

From the Dean



Congratulations to our newest graduates, who we celebrated this past Sunday! It was wonderful to be able to confer degrees in person and to meet so many family members and friends during our ceremony and reception. We were also delighted to be able to celebrate members of the Class of 2020, who were invited to join this year's ceremony. The graduates received words of encouragement from FSU President John Thrasher (Dec. '72) and an inspiring message from featured speaker Dr. Jules Coleman, a retired professor and senior vice president emeritus of New York University who also taught for decades at Yale Law School. During the ceremony, we also recognized graduates Daynica Harley with our Raising the Bar Professionalism Award, and Genevieve Lemley, Sidney Van Elsberg, Nabeha Shaer and Katie Mesa ('20) with our Blaise N. Gamba Outstanding Pro Bono Award. In addition, Professor Christopher Busch ('11) was honored with our Open Door Faculty Award.

Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests celebrated on the James Harold Thompson Green. Due to COVID-19, the reception featured pre-scheduled stations where graduates were hooded with the D'Alemberte Rotunda in the background, took photos with their guests against an ivy backdrop, and could partake in a toast at a champagne fountain. As a special treat, hooders included Florida Supreme Court Justices Alan Lawson ('87), Carlos Muñiz and Ricky Polston ('87), and FSU Law Professors Rob Atkinson, Chris Busch, Jeff Kahn, David Landau, Wayne Logan, Mark Seidenfeld, Justin Sevier, Mark Spottswood, Nat Stern, Charlee Taylor and Manuel Utset. Many thanks to our Office of Student Advancement for planning and executing our graduation festivities. And congratulations, again, to our new alumni. We are looking forward to watching you thrive in your careers!

-Dean Erin O'Connor

Attorney General Moody Visits FSU Law



Attorney General Ashley Moody speaks with Board of Visitors members.

On Monday, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody visited the law school to speak with alumni serving on the FSU Law Board of Visitors. Moody discussed her career path and how she is using lessons learned in practice and on the bench to make Florida a stronger state; rewarding aspects of serving as the state's chief legal officer; some of the projects on which the Attorney General's Office is currently working—including advocating for legislation to better protect the state's seniors—and the unique partnership her office has with FSU Law.

"I will continue to be a partner," said Moody when discussing her wish to continue to collaborate with FSU Law and to hire student interns. "What we do now in developing young adults will make a lasting impact on the state of Florida." She also commented that she would like to build upon the existing partnership.

Moody's visit was part of periodic meetings of the Board of Visitors, which serves as the senior support organization for FSU Law. Members are comprised of alumni and close friends of the law school who serve as the dean's cabinet in an advisory capacity.

Alum Profile: Alicia J. Dixon ('10)

[Alicia J. Dixon](#) is the owner of The Dixon Law Firm in Boynton Beach, where she concentrates in family law. Before establishing her firm in 2017, Dixon was a public defender in both Broward and Hillsborough counties and an attorney at Morris Hardwick Schneider. During law school, Dixon worked in Rwanda alongside human rights attorneys and country leaders to improve the quality of life for victims of genocide and their children. Dixon is a member of the American Inn of Court, T.J. Reddick Bar Association and F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association. She is also secretary for the law school's newly established Black Alumni Network.



"Let your life be a blessing to others."

Student Profile: 2021 Grad Emmalyn Dalton

Desired Practice Location: Open to any area
Field of Law Sought: Criminal justice, juvenile justice, prison reform, children's advocacy



Originally from Boynton Beach, Florida, Emmalyn Dalton earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in business administration from the University of Florida. She graduated from FSU Law last weekend. Since December 2020, Dalton has interned with the FSU College of Social Work Institute for Family Violence Studies, where she worked with Professor Karen Oehme ('87) to create an online course for judges on the impact of intimate partner violence in relation to the court system. She researched and compiled information on compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and burnout to be used by college professors and administrators. Beginning her 1L summer and through the rest of law school, Dalton participated in the FSU Public Interest Law Center Children's Advocacy Clinic and became a student advocate for their Children in Prison Project. Dalton worked with young clients with special and diverse needs. She conducted legal research and wrote appellate briefs for incarcerated juveniles based on the Graham/Miller/Montgomery line of decisions out of the U.S. Supreme Court. She worked with state representatives in the hope of passing anti-solitary confinement bills in the Florida Legislature and created a documentary on the realities of solitary confinement for children. During her 2L summer, Dalton externed at the Florida First District Court of Appeal, where she prepared legal summaries, drafted opinions and compiled legal research on topics ranging from motions for judgment of acquittal to termination of parental rights actions. Prior to entering law school and during her 1L year, Dalton interned at Personal Injury of Florida, where she drafted motions, memos, complaints and other documents for personal injury clients, helped prepare for trial, took depositions, interviewed clients and compiled research on legal topics ranging from medical malpractice to actions for replevin.

During law school, Dalton was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Honor Society, the Student Bar Association, the Women's Law Symposium, the Association for Criminal Justice, and If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Rights. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Dalton, [visit her LinkedIn profile](#).

"Most of my time in law school has been dedicated to working with Professor Paolo Annino in his Children in Prison Project, and I hope to do similar work after I graduate. I am incredibly passionate about prison reform and advocating for children in the criminal justice system."

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