

Florida State University College of Law
Scholarship Repository

Alumni Newsletter & FSU Law Magazine

Archives & Special Collections

Spring 2016

Florida State Law Alumni Magazine (Spring 2016)

Florida State University College of Law Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.law.fsu.edu/newsletter-magazine>



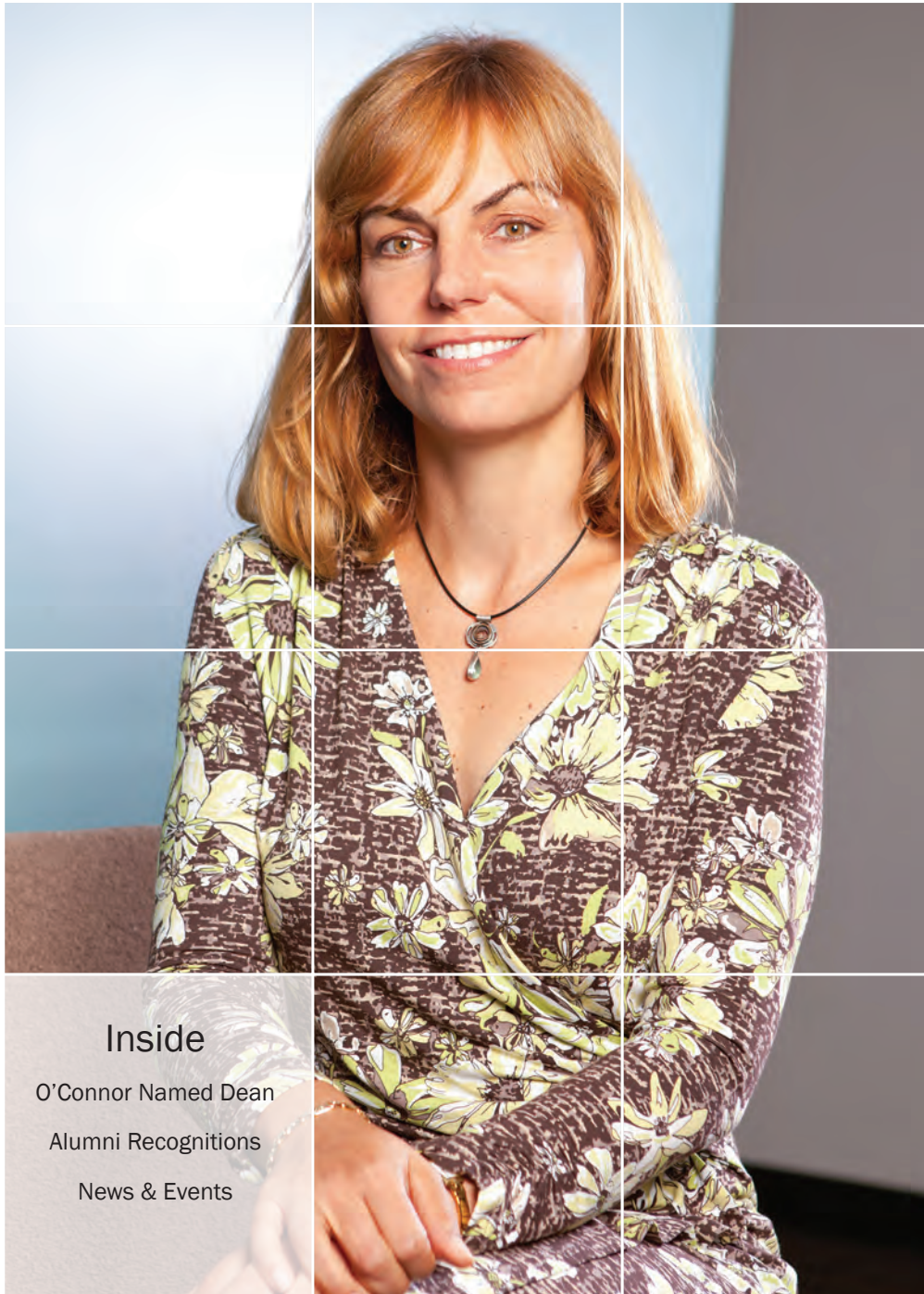
Part of the Law Commons

Recommended Citation

Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, Florida State University College of Law, "Florida State Law Alumni Magazine (Spring 2016)" (2016). *Alumni Newsletter & FSU Law Magazine*. 71.
<https://ir.law.fsu.edu/newsletter-magazine/71>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives & Special Collections at Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alumni Newsletter & FSU Law Magazine by an authorized administrator of Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact efarrell@law.fsu.edu.

FLORIDA STATE LAW



Inside

O'Connor Named Dean

Alumni Recognitions

News & Events

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2016

Ending a Great Year and Beginning a New Era with Dean O'Connor!



This has been a year of many outstanding student successes. Our successes in advocacy competitions and on the Job Placement front lead the way.

In terms of advocacy, this past year, our Mock Trial Team won first place in two national Mock Trial Competitions! In the process, our teams defeated teams from some of the nation's top schools. Similarly, this spring, two BLSA teams won the BLSA regional competitions both in Moot Court and in Mock Trial.

On the job placement front (the most important area from my point of view), we are the #1 law school in Florida in terms of the percentage of 2015 graduates employed 10 months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs (according to American Bar Association data made public in April). Those are a lot of qualifying words to narrow the focus to the jobs our students most want: full-time jobs for which a law degree is required or preferred. The 2015 graduates themselves deserve special congratulations and thanks! Each and every one of them had to seize his or her own opportunity. But thanks also go to all the alumni who brought job possibilities home to Florida State, and to Rosanna Catalano and Nathan Moon, for heading up an outstanding placement office.

On a very related note, over the years, our very wonderful alums Nancy Daniels and Willie Meggs have led their offices to do more than their share of hiring (and inspiring) our students and our graduates. Our thanks go to them for keeping the law school close to their hearts! More broadly, they deserve all our thanks for the wonderful service they have performed for our community over the many years of their dedicated and distinguished service. This issue tells just a piece of the stories

of their remarkable careers. I know that they retire with the respect, thanks and admiration of tens of thousands of people.

As of the end of June, I end my time as dean. I will be on a two-semester sabbatical and then will return to the faculty to teach. I could not transition out on a happier note—by passing the baton to our extraordinary new dean, Erin O'Hara O'Connor—she was everyone's first choice! She is a first-class scholar, a proven administrator and a wonderful person. Erin is currently the Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law and director of graduate studies for the Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics at Vanderbilt Law School. She will begin serving as our Dean in July. Erin has been teaching at Vanderbilt Law School since 2001. She is a noted scholar in several areas, including conflict of laws, arbitration and the law market. She served as associate dean for academic affairs for Vanderbilt Law School from 2008 to 2010. She has been active in law reform, serving as an advisor to the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law Third, Conflict of Laws. She received her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Georgetown, where she was a senior articles selection editor on the *Georgetown Law Journal*. Upon graduating from law school, Erin clerked for Chief Judge Dolores K. Sloviter, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She also has experience teaching at other law schools, including George Mason, Georgetown, and Northwestern. I am so looking forward to her arrival!

Special thanks go to the alums who served on the Search Committee, namely Mark Ellis, John Frost, Sean Pittman, Tom Spulak, Gene Stearns, Vicki Weber and Florida State's General Counsel Carolyn Egan.

It has been an honor to have served the school for 40 years, 15 as a faculty member and the last 25 as dean. I look forward to a sabbatical year and then to returning to my role as a full-time faculty member. Thank you all so very, very much for all your kindness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Weidner'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Don Weidner

Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor

CONTENTS

**DEAN AND ALUMNI
CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR**
Donald J. Weidner

**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
Manuel A. Utset, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS**
Nancy L. Benavides

**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
PLACEMENT**
Rosanna Catalano

**ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS**
Janeia Daniels Ingram

**ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
ADMINISTRATION**
Catherine J. Miller

**ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
Jeanne B. Curtin

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS
& ANNUAL FUND**
Becky B. Shepherd

**DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Christi N. Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHY
Bill Lax

WRITERS
Christi N. Morgan
Rachael Seitz
Katie Plaia

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Perry Albrigo,
Pomegranate Studio

Please send editorial contributions, including Class Action submissions and changes of name and address to Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, College of Law, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601, e-mail: rshepher@law.fsu.edu.

FEATURES

Alumni Focus

- 2 NANCY DANIELS: PASSIONATE PUBLIC SERVANT
- 4 WILLIE MEGGS: LEAVING A 50-YEAR LEGACY
- 6 ALBERTO DOMINGUEZ: AN INSPIRED LEADER
- 8 MATT REARDEN:
MAKING A SPLASH AT SEAWORLD

Faculty Focus

- 10 A Q&A WITH PROFESSOR ERIN RYAN
- 12 A Q&A WITH PROFESSOR STEVE JOHNSON

DEPARTMENTS

- 14 Noteworthy**
Dean O'Connor, Alumni Profiles, Philanthropy, Events
- 24 Class Action**
Alumni Notes
- 38 For the Record**
Faculty News and Notes
- 46 Around the Law School**
College of Law News

Nancy Daniels: Passionate Public Servant

By Christi N. Morgan



As a reporter for the *Jacksonville Journal* covering a high-profile death penalty case, Nancy Daniels was drawn to criminal law. Although she thought journalism would be her life-long profession, Daniels applied to law school after her editor remarked that Daniels had a strong aptitude for legal issues. While studying at the Florida State University College of Law, Daniels loved her classes in the area of criminal law and during her first legal job – clerking at the First District Court of Appeal – she gravitated to criminal cases.

Daniels’ passion for her practice area has fueled her service as public defender for the Second Judicial Circuit of Flor-

ida for 26 years. She was first elected to the office in 1990 and was re-elected for six additional terms. Daniels realized early in her first term that although she loved trying criminal cases and getting the “best possible result” for her clients, that could not be her first priority.

“When I first started, I labored under the misconception that I could do both substantial amounts of case work and the management of the office,” said Daniels, who served for six years as an assistant public defender in the same office she now runs. “I quickly learned that I couldn’t do both responsibly, so I focused on the administrative responsibilities.”

Although she is not often in the

courtroom defending clients, Daniels has been able to help her constituents by teaching other attorneys how to get the best results for their clients.

“I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to hire many very talented and hard-working lawyers over my 26 years and to work with colleagues that are absolutely top-notch, including a lot from Florida State.” In addition to employing graduates of the College of Law, multiple law students work at the Public Defender’s Office each semester through FSU’s externship program.

Daniels also has made a huge impact through programs she helped create that allow many people to obtain much needed treatment for a variety of issues. She was instrumental in the creation of juvenile drug courts, adult drug courts and a mental health court. Most recently, Daniels was part of a team that implemented a veterans’ court.

In addition, much of Daniels’ work for the past two-plus decades has revolved around legislative advocacy. From her downtown Tallahassee office, Daniels has a clear view of the Florida Capitol.

“I review all of the substantive bills that deal with criminal practice, and also bills dealing with mental health issues and juvenile issues,” said Daniels of her legislative work on behalf of the Florida Public Defender Association. She prepares background information on bills, testifies on legislation and attends countless legislative meetings.

Daniels will do some legislative work

“Daniels” continued from page 2

for the association in 2017, but the 2016 legislative session was Daniels’ last as public defender, as she will retire from office at the end of this year.

“I have aging parents that I don’t get to spend as much time with as I’d like to, and a desire to do some traveling and more recreational activities than I have time to do now,” said the 1977 College of Law graduate. “But I don’t intend to retire entirely from law and from legislative work. I intend to do some, what I call, ‘justice projects.’ One goal I definitely will try to satisfy is to work with the Innocence Project on trying to get an innocent person out of prison. That would be a wonderful life achievement. Another would be participating in the criminal justice reforms that are going on currently, such as elimination of some of the minimum mandatory sentences.”

Daniels also hopes to remedy an unresolved eyewitness reform issue that arose during her service on the Florida Innocence Commission. She would like to see the state require blind administration and sequential presentation when police departments show suspect photos to witnesses.

Playing tennis more frequently, “pittering” in her garden and traveling all over the globe also are on Daniels’ retirement agenda. In addition, she will have more time to devote to her two foster sons, 23-year-old Antonio and 18-year-old Aaron. Daniels began fostering the boys unexpectedly in 2009.

“That was quite a life changing experience and a real growth experience, too,” recalled Daniels. “I got to know the boys, who were visiting my neighborhood a lot, and would play ball

“It pains me deeply that so many people don’t have a good opinion of public defender lawyers – people in the general public as well as clients. Within the court system, we are well respected, but unfortunately, the media portrayal of public defenders has given us a very poor street credibility and it’s not only painful, it’s damaging because the average client starts with the assumption that they’re not getting a very good lawyer.”

with them and gradually got to see that they weren’t being taken care of and they were hungry. Little by little, I got more involved with them and learned that their parents were not taking proper care of them and eventually they were removed from the home by DCF. They asked if they could stay with us and we thought it would be a short time, but that was in ’09. The oldest is 23 now. He works and lives close to me and he is a very well-functioning young man and I am extremely proud of him. The other is progressing through high school and doing very well.”

