Alumni Profile: Hon. Thomas N. Palermo ('01)

The Honorable Thomas N. Palermo is a circuit court judge in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, where he presides over juvenile delinquency cases. Before ascending to the bench in May 2019, Palermo served as an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Florida, where he prosecuted cases involving both civil and criminal violations of federal law. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida, and the Florida Bar Foundation/State Bar of Florida “Lawyer of the Year.”

For Palermo, serving as a judge is a natural progression of his career, which has been dedicated to public service and justice. As a former assistant U.S. attorney, he was involved in a range of cases, from white collar fraud to terrorism. He is particularly proud of a case involving Michael Brown, a black teenager killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

# Alum Profile: Hon. Thomas N. Palermo ('01)

Student Profile: Nabeha Shaer

Nabeha Shaer is from Niceville, Florida. She is a second-year student at Florida State University College of Law. Shaer is the founder and vice president of the Muslim Law Student Association. She is also a member of the Advocates for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and serves as a legal intern at the Criminal Defense Law Clinic. Shaer has also served as a director and president of the FSU Muslim Student Association, and is a member of the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Shaer has also conducted research on issues of discrimination, particularly in the context of systemic racism and racial profiling in the killing of George Floyd.

# Student Profile: Nabeha Shaer

Be an Anti-Racist Advocate Panel

The Black Law Students Association hosted a panel discussion on being an anti-racist advocate. The panelists included Flor Diaz-Wayt, attorney at the Second Judicial Circuit Public Defender’s Office; Olayemi Olurin, staff attorney for The Legal Aid Society of NYC; Ayala and Kimberly Newberry, attorneys at the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida; Kimberly Newberry, research and writing director at Rand Law, L.L.C.; Alphascript International’s Chief Operating Officer, moderated the event.

# Be an Anti-Racist Advocate Panel

Exemplary Public Service Career Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Exemplary Public Service Career Award, which recognizes alumni who have dedicated their careers to public service and have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, leadership, and professional ethics. The award aims to honor public servants whose dedication to the profession may be measured by their commitment to public interest and the rule of law. Nominees should include the nominee’s name and an explanation of how they meet the criteria for the award. The award will be presented in November 2020.

# Exemplary Public Service Career Award Nominations

From the Dean

The Hon. Nancy M. Soderberg, Florida State University’s first female federal judge, has returned to private practice in Tallahassee, Florida, after serving as a federal judge in the Northern District of Florida since 2007. Soderberg was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in January 2007. She is currently the head of a trial practice representing business and individual clients in the areas of civil litigation, corporate law, and intellectual property.

# From the Dean

The FSU College of Law is proud to announce the 2021 Exemplary Public Service Career Award recipient. The award recognizes alumni who have dedicated their careers to public service and have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, leadership, and professional ethics. The award aims to honor public servants whose dedication to the profession may be measured by their commitment to public interest and the rule of law. Nominees should include the nominee’s name and an explanation of how they meet the criteria for the award. The award will be presented in November 2020.

# The FSU College of Law is proud to announce the 2021 Exemplary Public Service Career Award recipient. The award recognizes alumni who have dedicated their careers to public service and have demonstrated exceptional character, integrity, leadership, and professional ethics. The award aims to honor public servants whose dedication to the profession may be measured by their commitment to public interest and the rule of law. Nominees should include the nominee’s name and an explanation of how they meet the criteria for the award. The award will be presented in November 2020.