

From the Dean

Congratulations to Clinical Professor Carla Laroche, who was honored virtually yesterday with the 2020-21 University Teaching Award for Community Engaged Teaching! This is a new award at the university, and Carla is the sole inaugural recipient. The award honors faculty members who teach exemplary courses in which students engage with the broader community through service learning, community writing, public scholarship or similar. It also recognizes teaching excellence as multifaceted, involving areas such as providing a positive role model to students, imparting a respect for truth and a love of learning, challenging students' thinking and assumptions, showing respect for all persons, and innovative instructional techniques. Carla's teaching has positively impacted numerous students since she joined the law school in 2018. She and the students in her Gender and Family Justice Clinic and its related projects have also made a difference in the lives of many people in the larger community. Through the clinic, Carla supervises students as they represent clients who are currently and formerly incarcerated on family law matters. Carla has collaborated with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, Refuge House and the Legal Empowerment and Advocacy Hub to fill a gap in legal services offered in our area. Carla's students also conduct family law legal workshops for women in local jail and prison facilities. It is no surprise to anyone at the law school that Carla's teaching and work are being honored by the university.



Unfortunately for us and our students, Carla has accepted a position at Washington & Lee University School of Law and will be leaving us in May. We are excited for her as she takes the next step in her professional journey, but we will miss her very much. I hope you will join me in thanking [Carla](#) for her dedication to FSU Law students and in wishing her well!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Virtual Admitted Students Day and Other Admissions Innovations



Admitted students alumni panel on non-traditional law careers with (top row L-R), Dean Jennifer Kessinger, Rebecca Bandy ('05), David Grimes ('11), (middle row L-R) Glenda Thornton ('89), G.C. Murray II Esq. ('12), Abby Queale ('11), and (bottom row) Kenneth Pratt ('99)

For the second year, the College of Law was unable to host our traditional, in-person Admitted Students Day due to COVID-19 precautions. Still, our Admissions Office, led by Associate Dean for Admissions Jennifer Kessinger, utilized innovative approaches and hosted virtual preview events for admitted students over five weeks, from March 15–April 14. The virtual events were developed so admitted students could attain the necessary information and experiences to feel confident about joining FSU Law's vibrant and welcoming community.

The first three weeks of programming included a virtual tour and 18 sessions hosted by 30 different student organizations and extra-curriculars. This provided admitted students the opportunity to learn about these organizations, ask questions and engage with current law students. Professors Shi-Ling Hsu, Wayne Logan and Mary Ziegler provided mock classes as part of the virtual programming and each provided a law case for admitted students to read in advance of their participation. The final two weeks of programming included a faculty panel on the 1L experience, a session on "Taking Advantage of Career Preparation While in Law School," and separate panels on Student Advancement & Academic Programs, Clinical Programs, and Student Life. Alumni panels on both private sector law careers and non-traditional law careers were offered, as well as a session on public interest law careers. Students also had an opportunity to attend Zoom sessions with Dean O'Connor.

Additionally, the Admissions Office has been utilizing law student ambassadors in new ways during the pandemic. This academic year, the ambassadors participated virtually in various recruiting events, including student life panels, Latino Justice Law Day, law school fairs and Law School Admission Council digital forums. They created short videos encouraging students to apply, assisted with the creation of virtual 360-degree facility tours by the law school Technology Department, conducted professor interviews to provide content for social media, and hosted Zoom sessions for both prospective students and admitted students to discuss various topics. Student ambassadors also conducted live virtual tours with students via FaceTime and Zoom and continued the long-standing tradition of calling and congratulating admitted students personally.

Members of the law school's Alumni Association Board of Directors Recruitment Committee also rose to the challenge of connecting with students during the pandemic. Alumni on the committee collectively contacted more than 300 admitted students in the month leading up to the decision deadline.

Alum Profile: Kathryn Crandall ('11)

Kathryn "Katie" Crandall is associate director of the FSU College of Law Research Center. In this role, Crandall helps oversee law library operations and services. She works with all library departments to develop improvements in existing services and plan new programs, and also liaises with other departments across the College of Law and university. She also has taught a variety of law school courses, library workshops and law school guest lectures. Crandall has worked at the Research Center since shortly after earning her J.D. in 2011, when she also earned a master's degree in library and information science. Prior to her current position, Crandall served as assistant director for outreach and head of circulation. Crandall also is very involved in the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), and she won an AALL Poster Session Award in 2017 and AALL Excellence in Marketing Award in 2016. Crandall has contributed to her profession through articles on legal education, presentations at national and regional conferences, and various committee assignments. In 2016-2017, she chaired AALL's Research and Instruction Professional's Executive Board to chair the Conference for Newer Law Librarians. Crandall also was granted a Harvard University Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians certificate in 2018.



"The guidance and education I received while a student at FSU, especially with mentoring from Career Services and former Research Center Director Faye Jones led me to discover a passion for academia. The high-level courses, research assistant positions and internship training truly prepared me for my current position as a law librarian who daily shares legal research expertise with students and faculty. I have the privilege to now assist, guide and teach students to provide them with the same excellent law school experience that I received. I couldn't ask for a better career!"

Student Profile: 3L Rashad Simon

Desired Practice Location: Atlanta
Expected Graduation: Spring 2021
Specialization: Family law and criminal justice

Field of Law Sought: Would love to work in family law, but also open to criminal defense, civil rights or employment law

Rashad Simon is from Lauderhill, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Central Florida. He will graduate from FSU Law on Sunday. Currently, Simon clerks at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. He has been with the agency since February 2020, reviewing cases compiled by investigators, deciding whether to file an administrative complaint or close the case based on Florida statutes, and then drafting corresponding documents.



Simon participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Gender and Family Justice Clinic during his 1L summer. There, he and classmates developed and presented a workshop for women living in the Leon County Detention Facility and Gadsden Women's Prison. He also worked with clients who had family law issues such as divorce and timesharing. Simon was also a research assistant and teaching assistant for the Gender and Family Justice Clinic during his 2L summer, where he helped guide students in their work for the clinic and conducted research for clients and Professor Carla Laroche.

During law school, Simon was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Cuban American Bar Association. Simon also serves on the board of directors for the Big Bend A.F.T.E.R. Re-entry Coalition (BBARC), a local non-profit coalition that brings together diverse partners to address the needs of people released from jail and prisons. Simon is planning to move to Atlanta and take the Georgia bar exam this summer. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Simon, [visit his LinkedIn profile](#).

"I have a fierce passion for public interest work. Many of my most rewarding experiences have been working in public interest roles like my work with BBARC—working in re-entry with community stakeholders—and as a student advocate at the Gender and Family Justice Clinic."

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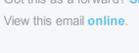
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