Daniels also would like to continue teaching at the College of Law, where she has been an adjunct professor for more than 15 years. Daniels caught the teaching bug when she was a clinical faculty member at the law school for five years prior to her election as public defender.

“I worked in the criminal clinical program, which involved teaching students who were going to participate in a criminal externship and supervising them in their placements,” said Daniels, who has stayed in touch with many of her students over the years. “I got to travel all over the state and observe a lot of students’ first or second or third trials

and give constructive critiques on their performances and I loved that.”

During her time as public defender, Daniels has been honored to teach and work with hundreds of law students and lawyers. The entire time, Daniels has worked tirelessly to reverse perceptions about the hard-working attorneys who are public defenders.

“It pains me deeply that so many people don’t have a good opinion of public defender lawyers – people in the general public as well as clients. Within the court system, we are well respected, but unfortunately, the media portrayal of public defenders has given us a very poor street credibility and it’s not only painful, it’s damaging because the average client starts with the assumption that they’re not getting a very good lawyer. You see people who are indigent and they’re assigned a very capable public defender and you see them going to private lawyers because of this assumption that they are not going to get good representation. I don’t think people understand how many really talented and capable lawyers there are here, not only in this office, but across the state and nationally.” ■

Willie Meggs: Leaving a 50-Year Legacy

By Christi N. Morgan



When William N. “Willie” Meggs retires in December as state attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida, he will have spent more than 40 years prosecuting cases for the office. Meggs has been around courtrooms for even longer. He began his career in law enforcement, taking undergraduate classes at Florida State while working full time. After being promoted to detective and investigator, Meggs found himself testifying in court frequently.

“I was down at the courthouse regularly,” recalled Meggs. “We spent a lot of time with grand juries, we spent a lot of time testifying at trials and those sorts of things. And I was watching the

prosecutors, saying, ‘I could do that.’ But I had an impediment – I didn’t have a law degree.”

Meggs enrolled at the College of Law, painting parking lots to pay for classes. He interned at the State Attorney’s Office while a student and spent many hours researching in their library, which translated into a job offer a week before he graduated in 1976. Meggs still drinks coffee from a mug that belonged to former State Attorney Harry Morrison, who hired Meggs.

Other than a brief time after Meggs left the State Attorney’s Office in 1983 to campaign, that office is the only place Meggs has ever practiced law.

“I resigned and opened up a little

private practice, and I did pretty well. I operated out of my pickup truck and a local lawyer gave me a little space in the basement of his office where I could hang out. I was doing okay, but I was running,” said Meggs, whose first of eight terms as state attorney began in January 1985.

Meggs does not try many of the cases for which his office is responsible, but he is certainly involved in them. No one seeks the death penalty without consulting Meggs and he attends the vast majority of his office’s grand juries. Meggs spends much of his time talking to people about the cases against them.

“I’d like to tell you that I do all the big things like the murder cases, but I’m dealing with people beating up other people and stealing checks and the reason I do that is there is so much misunderstanding by people about the law and nobody ever takes the time to talk to them,” said Meggs, who has banned voicemail in his office and insists that every call be answered. “So I end up talking to people – defendants, their mamas, grandmamas, employers – and we try to figure out the right thing to do with their case. We hold them accountable, but we try to help them. I always answer my phone when it rings and I spend most of my day dealing with people with problems.”

Although Meggs has spent his career trying to get convictions for the state, he is proud that his office has helped many people.

“Meggs” continued from page 4

“There are tons of people that you can help and we do,” said Meggs. “I put a lot of people in a program called Teen Challenge because of their drug or alcohol problems. I honestly spend more of my time helping people and dealing with their cases in a responsible manner to keep from prosecuting somebody that doesn’t need to be prosecuted. I’ve tried to instill in our people that if you can help somebody, for goodness sake, help them.”

According to Meggs, the Teen Challenge program, which is actually for adults, has prompted many people who were battling with addiction to transform their lives.

Although Meggs has handled many complex and high-profile cases, one of his most cherished cases is one he took to help a homeless man.

“One of the cases I’m most proud of is a case that we lost; we ended up getting hung juries on the case and we eventually lost it,” recalled Meggs. “But, it was a case that nobody cared about. It was a homeless guy that got beat up and robbed and he had no family. He had nobody going to bat for him. Nobody would have said anything had we dropped it. We could have dropped it after we hung the first time, the second time and third time. We finally lost it on the fourth time, but we tried it because it was the right thing to do. I’m pleased that we kept going. It was a low profile case, versus a high profile case, but it got the same attention from our office.”

Every decision Meggs makes stems from wanting to do the right thing. He has spent numerous hours training young lawyers on ethical issues, encouraging them to treat everyone



**Meggs and wife
Judy surrounded by
their children and
grandchildren**

equally and with respect. Many of those lawyers have been FSU graduates, as Meggs hires from the College of Law regularly. Meggs is proud that many FSU law students gain valuable work experience in his office, just like he did as an intern more than four decades ago. Meggs still remembers vividly his first jury trial, which was during the first week of his internship.

As he reflects on his law career, Meggs knows now is the right time for him to retire.

“I’m 73 years old and in April I started my 50th year of being in law enforcement and that’s a pretty long time to be in this business,” said Meggs. “I’m here every day and I plan to be here every day until this term is up. I work very hard and I enjoy every day. I enjoy the people I work with; I think we’re making a difference. But, I think you need to know when it’s time to quit and I just think it’s time.”

When he leaves, Meggs will have more time to “fool” with his horses. He’s been around the animals for 50 years and serves as a foster parent for abused horses.

“I like to ride and most of the things that are wrong with me today are because of horses – I limp and had broken ribs,” joked Meggs, who currently has four horses. “Mostly that was my fault.”

He also looks forward to spending more time with family. Meggs and his wife of 49 years, Judy, have three children and five grandchildren who live in Tallahassee and visit almost every weekend for Sunday dinners. His oldest daughter, Trisha, is a lawyer at the Attorney General’s Office, his son, Wiley, is a deputy sheriff sergeant, and his youngest daughter, Neeley, is a deputy sheriff. His grandchildren range in age from 5 to 15 and can often be found riding horses at Meggs’ house, which is on 60 acres and includes a barn.

“I really like land and I’ve got tractors and backhoes,” said Meggs, who admits he would have liked to have been a farmer, so retirement will be his chance to somewhat live that lifestyle. “Mowing my pasture and operating my tractor is my therapy. I’m at peace with the world when I’m on my tractor.” ■

Alberto Dominguez: An Inspired Leader

By Christi N. Morgan



people money so they can live better.”

Dominguez, who moved to Miami from Puerto Rico at the age of 6, loves his job. Two years after joining Walmart he transitioned to the merchandising side of the business in 2008. Since then, he has worked with teams of buyers to purchase products for U.S. stores, to determine which stores stock which products and to negotiate with large companies that want to sell their products at Walmart.

“The best part of my job is getting to lead people and to develop their talents,” said Dominguez about the leadership component of his job. “I’ve often said that the most important part of my job is to develop people and help them achieve what they want to professionally. That’s really become the heart and soul of what I try to do every day. The hardest transition I ever made was when I went from being an individual contributor – the guy that showed up early, worked late, worked hardest – to the day that I had to get the same results through people.”

An appreciation for the leaders he has worked under molded Dominguez’s leadership style.

“I’ve never followed a job, I’ve always followed a boss or followed a leader,” remarked Dominguez. “I’ve had the unbelievable luck of working for some really terrific people – who have stretched me, who have given me responsibility when I wasn’t ready, who have challenged me beyond what I was capable of, who have trusted me to make mistakes and who have poured them-

There is a good chance that some of the items in your home during the past decade were there because of Alberto Dominguez. Since joining Walmart in 2006, Dominguez has been responsible for a wide range of products, from snacks to prescription drugs to household cleaning items.

“When I was in the consumables area, at one point I had the responsibility to buy more toilet paper than anyone else on the planet,” joked Dominguez.

Now as a senior VP, general merchandise manager for the #1 ranked Fortune Global 500 company, Dominguez is responsible for every adult beverage product that ends up on the shelves of Walmart stores across the

United States and in Puerto Rico.

“I am responsible for beer, wine and spirits, which has forced me to leverage a lot of my legal and regulatory background because that business is fraught with local, state, and federal regulations and compliance issues that we have to deal with on a day to day basis,” said Dominguez. The 1997 College of Law alum monitors the wide variety of rules in each jurisdiction and also works with Walmart’s governmental affairs team to ensure that the company can sell adult beverage products as seamlessly as possible.

Trying to reduce costs for customers is central to everything that Dominguez does. “Our core mission in life is to save

“Dominguez,” continued from page 6

selves into my personal and professional development. The secret to my success has been working for really great people. As a result, I try to be that kind of boss.”

Dominguez’s accomplishments at Walmart are numerous, but one of his first is especially meaningful to him. He was initially recruited by Walmart to manage the contracts between the company’s pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers, health insurance providers and Medicaid. In that role, Dominguez was part of the team responsible for Walmart’s \$4 prescription initiative.

“We took a set of drugs and we only charged customers \$4 for a 30-day supply of those,” said Dominguez. “I remember prior to us launching that, the national dialogue was about senior citizens going to Canada to get their prescription drugs and husbands and wives only having the ability to afford one set of prescriptions, so cutting pills in half and each taking half doses was very common.

“I remember when we launched the program in September 2006, people literally walking up to us and weeping and telling us that this was the first time in a decade that they could afford buying their medication. The most beautiful thing about it was that all of our competitors followed us and, all of a sudden, we actually lowered the cost of healthcare for people in the entire country and we saved state governments millions of dollars in Medicaid reimbursements.”

Before achieving success in the cor-

porate world, Dominguez advanced quickly in the government sector. An externship during the summer after his 2L year turned out to be life-changing.

“When I was in law school, I had the good fortune of participating in an externship with the local state attorney’s office,” said Dominguez. “I absolutely fell in love with trying criminal cases. It was the moment in my legal career



Alberto Dominguez with his family, (L-R) Reese, Harper, Sally and Brian

where I knew what I wanted to do.”

At the end of his externship, Dominguez was offered a full-time position at the office and served as an assistant state attorney for two years after graduating. Dominguez tried hundreds of cases and was promoted to serve as chief prosecutor for Wakulla County after less than a year.

Because of his legal experience, Dominguez was recruited to work on criminal justice policy for then-Governor Jeb Bush’s administration

in 2000. He also directed the Florida Department of Corrections’ Offices of Government & Media Affairs and Legislative Affairs, and was general counsel for the Florida Department of Management Services. He holds the distinction of being one of the youngest attorneys appointed general counsel of a Florida state agency.

In 2005, Dominguez decided it was time for a change and moved to Texas to negotiate franchises overseas for Brinker International. Since joining Walmart in 2006, Dominguez has lived in Bentonville, Arkansas.

“Here, life sort of revolves around Walmart and a couple other companies that are headquartered here. It’s very much like Tallahassee – very green, very lush, rolling hills. It’s a very safe place. It’s a great place to raise kids. Life is terrific here.”

Dominguez and his wife Sally, who have been married since 2011, met in Arkansas and are raising three children there: 12-year-old Brian, 9-year-old Reese and 3-year-old Harper.

“The world revolves around them,” said Dominguez. “Personally, my only goal in life is to raise kids that will be productive members of society who pursue their dreams and contribute to their communities.”

The Dominguezes love to travel and believe in giving their children experiences over gifts, so their trips often are tied to the kids. Last year, they took basketball-loving Brian to Los Angeles for a Lakers game and Reese to Boston

continued on page 35

Matt Rearden: Making a Splash at SeaWorld

By Christi N. Morgan



Because he took an in-house position immediately after graduating from the College of Law in 2001, Matt Rearden has never billed an hour. Although he was president of the law school's Mock Trial Team, his undergraduate finance degree translated well into a corporate practice. The Daytona Beach native worked at International Speedway Corporation (ISC) in his hometown from 2001 until 2010, when he joined the legal team at SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment in Orlando. The company owns and operates 12 theme and water parks across the U.S., including SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Discovery Cove and Aquatica, which host over 23 million guests annually.

"In 2010, I got a phone call from a

gentleman who I had been negotiating a lot of deals against for many, many years," recalled Rearden. "He had recently taken a position as general counsel at SeaWorld and he called me and said, 'We've got a few seats available, I'm building a legal department. I want to see if you are interested.' He told me later, 'I knew you were a good lawyer, that you protected your client and your goal was to always get the deal done. For those reasons, I wanted you on my team.'"

For Rearden, the opportunity to join SeaWorld just after it had been acquired by private equity firm Blackstone was too much to decline. "We had a company that had over 50 years of history, of really successful operations, of great family memories, but we kind of felt

like a startup because we were a new company. Before, all of the corporate functions were run out of the Anheuser-Busch offices in St. Louis. Being able to join a company that had some established procedures and protocols, but also had an entrepreneurial mentality was a really fun challenge for me."

Since joining SeaWorld, Rearden has served as associate general counsel, as vice president of business affairs and currently as senior business development officer. He is especially proud of the fact that he was a part of the team that helped take SeaWorld public in April 2013.

