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From the Dean

The fall 2021 semester is well underway, and the law school is again buzzing with an energy that we missed for far too long. It is wonderful to see students and professors engaging in classrooms and to hear students excitedly discussing legal cases in the hallways. Although we are delighted to be able to offer students the in-person classes they desire, we also are still very much devoted to minimizing the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with university guidelines, masks are expected inside our facilities and we are encouraging everyone who is able to get vaccinated. We will continue to utilize Zoom whenever that is the best option for connecting, but with a return to in-person classes, we will also be hosting in-person events this semester, for both students and alumni. Our dynamic student organizations have already begun meeting on campus, and our Career Services and Student Advancement teams have a wide variety of in-person events scheduled this fall for students. In addition, our Alumni Affairs team is busy planning Homecoming and reunion events, which are scheduled for October 22-24, and which will be covered in much more detail in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. We are eager to reconnect with alumni and hope to see many of you this fall!



Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Sharpe Joins FSU Law

Alumna Karusha Y. Sharpe ('01) recently joined FSU College of Law as a legal writing professor and is teaching Legal Research and Writing I and II. Prior to joining the law school, Sharpe was an attorney at Greenberg Traurig, where she practiced general commercial litigation and primarily represented clients in matters involving product liability, lender liability, consumer financial services, and employment discrimination. While a law student at Florida State, Sharpe was a member of the Moot Court Team, serving as intramural chair, and chief justice of the Student Supreme Court. Sharpe is very engaged in the community—she is the founding director and lead volunteer of Hope Harvest Food Pantry in Havana, Florida.



Alum Profile: Nathan W. Hill ('11)

Nathan W. Hill is a shareholder in the Orlando office of Gunster, where he focuses on defending clients against government civil regulatory and criminal investigations. He is also a member of the firm's Professional Liability Defense Group and represents lawyers, accountants, and other professionals against claims for malpractice. Before joining Gunster, Hill served as an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Florida. He is active in the community and was recently appointed to the Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council as the representative of United Arts of Central Florida, which contracts with Orange County to manage available funding.



“I will always look back fondly upon my time at FSU Law, both for the lasting relationships I developed with my colleagues and for the excellent education that serves me well even now.”

Student Profile: 3L Kelly Kaladeen

Desired Practice Location: Tallahassee, Orlando, St. Petersburg, or Tampa

Expected Graduation: May 2022

Field of Law Sought: Public interest/civil rights law, legislation/public policy, or family law, but interested in other areas as well

Kelly Kaladeen is from Tampa, Florida, and she earned her bachelor's degree in criminology with double minors in anthropology and sociology from the University of Florida. She will graduate from FSU Law in May 2022. Since December of 2020, Kaladeen has worked as a legislative intern with the Florida Association of Health Plans, primarily during legislative session, working on tracking Florida bills and conducting summary effect analyses of bills to ensure legal compliance of commercial and Medicaid health insurance member plans. Previously in this role, she has conducted a comprehensive section-by-section analysis of various sections of the Consolidated Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan, and she recently briefed a regulatory rule of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, specifically implementing the No Surprises Act. In addition to this role, Kaladeen worked over the summer as a law clerk with the American Atheists Legal Center. There, she assisted with various litigation projects such as discovery requests, drafting preliminary injunctions, and filing complaints to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She also surveyed state and federal laws that are harmful to protected classes and wrote public testimony for various bills—both in support and in opposition. In addition, she drafted a public comment as part of the administrative rulemaking process to revise the Title X family planning program regulations. The summer before her 2L year, Kaladeen worked as a law clerk with the Pittman Law Group, where she created legal memos and final orders, observed court appearances via Zoom, and worked as a policy advisor. As part of her work there, she drafted a policy proposal titled “Grant Programs to address the Health Disparities in COVID-19 Patients within the Minority Community” for the Florida Conference of Black State Legislatures. Also during the summer before her 2L year, Kaladeen participated in FSU's Gender and Family Justice Clinic. There, she directly assisted a client with their time sharing/child custody case. This included conducting weekly checkups, producing in-depth case status memos, filing a Notice of Final Hearing, and preparing the client for the hearing. She also worked with the Refuge House to create an informational YouTube series about the injunction process in Florida and corresponded with women at the Gadsden Correctional Facility to inform them of their legal recourse in family law disputes.



At FSU Law, Kaladeen served as president of the Multicultural Law Students Association as a 2L, and she currently serves as their events coordinator. She also served as secretary of the Public Interest Law Students Association during her 2L year and is now a general member. In addition, she is a student ambassador for the Admissions Office. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Kaladeen after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#).

“I am incredibly thankful to FSU Law and former employers for pushing me to grow personally and professionally. The past two years have solidified my passion for advocacy and I am eager to put my skills to use in my future career. Whether I am working for a non-profit organization, a private firm, or the government, I will always be an effective, efficient, and valuable addition to my employer.”

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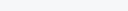
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