to be remembered as having made the world a better place."

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