In his current role, Rearden manages a new team that oversees three major areas within the company: 1) domestic and international development projects, 2) strategic planning, and 3) strategic alliances, which develops and works with SeaWorld's strategic partners – including Coca-Cola, Panasonic and American Express – to provide great guest experiences and beneficial exposure for the brands.

Rearden values his team highly and tries to make work fun for them, even when they are mired in negotiating a deal. "I try to pour into my team as much as I can because I've been really fortunate to have the career that I've had and to get some really amazing opportunities. If I can give back to my team and help make each person successful, that is my greatest reward."

Whether he is in his office working

“Rearden,” continued from page 8

on deals or traveling to scout new opportunities, Rearden always remembers why he spends so many hours on the job. “I have a fun job. We do roller coasters, we do animals and we do amazing experiences that matter. We get to provide these great experiences for families. For me, that’s what it is all about.”

Rearden stressed that SeaWorld is more than a theme park.

“At our heart, we are a conservation company. We focus a lot of our time and energy on saving species and saving animals. We have dedicated professionals that spend all of their efforts on helping animals in the wild and to date, we’ve rescued over 28,000 animals. In Florida, we spend a lot of time with manatees, sea turtles and birds. In California, we have a lot of sea lions and seals that we help. I was at the park the other day and saw some of our team literally working around the clock with a manatee that had gone into shock. It is amazing to see this great work and know that I play a very small part in such an important aspect of our mission. We are fortunate to be able to rescue, rehab and return animals to the wild. The good that we provide makes us all smile every day. We all have a sense of accomplishment with what our organization has been able to do for rescue animals, for animal science and for animal conservation. As a zoological facility, we’re able to share the joys and the wonder of animals with all of our park guests.”

Rearden tries to not take for granted that his work is “cool.” In addition to the exciting things he has done at SeaWorld, such as working on the company’s entertainment initiatives

and managing the intellectual property portfolio, Rearden also had some special accomplishments at ISC and NASCAR. Among them were developing the International Motorsports Center in Daytona Beach, helping acquire the Martinsville Speedway in Virginia,



The Rearden family

and some large, high-profile sponsorship deals.

“I’ve been a part of some really cool sponsorship deals,” said Rearden, who gravitated to marketing and sponsorship work early in his career. “I was able to work on a once-in-a-lifetime deal twice – when I was at the Speedway, I was part of the team that took a company that had been with Pepsi for a very long time over to Coca-Cola. It was a massive undertaking. Very shortly after I got to SeaWorld, we did a similar deal with Coca-Cola. And now I am fortunate to lead the team that manages the relationship I helped negotiate.”

Rearden’s three kids – 11-year-old Mackenzie, 9-year-old Ava and 5-year-old Austin – also think their dad’s job is cool. “They love that dad works at a theme park and can take them all kinds of places that most other kids don’t get to see.”

In addition to his three children with his wife, Amanda, the Rearden’s also have a foster child, 23-year-old Amber. “Our family was really fortunate to be able to help a young lady who became a part of our family through foster care. She’s been with our family about seven years. She was going to age out of the system, so she lived with us for a couple of years and then went on to college. She is a great girl who needed a lot of love and a little bit of direction.”

Rearden and Amanda have been married since 2002, but have known each other their entire lives. They grew up as neighbors on the same street, but did not start dating until after Rearden graduated from Oral Roberts University in 1997. Whenever Rearden isn’t at work, he is most likely spending time with Amanda, who is a full-time mom, and their kids.

“We like to travel a little bit – everybody enjoys seeing new things and new sites – and fortunately my job allows us to do that. We’re really involved with our church and with the kids’ school. We just like being together as a family. It doesn’t really matter what we’re doing as long as all of us are together. I don’t spend a lot of ‘me’ time, most of my time is spent with Amanda and our kids while they are still young. I can buy a motorcycle and play golf when they are gone, but these are the times that we cherish.” ■

A Q&A with Professor Erin Ryan



Elizabeth C. & Clyde
W. Atkinson Professor
Erin Ryan

Q: What made you decide to become a law professor?

A: Well, it wasn't something that I ever planned to do, and it followed a series of great adventures in fields other than law—but it all came together in the end!

After college, I worked briefly in the fields of race relations and family homelessness before returning to academia to study ethnomusicology and world music. I finished my masters and was starting the Ph.D. when I had a crisis of conscience: I loved studying music all day, but at times, it felt self-indulgent. I believe that intercultural understanding betters the world, but I also felt the weight of pressing societal problems – like race relations and family homelessness – that I wanted to be doing more to help solve. (Also, there is really only one job for someone with a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology – professor – and back then, that just seemed ridiculous!)

So I deferred the Ph.D. program to think things through, and moved to New York to perform professionally. It was fun for a few years, but the pollution and concrete jungle of Hell's Kitchen made me sad. On a whim, I took a short-term gig in the Sierra Nevada, just east of Yosemite National Park. I fell so in love with the area that I took a job as a

ranger at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. I happily traded playing in smoky Manhattan clubs for playing around smoky mountain campfires.

My forest service work was cathartic, but also fascinating. Luck had landed me at a site of significant environmental and water law precedent—the seminal Mono Lake public trust doctrine case—and part of my job was to interpret the case for the public. I became so interested in the issues that I eventually applied to law school to study water law and natural resource management. My experiences at Mono Lake, especially involving the complexities of interjurisdictional environmental governance, would deeply inform my later research. Later, while clerking on the Ninth Circuit, I was put on an important environmental federalism case about the constitutionality of Clean Water Act regulations, further seeding my research agenda.

At the time, I wasn't planning on going into academia; I just wanted to help solve the environmental governance problems that I saw from the ground up as a ranger. And I wanted to bring ground-level experience to the policy-making realm, where it wasn't always represented. But while practicing environmental and land use law in San Francisco, I was invited to teach Negotiation at U.C. Hastings—the last step of my unlikely path toward an academic legal career.

And I can't imagine a better professional destination! Now I teach Natural Resources Law, Water Law, Property

Law, and Negotiation, and my scholarship bridges these areas and others in constitutional and international law. I draw from almost every element of my previous adventures in my work today. Without them, I think I'd be a very different—and much less interesting—academic.

Q: Why did you want to join the law faculty at Florida State?

A: I love FSU! Florida State is such a dynamic, scholarly environment. The faculty is a scholarly powerhouse, and they are all such nice and interesting people. It's exciting to be at a large research university with so much going on in all disciplines. Under Don's leadership, FSU has emerged as an exceptional academic environment, and I wanted to be part of that.

Q: Your expertise in the area of negotiation began while you were a law student in the Harvard Program on Negotiation. Can you tell readers about the Negotiation course you teach at the College of Law?

A: It's an intensive workshop about both the theory and practice of interest-based bargaining. We study the different stages of negotiation, the skill-sets demanded by different moments in a negotiation, and how to navigate cross-currents of leverage, power, emotion, and ethics. The course also builds useful skills for managing the relationships lawyers create with their clients and partners, and in other professional and personal settings. Lawyers draw on

“Ryan,” continued from page 10

negotiation skills not only to craft settlement agreements, but in the overall craft of productively managing conflict (and hopefully, helping clients avoid them in the first place). I’ve taught the course for thirteen years now, and students routinely describe it as a life changing experience.

Q: Describe your current scholarship.

A: I work in a number of independent fields, and in some places they overlap in interesting ways. My primary areas of expertise involve constitutional federalism, negotiated governance and intergovernmental bargaining, and multilevel environmental governance. I also do broader work in environmental and natural resources law, property law, and land use law. And lately, I am also doing interesting work in Chinese environmental law, inspired by my undergraduate degree in Chinese and the year I spent in China as a Fulbright Scholar in 2011–2012.

Q: Tell me more about teaching in China as a Fulbright Scholar.

A: It was an incredible experience, and in my role as a cultural ambassador, a deeply moving one. Thanks to my undergraduate work in Chinese language and culture and my graduate work in ethnomusicology, I already understood law as a cultural text—but my year in China immeasurably deepened that perspective. Experiencing the different roles of law, expectations of governance, and how law actually works in the U.S. and China was enormously powerful.

I taught at Ocean University in Qingdao and guest lectured at two dozen others around Asia. But as much as I learned in the classroom, the experience

of daily life in China was just as educational, especially because I was there with my family. I brought my husband, our 3-year-old son, and my 73-year-old mother with me, so we lived a lot like an ordinary Chinese family—with three generations and an only child! Western academics often have glamorous experiences visiting China, and we had some as well, but most of our year there was about ordinary, real life.

We had to contend with education, healthcare, transportation, grocery shopping, dental care, and all of the other things that normal families do. We struggled with air pollution, learned to boil our water, got to know the fruit vendors, and played with neighborhood children. We befriended local families and celebrated local holidays. To this day, this experience of daily family life in China informs my academic perspective more profoundly than any book research.

Q: Can you tell readers more about your family?

A: We are all settling nicely into Tallahassee. My husband, Ed Zilavy, is transitioning from directing IT at the Oregon Education Association to whatever opportunities await here in Florida. Our son, Dylan, now in second grade, is loving math and science at Hawks Rise—and every second I am not at work is one I am trying to spend with him. This is part of what drew us to FSU: to be part of a community where I could be both an excellent scholar and also an excellent parent. We are enjoying family culture in Tallahassee, and hiking every possible trail in the area, our favorite hobby. We like to explore as much as

we can—and to sing whenever possible!

Q: Can you tell readers more about your musical pursuits?

A: I played professionally from my teenage years all the way until I became an academic. I played piano, recorder, clarinet, and oboe as a child, and then all else faded after I picked up a guitar at age 14. In college, I started singing professionally in a multicultural women’s gospel septet. In graduate school, I started playing Afro-Caribbean percussion and taught voice lessons. I played steel drums with a large Carnival steel band in Trinidad and with a small “panside” in the U.S., playing at venues ranging from weddings to Lincoln Center, and even opening for Queen Latifah. All the while, I was a singer-songwriter with my own band, which toured the East Coast and recorded several albums of material. While performing music in New York, I also worked as a commercial actor, including extra work in *Law & Order*. (Which is especially funny now, as it seemed like a job that required tremendous acting skill at the time.)

Q: Is there anything else you would like readers to know?

A: I’m delighted to be part of the FSU community, and so appreciative of how warmly we’ve been welcomed. I have loved my students and colleagues, and I’m especially enjoying the environmental program. I want FSU to have a strong environmental program that attracts terrific students, because Florida—with its clean air and water, bountiful coastlines and forests, and vibrant developing communities—will always need smart environmental leadership. ■

A Q&A with Professor Steve Johnson



Dunbar Family
Professor Steve
Johnson

Q: What made you decide to become a law professor after practicing at a law firm in New York City, at the IRS, and at the Department of Justice?

A: I knew from the time that I was a law student that I wanted to teach. When I chose to specialize in tax, I realized that was postponing my entry into teaching. Different areas of law require different degrees of knowledge and experience in order to teach confidently. Tax is so vast that I knew it would take longer for me to get to the point where I felt ready to teach. I also enjoyed practice a lot. So, I stayed in practice longer (14 years) than would have been necessary just to acquire adequate experience.

Q: Why did you choose tax as your area of expertise?

A: What teaches one more about one's society than studying its tax laws? First, each piece of tax legislation is an act of class warfare or at least competition. So, how much each group and each activity winds up paying in taxes is a scorecard to who is doing best in manipulating the levels of government.

Second, taxes aren't just for revenue raising any longer. They also are used to encourage virtually everything the government wants to encourage. The earned income tax credit is one of

the federal government's biggest anti-poverty programs. The IRS has major responsibilities in administering the Affordable Care Act, and major parts of the country's economic, education, housing, transportation and family policies – to name a few – are set out in the tax code.

Third, taxes are used to discourage disfavored activities, either by interest in or effect. A study recently published in a medical journal, for example, linked a 25% drop in gonorrhea cases to a 50% increase in one state's sales tax on alcohol. (The suggested case was that higher taxes reduced consumption of alcohol which reduced risky behavior, including risky sexual behavior.) Given our society's increasingly causal attitudes towards "facts," the wise are suspicious of all statistics. Nonetheless, using taxes to combat "sin" has a long pedigree.

The Supreme Court long ago acknowledged that no other area of law touches more people at more places than the tax laws. Ruskin remarked that one understands a society through the book of its deeds, the book of its words, and the book of its art. Were he writing today, he would have to add "the book of its tax law."

Q: Can you tell readers about your scholarship?

A: Tax is a continent so immense that no one can explore, much less colonize, all of it. Specialization is necessary if one is to be nationally recognized as producing important scholarship.

Most of my research is in tax pro-

cedure, which involves the intersection of tax, administrative, constitutional and civil procedure law. This is a propitious time to work in this field. A major dynamic in current tax administration is the long-resisted but now irresistible penetration of general administrative law principles and rules into tax quasi-legislation (such as Treasury's promulgation of tax regulations) and tax quasi-adjudication (determinations made by the IRS in particular cases). This wave has been intensifying for over a decade, and it has not yet crested. Tsunamis are as thrilling as they are terrible. It is exhilarating to ride this profound and powerful force reshaping tax procedure. It is gratifying that my scholarship has been found to be useful by policy makers, administrators, judges and practicing tax professionals.

Q: Can you talk about your extensive continuing legal education activities and why being involved is important to you?

A: I have spoken at professional and academic conferences over a hundred times and in most states. I am always eager to do so. I deeply respect and admire skilled lawyers and enjoy being in their company. I subscribe to most of the particulars in Harrison Tweed's famous encomium about lawyers.

From a purely utilitarian perspective, tax academics and tax lawyers and accountants need one another. Each group has comparative advantages that give them useful perspectives. The well qualified academic usually can set particular issues in a broader, richer context and

“Johnson,” continued from page 12

can pursue research and devote thought to matters unfettered by client demands for instant answers or shoestring budgets. The well-connected practitioner sometimes senses first how enforcement priorities may be evolving and experiences first-hand how rules announced in Washington, D.C. are actually being applied (or ignored or contorted) “on the ground.” One also cannot deny that the competitive juices unleashed by handling real cases sometimes lubricate the machinery of creativity.

Ultimately, we all are like the blind men in the Sufi parable, each touching only part of the elephant. When academics and practitioners pool their insights, all benefit.

Q: You often invite practitioners into your classes – can you tell readers why you do that?

A: My students benefit in many ways. First, when students hear the same messages from me and from well-regarded attorneys, valuable lessons are reinforced. On rare occasions, my guests and I differ on some particulars. That’s good too. It underlines for students the difficulty of the matters with which they will grapple, and the opportunity – indeed necessity – for them to pick their own path through dark and tangled forests.

Second, lawyers tend to be interesting people. They came to the law through different routes and from different roots. They’ve forged their practices in distinctive ways. They are driven by different things. It’s important for students to know that entering practice does not mean surrendering individuality.

Third, successful lawyers mirror two traits I continually emphasize to my students: judgment and client centeredness. Judgement: part of thinking like a lawyer is spotting all the issues. But another crucial part is being able to prioritize them based on reality. What clever ideas just won’t fly with risk averse or conscious clients? Which arguments will just never be bought by judges and juries. Client centeredness: “It’s not about you. It’s about the client.” Cultivating a genuine spirit of service is the road to enduring success. Within broad limits set by law and ethics, the goal is to help clients achieve their goals (and sometimes to help them define their goals). The poor lawyer says, “no.” The good lawyer says, “that way probably won’t work, but here’s another way that will.” Some of the best visits involve lawyers who bring with them one of their clients. Seeing how the two sides understand their relationship helps students get out of themselves and empathize with those whom they will serve.

Q: What should readers know about our business law program?

A: Friends of FSU Law can take pride in our business law program, and prospective students interested in the field would do well to consider FSU Law. We have a first-class faculty in the area, and we’ve dramatically expanded our curriculum in the area – including both doctrinal and skills courses – in recent years. Expanded business externship placements, creation of a transactional business clinic, establishment of a Business Law Certificate for J.D. students and imminent inauguration of a mas-

ter’s (LL.M.) business law program are among our exciting recent steps.

This good seed is being planted in fertile soil. Entrepreneurship is an area of emphasis throughout this university. And FSU Law is attracting numerous students, interested in and knowledgeable about business. Talking with my students in class and outside of class, I’ve been struck by the businesses our students already have started or intend to start and by the sophistication many of them already possess. They have entrepreneurial instincts that were rare or non-existent among my classmates when I was a student and among students I’ve taught at other schools.

Q: In addition to teaching traditional tax courses, you teach a unique Business Planning Course. Can you tell readers about it?

A: Our Business Planning course exposes students to the panoply of formation, operation, and exit issues encountered by lawyers having medium-sized and small business clients. These include choice-of-entity, capital structure, owner agreement, employment agreement, insurance, anti-trust, securities, liability, asset protection, succession and of course, tax issues.

I also teach an In-House Counsel course. Both Business Planning and In-House Counsel emphasize the close connections between legal and business considerations, and in both courses grades are based principally on students’ performance on assignments simulating documents typically prepared by lawyers in the practice.

Relatively few law schools have a
continued on page 35

O'Connor Named New Dean of FSU College of Law

Erin O'Hara O'Connor



The College of Law is excited to welcome Erin O'Hara O'Connor as the school's new dean, effective July 2016. O'Connor is coming to Florida State from Vanderbilt Law School, where she serves as the Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law and director of graduate studies for the Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics.

O'Connor, who will be the College of Law's eighth dean, was one of three finalists who were invited on campus to interview for the position. The candidates were selected from a pool of applicants by a search committee comprised of FSU law alumni and faculty, as well as staff and student representatives. While the candidates were on campus, students, faculty, staff and alums had the opportunity to attend meetings and forums with each candidate and were invited to share their thoughts with the search committee. During her forums, O'Connor solicited input from law school stakeholders and also shared ideas for propelling the College of Law to the next level.

"FSU's law school has incredibly strong fundamentals, including a top 25 law school faculty, an energetic, national award-winning student body, a hard-working and creative staff, and one of the nation's most dedicated and generous alumni communities," said O'Connor. "I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to help lead this impressive institution."

O'Connor has been teaching at Vanderbilt Law School since 2001. She is a noted scholar in several areas, including conflict of laws, arbitration and the law market. O'Connor served as associate dean for academic affairs for Vanderbilt Law School from 2008 to 2010. She is an advisor to the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law Third, Conflict of Laws. She received her juris doctor, magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a senior articles selection editor on the *Georgetown Law Journal*. Upon graduating from law school and before entering teaching, O'Connor clerked for Chief Judge Dolores K. Sloviter, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She has taught at other law schools, including George Mason University, Georgetown University, Northwestern University, Clemson University and University of Chicago Law School. She served as a Scholar in Residence at the FSU College of Law in June 2008.

"We are all thrilled that Erin will be our next dean," said Dean Donald J. Weidner. "She is a first-class scholar, a proven administrator and a wonderful person."

A more in-depth article about O'Connor and her deanship will be published in the Fall 2016 issue of *Florida State Law*.

The Honorable Patricia Barksdale Visits College of Law



**The Honorable
Patricia Barksdale**

On Thursday, February 18, United States Magistrate Judge Patricia Barksdale, of the Middle District of Florida, visited the College of Law. During her visit, she engaged with law students during a Q&A session regarding her career experiences. Judge Barksdale also visited Professor Steve Johnson's In-House Counsel class, met with faculty members on the Judicial Clerkship Committee

and met individually with students.

Judge Barksdale was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge in 2013. She received her J.D. from the University of Florida, where she was a senior research editor for the *Florida Law Review* and received the Joseph J. Gersten Key Award for Outstanding Law School Achievements. Judge Barksdale currently serves as president-elect of the Chester Bedell American Inn of Court. Her legal experience includes clerking for judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, practicing at McGuire Woods, working as in-house counsel for CSX Transportation, and serving as an assistant U.S. attorney.

While on campus, Judge Barksdale encouraged students to be open to different professional opportunities. She candidly discussed her reasons for making career moves and said, "Whatever life brings you, be open to that and be open to adjustments along the way. You never know where life is going to lead you."

When asked what she looks for in a law clerk, Judge Barksdale said she seeks someone with intelligence, strong writing skills, a good personality and a hard-working attitude. She concluded her session with students by stressing the importance of hard work. Judge Barksdale attributed her career success to her strong work ethic, and support from her spouse and dedicated mentors.



**Judge Barksdale
engaged with students
during a Q&A session.**



Judge Barksdale posed with students who attended her session on career experiences.

State Supreme Court Justices Convene at Law School

On February 3, the College of Law welcomed four esteemed state Supreme Court justices to campus for a panel discussion entitled, “Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary.” The panelists were North Carolina Justice Robin E. Hudson, Washington State Justice Debra Stephens, and Florida Justices Barbara J. Pariente and Peggy A. Quince. The panel was part of a day-long visit, which included lunch with students, a tour of the law school campus with Dean Weidner and a meeting with faculty on the Judicial Clerkship Committee. The justices also went on a tour of the Florida Supreme Court led by 3L Melanie Kalmanson. The day ended with a reception in the Rotunda.

Justice Hudson, elected to the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2006, received a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Justice Stephens, appointed to the Washington Supreme Court in 2007, received her J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law. Justice Pariente, first appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 1997, earned her J.D. from George Washington University Law School. Justice Quince, first appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 1998, received her J.D. from the Catholic University of America.

During the panel, the justices candidly discussed issues related to the process of how justices attain their state Supreme Court seats and how each of their respective state systems differ from one another. The discussion included the issue of election versus appointment. In addition, the justices advocated for modification of current procedures to promote fairness. Justice Quince suggested modifying selection and retention procedures and stated that money and politics have to be removed from the retention process in order to avoid corruption. Justice Quince went on to say that she believes

Justice Hudson shared her mixed feelings regarding the appointment issue, expressing that anyone who wants to run for office should have the right to do so.



Justice Pariente shared her thoughts on judicial culture during the panel discussion.

the system is better today than it was previously.

Justice Stephens commented that along with fundraising corruption issues, appointing bodies are often “heavily skewed.” She explained that the major problem is with “who is making the selection.” Justice Pariente remarked that the founding fathers intended for judges to not be susceptible to political will or popular opinion; however, the local culture is much different today. Justice Hudson shared her mixed feelings regarding the appointment issue, expressing that anyone who wants to run for office should have the right to do so. Justice Hudson said she owed her position to having the ability to run for election and maintaining that opportunity for citizens is important.

The public event was presented in conjunction with the Informed Voters Project, an educational program sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges. Other supporters of the event included the Florida Association for Women Lawyers/Tallahassee Women Lawyers, the American Board of Trial Advocates and The Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division.

Justice Quince discussed modification of current judicial selection and retention procedures.



(L-R) Justice Quince, Justice Parente, Justice Hudson and Justice Stephens

Summer Program Renamed in Honor of Weidner



Wayne Hogan ('72) announced the program name change at a Board of Visitors meeting.

“I am extremely humbled that our alumni and the university have renamed this signature program in my honor,” said Weidner.

“Don Weidner expanded opportunity for those underrepresented in our profession. Don knew our college of law was the one to do what was right, and he made the program a continuing reality. Praised by the ABA for promoting diversity, it is a model for other law schools,” said program benefactor Wayne Hogan, who is a 1972 graduate of the College

of Law and president of Terrell Hogan in Jacksonville. “The Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program – those who know and love it already think of it that way; this makes it official.”

“I am extremely humbled that our alumni and the university have renamed this signature program in my honor,” said Weidner. “Most importantly, the generous endowment from Wayne and Pat Hogan has made this program a permanent part of our offerings.”

The College of Law Summer for Undergraduates Program has been renamed in honor of Dean Donald J. Weidner. The program’s name change to the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program was announced Sunday, February 21 at a meeting of the law school’s Board of Visitors. Alumni wanted to honor Weidner, who is retiring as dean in June 2016.

The Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program exposes students to the joys and rigors of legal education. The 60 students selected annually for the program attend a month of simulated law school at no charge, and receive free room and board plus a \$500 stipend. Participants experience intensive instruction, legal writing training and exposure to legal professionals from a variety of fields.

The summer program was established by Weidner in 1992, during his first year as dean. Weidner has remained committed to the program during the 20-plus years since its inception and to its primary purpose: increasing the pipeline of diverse candidates to law school.

Delaware Governor Visits College of Law

Delaware Governor Jack Markell, who is the brother of environmental law professor David Markell, visited the College of Law on February 12. During his visit, Governor Markell met with faculty members and students, and gave a public talk at lunch.

Currently serving a second term, Governor Markell was first elected to lead Delaware in 2008. During his tenure, according to Gallup, Delaware transformed “from one of the lowest-ranking states (in terms of job creation) in 2008 and 2009 to one of the top-ranking in 2013 and 2014.”

Since Markell took office, companies including JPMorgan Chase, Capital One and Sallie Mae have relocated to or expanded their operations in Delaware. Markell’s efforts to attract employers have included improving Delaware’s schools and its workforce development system.

During his remarks, Governor Markell applauded the College of Law for its strong leadership and progress. His talk focused on the topic of positioning a state for prosperity in a rapidly changing world.

“My most important responsibility to do a good job is to have a very clear perspective about how the world is changing, what those changes mean to the people that I serve, and what we need to do accordingly,” said Markell.

To promote job creation, Markell said that we must invest in necessary skills and engage with the rest of the world. He also pressed for better education programs and additional resources for those who want to enter the workforce right after high school. After his remarks, students engaged with Governor Markell in a thoughtful Q&A session.

Governor Markell shared his thoughts on how to position a state for prosperity during a public talk.



Student leaders met with Governor Markell over breakfast.



HOMECOMING 2015

In November, College of Law alumni returned to campus with their loved ones for the Homecoming 2015 festivities. The events began with the Friday, November 13 homecoming parade, featuring a large group of College of Law faculty, staff, alumni and students, who participated to honor Dean Don Weidner for his contributions to the law school.

Alumni gathered for a reception on Friday night at the home of alum Randy Hanna ('84) and his wife Jerri. The reception included the presentation of the 2015 Alumni Awards by Dean Weidner.

Eugene E. "Gene" Stearns ('72) received the Distinguished Alum Award, which recognizes a College of Law graduate who is distinguished professionally and who has rendered outstanding service to the community as well as to the College of Law. JoLen Wolf ('76) received the Alumni Association Service Award, which recognizes a graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the law school over an extended period of time. The Honorable James R. Wolf received the Class of '66 Award, which recognizes a non-Florida State University College of Law graduate who has rendered distinguished service to the law school and to the community. Each recipient of this award is inducted into the Class of 1966 to commemorate the year that the Florida State University College of Law opened its doors.

On Saturday, November 14, the College of Law concluded its festivities with a tailgate party before the FSU football game against North Carolina State University. The event was sponsored by alumni who contribute to the Annual Fund.



Alumni and friends attended the College of Law's tailgate before the homecoming football game.



Faculty, staff, alumni and students celebrated Dean Weidner as they walked in the homecoming parade.



Members of the Class of 1975 posed for a photo with Dean Weidner.



(TOP LEFT) (L-R) Whitney Brummett ('12), Tiffany Schleeter & Angela Huston ('13)

(TOP RIGHT) (L-R) Danni Vogt, Frank Rainer ('84) & Susan St. John ('03)

(MIDDLE LEFT) Alums enjoyed a tailgate party on the green before the FSU football game.

(ABOVE) Dean Weidner with 2015 Alumni Award recipients (L-R) JoLen Wolf ('76), the Honorable James R. Wolf and Eugene E. "Gene" Stearns ('72)

2016 GRADUATION CER

Our spring 2016 graduation ceremony was held on Sunday, May 1, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. Approximately 200 graduates participated in the event, including seven LL.M. in American Law graduates from around the world and our first Juris Master program graduate.

The Honorable Mark Walker, of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, gave the commencement address before professors hooded the new graduates. Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests attended a reception at the law school.

A video of the ceremony is available online at: law.fsu.edu/2016gradvideo.



The Honorable Mark Walker delivered the commencement address.



Graduate Wesley Taylor with his family at the reception



EMONY



LL.M. graduates (L-R) Arnoldo Arrate (Cuba), Luis Alberto Lopez-Hernandez (Mexico), Avidan Perry (Israel), Mayra Giselle Justo Aybar (Dominican Republic), Joanne Marie Pereira Riera (Venezuela), Renan S.N. Santos (Brazil), and Johnny P. ElHachem (Lebanon)



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) 2016 graduates look for family and friends in the audience.

Graduate Ashleigh Lollie with family and friends

Graduate Jazmeen Sule



(FAR LEFT) (L-R) Kirsten Skokos and Claire Sundstrom prepare to enter the Civic Center.

(LEFT) Graduate Chelsea Nelson

ALUMNI NOTES

1970

STEVEN C. KOEGLER is now a principal at Forum Capital Group in Jacksonville. Forum Capital Group invests in and manages opportunities in the real estate and food industries.

1972

THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. FRANCIS, who is a circuit judge on the Second Judicial Circuit Court, was awarded the Tallahassee Bar Association's inaugural Lifetime Professional Award. The award honors lawyers, judges or law professors who have exercised professionalism and staunch dedication to the legal profession for 25 years or more.



THE HONORABLE FRANK E. SHEFFIELD retired in December 2015 after serving as a judge for six years on the Second Judicial Circuit Court. He is now of counsel in the Tallahassee office of Broad and Cassel in the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group.



THE HONORABLE STEVEN WALLACE, who is a retired Orange County judge, has been appointed to the Orderville Justice Court in Utah for a new six-year term. He has served as a justice court judge since May 2010. Utah has a mandatory judicial retirement age, so Judge Wallace will only complete half of his new term.

1973

HAROLD KNOWLES, who is managing shareholder at Knowles & Randolph, P.A., in Tallahassee, received the Mores Torch Award from the Florida State University Faculty Senate in December. He has a long history of public service.

1974



BRIAN S. DUFFY is now of counsel with litigation and business law firm Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC in Nashville, TN. His practice will focus on employment and insurance defense litigation.



STANN W. GIVENS, the founding partner of Givens Givens Sparks PLLC, in Tampa, has received the Martindale-Hubbell Peer review AV Preeminent rating for the 20th consecutive year. In addition, Givens Givens Sparks has been named to the list of 2016 *U.S. News Best Law Firms*, earning a Tier-1 family law national ranking every year since 1988.

1975



BRUCE B. BLACKWELL received the 2016 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award during a ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court in January. The award was presented by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga in recognition of his extraordinary contributions in making legal

services available to people who otherwise could not afford them. He is CEO/executive director of The Florida Bar Foundation.

1976

JEFFREY C. BASSETT has been appointed to the Kitsap Superior Court. He has a solo practice in Bremerton, WA, where he focuses on family law.



LONNIE N. GROOT, who is of counsel with Stenstrom, McIntosh, Colbert & Whigham, P.A., participated in the first round of judging in the national finals of the American Bar

Association's Law Student Negotiation Competition in San Diego, CA, in February. He is city attorney for the City of Daytona Beach Shores, and assistant city attorney for the City of Sanford and the City of Oviedo.

RAFAEL E. "RALPH" MARTINEZ, a shareholder at McEwan, Martinez, Dukes & Hall, P.A. in the firm's Orlando office, has become a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.



WILLIAM N. MEGGS, who is the state attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit, announced he will not seek a ninth term in office, and will retire at the end of 2016. He has held the position of state attorney since 1985.

1977



CHRISTOPHER J. WEISS earned his board certification in construction in 2005, 2010 and now 2015. He is president of Christopher Weiss Attorney at Law, P.A. in

Orlando and represents clients in construction litigation, arbitration and mediation.

1978



BYRD F. MARSHALL, JR., who is president and managing shareholder at GrayRobinson in Tallahassee, has been named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the practice areas of

corporate law, and mergers and acquisitions law. He has been named to *Best Lawyers* since 2006.



TERESA J. SOPP is now of counsel at O'Mara Law Group in Orlando and Jacksonville. She is a board certified criminal trial lawyer and her practice focuses on criminal cases as well as family law.

1979



THOMAS A. CLOUD has been named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the energy law practice area. He has been named to *Best Lawyers* every year since 2012. He is a

shareholder at GrayRobinson in Orlando.

DOMENICK R. LIOCE, who is a shareholder at Nason Yeager, authored "A Practitioner's Guide to Limited Liability Companies" for *Florida CPA Today*, the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountant's award-winning magazine.

1980



STEFAN V. STEIN, who is a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Tampa, has been named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the practice areas of

copyright law, litigation – intellectual property, litigation – patent, patent law and trademark law. He was also recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in the patent law practice area. He has been named to the *Best Lawyers* list since 1995.



DAVID A. YON, a shareholder of the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, has been named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list. He has received this recognition for ten years and has

been chosen as "Lawyer of the Year" in insurance law – Tallahassee.

1981

STEPHEN G. CHARPENTIER, of the Charpentier Law Firm, P.A. in Melbourne, was honored for his service in helping transform Eastern Florida State College into a four-year institution. He received recognition at the trustee's board meeting in February.

ROSEMARY O'SHEA, a partner at BakerHostetler in Orlando, was named to the 2016 list of *Best Lawyers in America* for real estate law.

THORNTON WILLIAMS, who is the managing partner at Williams Law Group, P.A. in Tallahassee, has been selected as a 2015 *South Florida Top Rated Lawyer* in the area of transportation law.

1982



A. LAWTON LANGFORD, who is the CEO and chairman of the Municipal Code Corporation in Tallahassee, received the Charles S. Rhyne Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Municipal Lawyers Association's 80th Annual Conference in October. The award is meant to honor the recipient's lifetime achievements in the field of municipal law. He is pictured (left) with Chuck Thompson, executive director and general counsel of IMLA.



KELLY OVERSTREET JOHNSON, who is the office managing shareholder in Baker Donelson's Tallahassee office and past president of The Florida Bar, was recognized by *Best*

Lawyers in the area of employment law – management in the publication's 2016 edition.



MARK O'MARA expanded the O'Mara Law Group in 2015 to include civil rights plaintiffs work and mass tort practice. The Orlando firm also has a jury selection and trial consulting practice to

assist in social media and background workups on jurors for various cases. The firm has five lawyers and a total of 12 staff members that support the team.

1983



THOMAS P. SCARRITT, JR. is president and senior trial attorney at the Scarritt Law Group in Tampa. In September, he volunteered at an event sponsored by KABOOM to build a playground for special needs children. Scarritt also joined the Hats that Give Back organization in Tampa for a walk supporting the fight against Alzheimer’s in October, and as part of the Great American Teach-In, he taught the first grade class of San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin, Florida with his daughter, Mallory Scarritt in November, where students learned what it is like to be a trial lawyer and a stage actor. He is pictured (right) at the Hats that Give Back walk.

1984



MARK S. ELLIS is executive director of the International Bar Association. A transcript of his speech, “Shifting the Paradigm – Bringing to Justice Those Who Commit Human Rights Atrocities,” was published in Volume 47, Issue 1 of the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*.

KEITH R. MITNIK is now lead trial counsel for Morgan & Morgan in Tallahassee. He has also published a book and audio recording titled, “Winning at the Beginning: The Untapped Power of Voir Dire, Opening, and Beyond.”



REX D. WARE, who is of counsel at the Radey Law Firm, has been included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is listed for tax law and litigation and controversy – tax –

Tallahassee. He also was selected as “Lawyer of the Year” in Litigation and Controversy-Tax for Tallahassee.

1985



JOHN A. BOUDET has been named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the areas of litigation—real estate, mass tort litigation/class actions—defendants and product liability

litigation—defendants. He is a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Orlando and chair of the firm’s Complex Litigation Group.

KEVIN W. WOOD, who is vice president/counsel at First American Title Insurance Company, closed the largest land transaction in Florida in the last 50 years. The sale included 562,000 acres of land located in five counties.

1986

THE HONORABLE CYNTHIA L. COX, of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in Vero Beach, was the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Judicial Service Award for her outstanding and sustained service to the public especially as it relates to pro bono legal services. She was presented with the award by Chief Justice Jorge Labarga at a January 28 ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court.

ENNIS L. JACOBS, JR. has opened his own firm, the Law Office of Ennis Leon Jacobs, Jr., in Tallahassee, and will take on work in the area of energy and sustainability law.

1987

MALLORY COOPER retired as a circuit judge of the Florida Fourth Circuit Court in December 2015, following nearly two decades on the bench.



ANDREW HAMILTON, of Andrew Hamilton, P.A. in Tampa and Spring Hill, received the Brian Weakland Award for his outstanding leadership as president of the Carrollwood Bar Association in 2015. The award was presented by Joe Kalish, right, a founding director and past president of CBA.

THE HONORABLE STEVEN LEIFMAN, who is a Miami-Dade county judge, was awarded the William H. Renquist Award for Judicial Excellence from U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts during a dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court in November. The award is one of the nation’s highest judicial honors.



TIMOTHY T. RAMSBERGER, formerly of Timothy T. Ramsberger P.A., has been named deputy director of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the official destination marketing organization of Pinellas County, Florida.

1988

ROBIN SAFLEY is now executive director of the Florida Association of Food Banks, which feeds more than 3.6 million people yearly.

1989



GREGORY A. HEARING, a shareholder at Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing, P.A., is chair of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. His term will last through October 31, 2016.



SUSAN SPRADLEY, who is a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Orlando, was named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the practice areas of employment law – management and labor law – management. She has been named to *Best Lawyers* since 2009.

1990



CRYSTAL T. BROUGHAN is now a shareholder at Marks Gray, P.A. in Jacksonville, where she leads the intellectual property law practice. She represents clients before the Trademark

Trials and Appeals Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and manages infringement litigation for all types of intellectual property matters in federal and state courts.



PATRICK B. CALCUTT, a partner and shareholder at Culcutt & Calcutt, P.A. in Americus, GA, is president of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit Bar Association and also serves as the volunteer distance and cross country coach where his six children have attended school. He recently coached his high school boys team to its fourth consecutive region championship and third consecutive private independent school state championship. He is pictured with two of his All State Runners, Wright Calhoun (left) and Billy Calcutt (right).



TRACY A. MARSHALL, who is of counsel at GrayRobinson in Orlando, was named to the 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the area of eminent domain and condemnation law. She has been named to *Best Lawyers* since 2007.

1991



RAMON DE LA CABADA, owner of the Law Office of Ramon de la Cabada, was elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the

association's 58th annual meeting in Denver, CO, in July. He previously served on the board from 2012 to 2015, and is a member of the White Collar Crime Committee, the Fourth Amendment Committee and the Budget Committee. De la Cabada also served as a moderator on the Healthcare Fraud Panel at the 24th Annual National Seminar on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines in St. Petersburg.

1992



DONNA E. BLANTON, a shareholder of the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, has been included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of administration/regulatory

law and government relations practice. She was also named as a 2015 *Florida Super Lawyer* in the area of administrative law.

GEORGE C. HAMM is now acting general counsel at the Florida Department of Revenue in Tallahassee.



MARK D. HOBSON, of the Hobson Firm in Coral Gables, has been appointed the editor-in-chief of the newsletter for the Middle Market and Small Business Committee of the ABA Business Law Section.



FRED E. KARLINSKY, who is a shareholder in the Fort Lauderdale and Tallahassee offices of international law firm Greenberg Traurig P.A.,

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The most avidly read section of the College of Law magazine is "Class Action." The law school's more than 9,000 alumni want to know what their classmates have been doing - awards they have received, high-profile cases they have won, law firms or cities they have moved to, pro bono activities they have undertaken and more. Just as important: did you get married? Have a baby? Write a novel? Run a marathon? Play in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please submit a note using our online form at law.fsu.edu/alumni/submit-class-note. You can also share information by emailing rshepher@law.fsu.edu or mailing:

Florida State University College of Law
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601

moderated a panel entitled “Marketplace Realities of the Regulatory Crosswinds” at the annual conference hosted by St. John’s University School of Risk Management, Insurance, and Actuarial Science. In December, he presented “Captive Insurance: Business and US Regulatory Considerations” as part of an Association of Corporate Counsel webcast.

JOHN P. MURRAY, owner of The Murray Law Firm, P.A. in Coral Gables, was elected to the board of directors of the Dade County Bar Association. He was also appointed to the Coral Gables Bar Association board of directors and was sworn in on September 19, 2015.

1994

THE HONORABLE BRIAN A. ITEN, who has served as assistant state attorney since 1994, was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court.



TRAVIS L. MILLER, a shareholder and the president of the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, has been included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of insurance law.

1995

BENJAMIN L. CRUMP, who is a partner at Parks & Crump, LLC in Tallahassee, served as Penn Law School’s honorary fellow during their annual Public Interest Week in Philadelphia in February. He was invited to share his wisdom and experience regarding his work in the area of civil rights.

THE HONORABLE STEVEN B. WHITTINGTON was appointed a circuit judge for Florida’s Fourth Judicial Circuit on December 18, 2015, by Governor Rick Scott. Prior to taking the bench, he practiced criminal law and family law for 20 years.

1996



JOEL D. ARNOLD, who is an assistant public defender in Florida’s Second Judicial Circuit, presented a seminar on “Hot Topics in Sentencing Law” during the Lunch and Learn Program at the

Florida First District Court of Appeal in January.



BERT L. COMBS, a shareholder at the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, has been included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for the practice area of insurance law.



MICHAEL A. MARTINEZ has joined Greenspoon Marder as senior counsel in the firm’s Alcohol Beverage Group, establishing a new Tallahassee office. He is the former deputy

general counsel for the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

EMILIA A. QUESADA, a partner with SMGQ Law in Coral Gables, has been certified as a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Arbitrator. She focuses her practice in the area of complex commercial litigation, with specialized knowledge in the financial services industry, insurance disputes including life, health, disability and ERISA claims, banking litigation and products liability issues.

1998



JOHN HOPPE has joined Lakeland Regional Health as its chief legal officer and general counsel. His role includes identification and administration of all legal matters and the

oversight of all external legal engagements at Lakeland Regional Health. Previously, he served as senior healthcare attorney with

Publix Super Markets, Inc. and was an attorney and shareholder at Peterson & Myers, P.A.

1999



KENNETH D. PRATT was the keynote speaker at the Bahamas Institute of Financial Services’ two-day international conference in September 2015. He spoke about the political/regulatory

environment in the U.S., in relation to international banks. He is senior vice president of governmental affairs with the Florida Bankers Association.

2000



RICHARD BARRY was invited to join the International Association of Defense Counsel in January. He is a shareholder in GrayRobinson’s Orlando office and focuses his

practice on medical malpractice defense, professional liability defense, transportation litigation, insurance defense, insurance coverage litigation, complex litigation and construction.

ROCHELLE B. CHIOCCA is now a partner at Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. in the firm’s West Palm Beach office. Her practice focuses on construction defect litigation, condominium and homeowners’ association law, premises liability, motor vehicle negligence, and insurance and carrier representation.

2001



BRITTANY ADAMS LONG, who is of counsel at the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee, has become board certified by The Florida Bar in state and federal governmental and administrative practice.

KAMILAH CLARK is now the assistant director for career placement at Stetson University College of Law.

MATTHEW W. REARDEN is now senior business development officer for SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment in Orlando. He previously served as SeaWorld's corporate vice president of business affairs.



AMY W. SCHRADER is now of counsel with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC in Tallahassee. She specializes in administrative and governmental law.



KEVIN E. STANLEY was presented with the Secretary's Meritorious Silver Service Medal on November 3, 2015. The medal was awarded by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. The award recognizes superior performance through remarkable accomplishments, business improvements, or notable resourcefulness and diligence that significantly improved the effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in one or more program areas. He is pictured (center) at the award ceremony.

2002

VIVIAN CORTES HODZ, of Cortes Hodz Family Law & Mediation, P.A. in Tampa, was sworn in as president of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association. She is a graduate of Class II of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and serves on the board of Bay Area Legal Services. She practices exclusively family law in Tampa with her husband, **LAWRENCE J. HODZ ('01)**. She is also a family law mediator.

MEGHAN B. DAIGLE is now a trial attorney at The Cicchetti Law Firm in Tallahassee.

MARY L. PANKOWSKI was named one of the "25 Women You Need to Know" for 2016. The honor is given by the *Tallahassee Democrat* to women who dedicate their time to the community as part of their professions as well as in philanthropic roles.

2003



CHRISTIAN M. GIVENS is a partner at Givens Sparks in Tampa. The firm has been named to the list of 2016 *U.S. News Best Law Firms*, earning a Tier-1 family law national ranking every year since 1988.

2004

AUDREY J. EHRHARDT founded Practice42 in October 2015, to provide crucial services for law practices. The company focuses on four areas for attorney practice development: business strategy, team building, marketing and the administrative ecosystem.



JASON JONES has been appointed general counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement by Commissioner Rick Swearingen. Prior to joining the FDLE in 2009 as a regional legal advisor, he served five and a half years as an assistant state attorney with the Second Judicial Circuit.

THERESA "CISSY" PROCTOR was appointed as executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity by Governor Rick Scott in January. She was previously chief of staff at the Department of Economic Opportunity, and also served as both director of legislative affairs and director of the Division of Strategic Business Development.

2005



AMANDA L. BROCK is now a stockholder at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Myers, and has been named president of the Real Estate Investment Society of Southwest Florida. Brock was also selected as one of *Gulfshore Business* magazine's "40 Under 40." She concentrates her practice in the area of land use and environmental law.

DOUGLAS G. CHRISTY is now a senior attorney at Becker & Poliakoff, P.A. in the firm's Tampa and Sarasota offices.

LESLIE D. GAINES presented at the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates Annual Spring Conference in San Francisco, CA, on April 16, 2015. As recognition for her work in veterans' advocacy, she was invited to join The National Advocates: Top 100 and The National Black Lawyers, Top 40 Under 40.



TEEKA K. HARRISON has been elected shareholder at Polsinelli in the firm's Atlanta office. Her practice focuses on labor and employment law.

KRISTOPHER J. KEST has opened his own firm, Kest Family Law, P.A. in Orlando, and practices in the areas of family and marital law.

2006



BRICE L. AIKENS has joined the Umansky Firm in Orlando, where he will handle complex criminal litigation. He is a board certified criminal trial lawyer.



ADAM L. BANTER, II, has been elected president of the Hillsborough County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is an attorney with Brandon Legal Group and represents clients charged with crimes in the Tampa Bay region.



MIGUEL J. CHAMORRO, who is a senior attorney at Lydecker Diaz in Miami, co-authored an article, "No Rachmones – The Dynamics of Florida's Play-to-Play Eviction Litigation," which

was published in the September/October 2015 edition of *The Florida Bar Journal*.

SHARLEE L. EDWARDS is now associate general counsel with Weston Insurance Management, LLC in Coral Gables.

STEFANO M. GRACE is now vice president, corporate development at Starman AS in Talinn, Estonia.

CHRISTOPHER A. IACOVELLA is now chief executive officer at Equity Dealers of America in Washington, D.C. He was previously the senior director of global government relations, strategic & public policy at Bloomberg LP.

ALISON A. KERESTES opened her own firm, DK Legal Group, in Orlando. The firm specializes in criminal defense, foreclosure defense and bankruptcy.

KAREEM J. SPRATLING, who is a shareholder with Bryant Miller Olive in Tampa, is now chair of the Diversity Committee for the National Association of Bond Lawyers. His goals are to start a mentoring program for minority lawyers, and to ensure that minority lawyers have opportunities to speak on NABL panels, at teleconferences and to participate in drafting materials produced by NABL.

FRANK J. ULLO, JR. is now the director, division of waste management for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee.

2007

RICHARD A. ALTON is now an associate at Silverberg & Weiss, P.A. in Weston. He advises businesses and individuals on commercial transactions, immigration matters, compliance issues, international matters and the development of business opportunities.



JOE D. BRIGGS, who is public policy counsel at the National Football League Players Association in Washington, D.C., hosted a law-focused career panel at the NFLPA's

office in October for FSU students in the World Affairs Program. Several additional FSU law alums also participated in the panel –

ELEANOR HILL ('75), **BRIAN O'NEILL ('71)** and **MAGGIE SPICER ('14)**.

JEREMY W. HARRIS is now an associate at Lydecker Diaz in Boca Raton. His practice areas include appellate advocacy, complex commercial litigation, construction defect litigation, consumer finance litigation and real estate/title litigation.

ALAN C. NASH presented "Negligent Security Claims: If the Crime is Foreseeable, the Risk is Believable" to the Central Florida Chapter of the Risk Insurance Management Society. He also published an article, "Strategies to Consider Before Removing that 'Slip & Fall' Case to Federal Court," in DRI's publication, *For the Defense*.



ILAN A. NIEUCHOWICZ is now a shareholder at Carlton Fields in the firm's Miami, Washington, D.C. and West Palm Beach offices. He is a member of the firm's National Trial and Real

Property Litigation practice groups, as well as the Real Estate, Title Insurance, Development, Hospitality, Finance and Banking industry groups.



ANDREW J. STEIF has been elevated to partner at Holland & Knight LLP in Jacksonville. He defends clients in real property, banking and transportation litigation matters.



EKECIA M. TAYLOR has been appointed to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women by Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Steve Crisafulli. She will serve a three-year term ending in 2019.

CAROLINE E. WARE is now a local taxpayer advocate at the Internal Revenue Service in Anchorage, AK.

2008



EDWARD R. ATKINSON, of Atkinson Law in Norfolk, VA, has been named a 2016 *Super Lawyers* Rising Star.



WILLIAM R. MUSGROVE is now a trial attorney with Schneider Hammers in Atlanta, where he specializes in personal injury law. He was also named a *Super Lawyers* Rising Star for 2016 in the state of Georgia for litigation.



MICHAEL RAK is now lead attorney at Lender Legal Services, LLC in Orlando, where he manages a team of attorneys on a variety of creditors' rights issues.

CHRISTINA Y. TAYLOR has been selected for The Florida Bar Business Law Section Fellowship Program for the Class of 2016-2017. She practices at Latham Shaker Eden et al. in Orlando.

NOAH D. VALENSTEIN, previously Governor Rick Scott's environmental policy director, is now executive director of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

2009



HOWARD E. FOX was hosted by the University of Miami Law School's Environmental Law class to speak on the topic of environmental enforcement and regulation on November

3. He was also hosted by FIU Law School's Environmental Law Society on November 29 to speak on the same topic.



MATTHEW T. GIRARDI and **DANA J. GIRARDI (GIZZI)** were married on September 26, 2014, in Palm Beach Gardens. Matthew is a staff attorney at the Robin R. Weiner Office of the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee in Plantation, and Dana is an attorney at Ellis, Ged & Bodden, P.A. in Boca Raton. **PATRICK R. RUTTINGER ('09)** and **NATHANIAL KENNEDY ('09)** were groomsmen in the wedding party, and wedding guests included fellow FSU law graduates **GEORGE H. SHELDON ('79)**, **CEDELL I. GARLAND ('08)**, **VICTOR D. HOLDER ('09)**, **LARRY D. SPENCER ('09)**, **JESSICA N. KENNEDY ('09)**, **BRANDON T. GLANZ ('09)** and **ADAM F. HURLBURT ('09)**.

LEE GUTSCHENRITTER is now practicing at Lewis Brisbois in Atlanta, GA, where he focuses in the area of general liability.

WILLIAM D. HALL, III is now chief attorney at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Parimutuel Wagering in Tallahassee.

ANDREW J. MCBRIDE is now a partner with Adams and Reese LLP in St. Petersburg.

DAVID R. PHILLIPS has opened his own firm, David R. Phillips, P.A. in Clearwater. His practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate, as well as corporate and business law.



JASON M. RENNER, who is an attorney with Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, was named to the list of 2015 *Michigan Rising Stars*.

RAMONA H. THOMAS is now assistant vice president and associate general counsel at Martin Memorial Health Systems in Stuart.

2010

ALVAN BALENT, JR., who is assistant general counsel at the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in Miami, published an article, "Get it right Florida: Why the Florida Supreme Court should rule that equal protection claims of sexual orientation discrimination receive immediate scrutiny," in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Stetson Law Review*. His article, "Statutory interpretation and the presidency: The hierarchy of 'executive history,'" was published in *The Journal of Law & Politics*, Winter 2015 issue. Balent was also selected to participate in The Florida Bar's Third Leadership Academy Class.

NICOLETTE L. BIDARIAN is now associate general counsel at ConnectWise in Tampa.



BRADLEY G. BODIFORD was sworn in as an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Alabama on November 30, 2015. He focuses primarily on prosecuting white collar crimes.



CHRISTOPHER L. DECORT has been named a partner at Johnson & Cassidy, P.A. in Tampa. He practices in the area of business/commercial litigation.



SHAYNA A. FREYMAN has been promoted to senior associate at GrayRobinson, P.A. in the firm's Fort Lauderdale office.

JENNIFER GUTAI is now an associate at Conerly, Bowman & Dykes, LLP in Destin.



RENE M. LARKIN is now an attorney at Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman in the firm's Denver office. Her practice is focused on counseling clients on a large range of real estate

matters, including commercial lease transactions, purchase and sale of real property, easement and restrictive covenants, real estate due diligence for mergers and acquisitions, and development projects.



JUSTIN T. MARSHALL has been promoted to senior associate at GrayRobinson, P.A. in the firm's Orlando office.



ROBERT A. NEILSON has joined Burr & Forman LLP as a staff attorney in the Jacksonville office. He is a member of the firm's Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy practice.

LAURA L. TANNER has been selected for the Hillsborough County Bar Association Leadership Institute Class of 2015-2016. She

is an associate at Burr & Forman in Tampa, where she is a member of the firm's Financial Services Litigation practice group.



LAURA M. DENNIS and her husband Brett became proud parents of a daughter, Matilda Ruth, on September 24, 2015. Laura is an associate at the Radey Law Firm in Tallahassee.

ERIC S. GIUNTA is now a senior law clerk for Chief Judge L. Clayton Roberts of the Florida First District Court of Appeal. He previously served as chief legal correspondent for *Sunshine State News* and assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.



DAVID W. GRIMES was elected president of the Florida Government Bar Association. He is an attorney for the Florida House of Representatives Minority Office, advising the

Democratic caucus in the areas of finance, taxation, elections and justice.

NATHAN W. HILL is now an attorney with the Office of United States Attorney's Office in Orlando.

BRIAN KENYON is now an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Los Angeles. He focuses his practice on real estate development and environmental law.

Annual Fund

Please help us reach our goal of 31 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount by **JUNE 30** to: Florida State University College of Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601. You can also give online at GIVE.FSU.EDU/LAW.

If you have any questions about giving to this year's Annual Fund, contact Becky Shepherd at 850.644.0231 or rshepher@law.fsu.edu.

Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and the College of Law!



Use your web-enabled smart phone to scan this tag that will allow you to make a donation online.



ABBY J. QUEALE has been promoted to associate general counsel and senior licensing manager at Florida State University. She also presented "The Design Patent: A

Sleeping Giant?" at the Florida Coastal Law Review Symposium: Hot Topics in Patent Law. A transcript of the presentation was subsequently published in the *Florida Coastal Law Review* (16 Fla. Coastal L. Rev. 1 (2014)).

CHRISTOPHER A. WEAVER has joined the Fairfax, VA office of Kalbaugh, Pfund & Messersmith as an associate attorney. His practice focuses on insurance defense.

2012

RACHEL L. BENTLEY is now a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, GA.

MATTHEW R. DALEY is now assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Financial Services.



NOEL J. DAVIES, an attorney in Roetzel's Fort Myers office, has been elected to the Real Estate Investment

Society of Southwest Florida's board of governors. He focuses his practice on real estate and land use matters.

MATTHEW DEVINE is now associate counsel at Xenia Hotels & Resorts in Orlando.



ALYSSA J. FLOOD is now an associate at O'Mara Law Group in Orlando where she focuses her practice on mass torts and assists in criminal defense cases.



ALEXANDRA H. PALERMO, who is an associate at Burr & Forman LLP, was a featured speaker at the Lunchtime Leadership Series panel, "Are You My Mentor?" at the

University of South Florida in September. The panel included her mentor and fellow FSU law alum **MELANIE C. SHOEMAKER GRIFFIN ('06)**.



WILLIAM K. BISSELL has joined Carr Allison as an associate in the firm's Tallahassee office. He practices primarily in general civil litigation with a focus on premises liability claims.

JODI M. RUBERG is now associate general counsel at SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment in Orlando.



ELIZETE D. VELADO has joined Goldberg, Racila, D'Alessandro & Noone as an associate in the firm's Fort Myers office.

DAVID VARET, who is a criminal defense attorney with Bourdon & Race, PLLC in Orlando, has launched an app, Law Blanket, which connects criminal defense lawyers who need coverage with criminal defense lawyers who can provide coverage for routine court hearings.

2013



RYAN L. BRIGGS is now an associate at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC in Charlotte, NC.



NELSON A. FAERBER, III is now the deputy staff judge advocate for the Air Force's only combat wing in Afghanistan, supporting operations throughout the country at multiple installations with

missions that include close air support, air mobility, combat search and rescue, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, electronic attack, aeromedical evacuation and training the Afghan Air Force.



MATTHEW B. HALE has joined Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A. as an associate in the firm's Tampa office. He previously served as law clerk to the Honorable Karen S. Jennermann,

United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle

District of Florida. His practice is focused on commercial bankruptcy and insolvency matters.

NICHOLAS HORNER has been selected for the The Florida Bar Business Law Section Fellowship Program for the Class of 2016-2017. He is an associate and business lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP in the firm's Tampa office. His practice focuses on business and corporate law, including mergers and acquisitions, and tax planning.



CHAD E. LIPSKY has joined Levine Kellogg Lehman Schneider + Grossman as an associate in the firm's Miami office. His practice is focused on complex commercial litigation, real estate and insurance coverage law.

DESMOND MULLINS is now assistant solicitor at the Fulton County Solicitor General's Office in Atlanta, GA.



MICHAEL J. NILES has joined Broad and Cassel in Tallahassee as an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group. He also serves as a mentor with the Young Lawyers Division of The

Florida Bar and is a volunteer with Big Bend Habitat for Humanity.

KRISTAN B. RIVERS is now an attorney at Davis & Norris, LLP in Birmingham, AL.

JODI L. STEVENS, who is a consultant with Tallahassee lobbying firm The Mayernick Group, has been named one of the "30 Under 30" Rising Stars of Florida Politics.



CLAYTON W. THORNTON, an attorney with Thornton Davis Fein in Miami, has been named secretary of the Dade County Defense Bar Association for 2016.

2014

KEOKI M. BARON is now a clerk for Judge Beth Bloom of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

GEORGE W. ETHERIDGE is now associate legal counsel at Kenyon Energy, LLC in Tampa.

BRITTANY L. FOX is now an assistant state attorney at the State Attorney's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit.

LORA MINICUCCI has accepted a position at the Law Office of Patrick W. Johnson, PC in Brooklyn, NY.

MELISSA M. SINOR is now an associate at Carr Allison in the firm's Birmingham, AL office. Her practice primarily involves defending workers' compensation claims.

MARGARET J. SPICER is now an associate at White & Case LLP in Washington, D.C.



BENJAMIN E. STEARNS has joined Carlton Fields Jordan Burt as an associate in Tallahassee. He practices in the firm's Government Law and Consulting practice group, and focuses in the areas of land use and environmental law, election law, administrative law and government consulting.

2015

BRITTNI R. BAKER is now counsel for the Fair Elections Legal Network in Washington, D.C.

LAUREN E. BAYE is now an associate closing attorney at CivicSource in New Orleans, LA.



MELISSA D. BECKER has accepted a position with the Florida Commission on Offender Review in Tallahassee.

CODY S. BILGRIEN is now assistant general counsel at the Florida Office of Financial Regulation.

JAMES L. BODDEN is now a staff attorney at the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in West Palm Beach.

Class Action

PETER W. BRENNAN is now an associate attorney at GrayRobinson in the firm's Orlando office.

COLEMAN L. BRICE is an associate at Coleman Talley in Valdosta, GA.

BENJAMIN W. BUCK, JR. has enrolled in an LL.M. program in taxation at the University of Miami.

JESSICA R. BUTLER is now an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in Ft. Lauderdale.

CHRISTOPHER CABRAL is now an associate attorney at Weiss, Alden & Polo, P.A. in Miami.

KELLIE L. COCHRAN is now a staff attorney for the Florida Senate Committee on Community Affairs in Tallahassee.

CHELSEA M. CRAMER is now an associate at Alcoa in Pittsburgh, PA.

KAITLYN A. CRANSHAW is now a postgraduate intern with the NCAA in Indianapolis, IN.

ALLISON D. DANIEL is now an attorney at the Florida chapter of the Institute for Justice in Miami.

ADAM DAVIS is now an attorney at Vernis & Bowling in Miami.

DEVAN DESAI has accepted a position at the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration in Tallahassee.

ANNA DECERCHIO is now a legislative aide to Representative Paul Renner in Tallahassee.

KHALIL E. FARAH is now an associate attorney at Farah & Farah in Jacksonville.

EDUARDO J. FARIA is practicing at the State Attorney's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit in Orlando.

MARGARET C. FARMER has accepted a position at the Law Office of Patrick W. Johnson, PC in Brooklyn, NY.

JESSICA M. FOSTER is now an associate at Gillis Way & Campbell in Jacksonville in the firm's civil litigation practice.



CHELSEA L. FURMAN is now an associate at Elisha D. Roy, P.A. in West Palm Beach.

ASHLEY M. GARTMAN has accepted a position at Lynchard & Greene, P.L. in Navarre.

PAMELA C. GORDON has accepted a position at the State Attorney's Office, Eighth Judicial Circuit in Gainesville.

SEAN K. GRAVEL is now practicing at Lyons & Farrar, P.A. in Tallahassee.

KIEL J. GREEN is now a legislative aide for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Juan Zapata in Miami.

OLIVIER R. GUERRIER has accepted a position at Kaufman, Englett and Lynd in the firm's Tampa office.

ANDREA GUZMAN is now a staff attorney for the Honorable James E.C. Perry of the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee.

KYLE D. HART is now a lawyer at Bright Light Land Title Company, LLC in Niceville.

CHRISTOPHER D. HASTINGS is now an associate at Theriaque & Spain in Tallahassee.

JESSICA A. HATHAWAY is now compliance examiner at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in Boca Raton.

KATELYN L. HAUSER is now an attorney at Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. in Pensacola.

DAVID B. HEEDY has enrolled in the LL.M. in Taxation program at the University of Florida.



JASMYNE N. HENDERSON leads the government affairs practice at Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee.

DILLON H. JESS is an attorney at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation in Tallahassee.

CHRISTOPHER M. JONES is now an immigration specialist at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York.

MURIEL D. JONES is now a law clerk for the Honorable Brian D. Lambert at the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal in Daytona.

SCOTT J. KALISH is now an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit in Clearwater.



JOSEPH KESSLER is now an associate at Hurley, Rogner, Miller, Cox & Waranch, P.A. in the firm's Pompano Beach office.

ZACHARY LEE is now practicing at Lutz, Bobo, Telfair, Eastman, Gabel & Lee in Tallahassee.



MICHAEL T. MCMANUS is now an associate in the Orlando office of Broad and Cassel. He is a member of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group.

HANNAH E. MCCULLIN is now an associate at Kubicki Draper, P.A. in Pensacola.

CHARLES RUSTY MELGES is now general counsel at Jonathan Bernstein Consulting Corp. in West Palm Beach.

DANIEL J. MUNOZ is now an associate at Leviton Diaz & Ginocchio, Inc. in the firm's Santa Ana, CA office.

NADINE NAVARRO PAZ is now an immigration attorney at Synergy Law Firm in Miami.

SARAH R. NIEWOLD is now an associate at Meenan P.A. in Tallahassee.

ZACHARY M. NOLAN is now a mergers and acquisitions associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Atlanta, GA.

ELIZABETH M. OAKLEY has joined Dunlap & Moran P.A. as an associate in the firm's Sarasota office. Her practice will focus on residential and commercial real estate matters.

SADE S. OYINLOYE is now an associate at Arcadier & Associates, P.A. in Melbourne.

SAMANTHA S. PARCHMENT is an attorney at Parchment Law, P.A. in Coral Gables.

LUCAS G. PARSONS is now an associate at Kubicki Draper in Ft. Lauderdale.

LUCIA PIVA is now an in-house consultant for New Rickenbacker Marina LLC in Miami.

COREY J. PORTNOY is now an associate in the Miami office of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

ROGER F. ROZANSKI is now an associate at Foley & Lardner LLP in Chicago, IL.

TREVOR C. RUFF is now legal counsel at Schneider Electric.

JOSEPH R. SALZVERG is now a consultant at Capitol Insight LLC in Tallahassee.

DAVID SANDS REHR accepted a position at the Office of the State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit in Shalimar.

GLENN J. SHIDNER is a senior services staff attorney at Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Anchorage, AK.

KALI LAUREN M. SINCLAIR is now an associate at Cole, Scott & Kissane in West Palm Beach.

TED STOTZER has enrolled in the LL.M. in Taxation program at New York University School of Law.



AUSTIN S. TURNER has joined Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt as an associate in the land use and environmental law division.

FRANCISCO D. ZORNOSA is now a judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge Madeline H. Haikala in Birmingham, AL. After his clerkship, he will serve as an assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office in Manhattan.

In Memoriam

CAROLE ROWLAND ('82) passed away on November 26, 2015 after a long battle with lung cancer. She was passionate about children's rights and was an attorney with a practice that focused on advocating for children as well as a law guardian in New York. Her kindness and generosity is remembered by her family and friends.

Dominguez *continued*

for a Taylor Swift concert.

Dominguez, who aspires to be the CEO of a publicly traded company one day, especially enjoys visiting Tallahassee and his alma mater. Before earning his J.D. from Florida State, he received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from FSU, where he was active in student government.

"I love Florida State. If I think back on my life and think about the experiences that define me as an individual, my time in Tallahassee would be in the top three – having had the opportunity to attend Florida State and grow as a person and as a leader. Coming from a humble background, it was a profound experience that really shaped me. I try to get back whenever I can and stay as involved as I possibly can. I am so indebted to FSU and to the College of Law for giving me the opportunity to be a Seminole." ■

Johnson *continued*

Business Planning course. Even fewer have an In-House Counsel course. FSU Law is one of the handful of law schools having both.

Enrollment in both courses has been strong, and student reactions to them have been enthusiastic. Among the most frequent comments on student evaluations has been, "I had no idea that the business lawyer had to know about so many areas of law!"

Q: Is there anything else you would like alums to know?

A: It is a delight to work with our students, and I know our alums feel the same way. When I collaborate with alums in helping our moot court teams prepare for competitions, have alums speak to my classes, or just chat with alums in formal or informal settings, their fondness for the students radiates like a beacon. This intergenerational connection – love, is not too strong a word – warms one's heart. Each time I see it, I know I'm at the right place. ■

Social Media

Are you following the College of Law on social media? These were some of our most popular recent posts:

Aug 13, 2015

A new study is out that confirms our faculty is one of the nation's best! According to the study, #FSULaw is also #1 in Florida in terms of scholarly impact. Congratulations to our professors! Likes 131 | Shares 35 | Comments 4



November 24, 2015

It's pretty chilly in #tallahassee but there is not a cloud in the sky on #FSULaw campus as students prepare for #finalsweek #nofilter #lawschoollife #lawschool #studying Likes 65 | Shares 1 | Comments 1



April 1, 2016

Dean Don Weidner enthusiastically welcomed admitted students and their guests to #FSULaw this morning for Admitted Students Preview Day. Students are now hearing from four of our nationally recognized professors, who teach 1L classes, about what to expect during their first year of law school. Likes 51 | Shares 4 | Comments 4



November 13, 2015

Dean Weidner's reaction to the #FSULawFamily's surprise appearance in the #FSUHomecoming parade! #fsulaw #homecoming #fun #parade #FSULawDean #ThankYouDeanDon Likes 127 | Shares 12 | Comments 3



April 26, 2016

We're delighted to report that, according to recently released American Bar Association data for the class of 2015, Florida State is the #1 law school in Florida in terms of job placement! At 81.7%, we have the highest percentage of 2015 graduates who, 10 months after graduation, are employed in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs. Congratulations to our talented recent grads and thank you to all of our engaged #FSULawAlums who have mentored students and who have brought job openings to the law school! Likes 411 | Shares 74 | Comments 15



November 16, 2016 | Retweets 5 | Favorites 9

Students were thrilled to meet with #FSULawAlum AI Dominguez, a Senior VP with Walmart, at #FSULaw today!



January 28, 2016

Retweets 18 | Favorites 35

We've been ranked as one of the nation's best law schools for public service!



March 8, 2016

Retweets 5 | Likes 20

#FSULaw was happy to be joined this year by @UFLaw for their inaugural #ASB trip to Immokalee, FL! #ASB #collaborate



It was great to see many #FSULaw alums & friends at FSU Day at the Capitol!



Thanks to all who stopped by our table! #lawschool #lawschoollife #FSULawFamily #fsuday #futurelawyer #fun

Likes 37



We had so much fun yesterday at the annual #FSULaw FSU v. UF rivalry powderpuff game! Both teams gave it their all, but FSU won 16-0! #rivals #powderpuffgame #fsuvsuf #football #fun #FSULawFamily #lawschoollife #lawschool #friends



Likes 34



Stay informed by joining us online at:

FSUCollegeofLaw

@FSUCollegeofLaw

FSU College of Law Alumni

fsucollegeoflaw

FACULTY NOTES

Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of *Florida State Law*.

Frederick M. Abbott

EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



Presentations: *Emerging Issues in Innovation, Access and Public Health* (University of Nevada, Las Vegas, International IP

Roundtable, April 2016). **Recognitions:** Appointed to the Expert Advisory Group (EAG), United Nations Secretary General's High Level Panel (HLP) on Access to Medicines and presented as an EAG member at a March 2016 joint meeting of HLP/EAG in Glenn Cove, New York, and at Global Dialogues and meetings convened in London and in Johannesburg in March 2016; Chaired a meeting of the Global Health Law Committee of the International Law Association in London in March 2016.

Paolo Annino

GLASS PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC INTEREST
LAW



Presentations: *A Conversation about the Solitary Confinement of Juveniles* (Gainesville, University of Florida

College of Law,

Center on Children and Families, Panelist, February 2016); *When Hope and History Rhyme: A Great Opportunity to Help Children in Prison* (St. Augustine, Compassionate Saint Augustine, December 2015); *The Implementation of the Miller decision in Florida* (Washington, D.C., 2015 National Convening, The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, Panelist, November 2015).

Recognitions: Received the Honorary Guardian ad Litem award from the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office for 2015; Directed the Public Interest Law Center's Health Care Access Project, which was honored as the first runner up for The Florida Bar Foundation's 2016 Steven M. Goldstein Award for Excellence.

Robert E. Atkinson, Jr.

GREENSPOON MARDER PROFESSOR



Article: *Growing Up with Scout and Atticus: Getting from To Kill a Mockingbird through Go Set a*

Watchman, 65 DUKE L.J. ONLINE 95 (2016). **Presentations:** *Liberalism, Philanthropy, and Praxis: Re-Aligning the Philanthropy of the Republic and the Social Teaching of the Church* (New York, New York, Fordham Law Review Symposium, We Are What We Tax, November 2015).

Shawn J. Bayern

LARRY AND JOYCE BELTZ PROFESSOR OF
TORTS



Chapters: *The Nature and Timing of Contract Formation*, in COMPARATIVE CONTRACT LAW: BRITISH AND AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES (Larry Dimatteo & Martin

Hogg, editors) (Oxford University Press 2015); *Reply to Hector L. MacQueen, "Contract Formation between Distant Parties,"* in COMPARATIVE CONTRACT LAW: BRITISH AND AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES (Larry Dimatteo & Martin Hogg, editors) (Oxford University Press 2015). **Articles:** *Contract Meta-Interpretation*, 49 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1097 (2016); *Three Problems (and Two Solutions) in the Law of Partnership Formation*, 49 U. MICH. J.L. REF. 605 (2016); *The Implications of Modern Business-Entity Law for the Regulation of Autonomous Systems*, 19 STAN. TECH. L. REV. 93 (2015). **Presentations:** *The Failures of Law & Economics in Contract Law* (San Antonio, Texas, 11th Annual International Contracts Conference,

February 2016); *Discussant* (University of Alabama School of Law, Southeastern Junior/Senior Scholarship Conference, November 2015).

Nancy L. Benavides

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



Recognition: In 2015, was appointed to a two-year term on the board of trustees of the Law School Admission Council and also chairs the group's Diversity Committee.

Courtney Cahill

DONALD HINKLE PROFESSOR



Articles: *Obergefell and the "New" Reproduction*, 100 MINN. L. REV. HEADNOTES 1(2016); *The Oedipus Hex: Regulating Family After Marriage Equality*, 49 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 183 (2015); *Does the Public Care how the Supreme Court Reasons? Empirical Evidence and Normative Concerns in the Case of Same-Sex Marriage* (with Geoffrey Rapp), 93 N.C. L. REV. 303 (2015). **Presentations:** *Reproduction Reconceived* (University of California, Irvine School of Law, Baby Markets International Congress 2016, April 2016); *Gay Rights and the Procreative Right* (Orlando, AALS Workshop on Shifting Foundations in Family Law, June 2015); *After Marriage* (Washington, D.C., American Constitution Society, Moderator, June 2015).

Joseph M. Dodge

PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Article: *Toward Income Tax Accounting Consistency: Eliminating Accrual, Depreciation, and the Existing Tax Treatment of Borrowing*, 18 FLA. TAX REV. 1 (2015).

Charles W. Ehrhardt

PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Presentations: *Electronic Evidence, Hearsay and Daubert Issues* (Orlando, 2016 Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, May 2016); *Emerging Evidence Issues* (Tampa, Annual Civil Trial Update and Board Certification Review, sponsored by The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section, February 2016).

Avlana K. Eisenberg

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Article: *Incarceration Incentives in the Decarceration Era*, 69 VAND. L. REV. 71 (2016). **Presentation:** *Mass Monitoring* (University of Alabama School of Law, Southeast Junior-Senior Scholars Workshop, November 2015).

Sally C. Gertz

CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND CO-DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS



Presentation: *Inside Out: Helping Students Manage Emotional Reactions and Learn from Corrective Feedback* (Cleveland, Ohio, Externships 8 Conference, Panelist, March 2016).

Shi-Ling Hsu

D'ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS



Article: *Scale Economies, Scale Externalities: Hog Farming and the Changing American Agricultural Industry*, 94 OR. L. REV. 23 (2015). **Presentations:** *The Case for a Carbon Tax 2.0* (Washington, D.C., George Washington University Law School, J.B. & Maurice Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium, March 2016); *Human Capital Transitioning* (Champaign, Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Workshop: Climate Change and Its Impacts, March 2016) (Eugene, Oregon, University of Oregon School of Law, January 2016).

Steve R. Johnson

DUNBAR FAMILY PROFESSOR



Article: *The Reliance Defense: Advisor Conflicts and Taxpayer Knowledge*, 17/4 J. TAX PRAC. & PROC. 49 (2015).

Presentations: *The APA and the Administrative Process: How Has Altera Altered the Landscape?* (Los Angeles, California, ABA Section of Taxation Conference, January 2016); *Applying Deference in Tax Cases* (Los Angeles, California, ABA Section of Taxation Conference, January 2016); *Ethics in Tax Practice: Advising Clients* (Telephone CLE, The Florida Bar Tax Section, December 2015); *Correcting Capital Account Mistakes and Errors on Partnership Returns* (National Webinar CLE, Strafford, October 2015).

Jeffrey H. Kahn

HARRY W. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR



Book: FEDERAL INCOME TAX (with Douglas Kahn) (7th ed., Foundation 2015). **Article:** *Cancellation of Debt and Related Trans-*

actions (with Douglas Kahn), 69 TAX LAW. 161 (2015).

Marshall B. Kapp

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND LAW



Articles: *Book Review of “International and Comparative Law on the Rights of Older Persons,”* edited by Ralph Ruebner,

Teresa Do & Amy Taylor, 17 CARE MANAGEMENT JOURNALS 61 (2016); *Book Review of “Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics, and the Struggle for Consciousness,”* by Joseph Fins, 17 CARE MANAGEMENT JOURNALS 64 (2016).

Presentation: *My Life, My Decisions...I Think: Autonomy, Capacity & Impaired Mental Status* (Denver, Florida, Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, November 2015). **Recognition:** Received a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to develop continuing education modules on how to better establish physician/attorney collaboration and communication for successful older patient/client healthcare outcomes.

Jay Kesten

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Articles: *Shareholder Political Primacy*, 10 VA. L. & BUS. REV. 161 (2016); *Political Uncertainty and the Market for IPOs*

(with Murat C. Mungan), 41 J. CORP. L. 431 (2015). **Presentation:** *Regulating Appraisal Arbitrage* (Chicago, Illinois, National Business Law Scholars Conference, June 2016).

David E. Landau

MASON LADD PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



Articles: *Book Review: Fragile Democracies: Contested Power in the Age of Constitutional Courts* (by Samuel Issacharoff), 13 INT’L

J. CONST. L. 1082 (2015); *Constraining Constitutional Change* (with Rosalind Dixon), 50 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 859 (2015); *Transnational Constitutionalism and a Limited Doctrine of Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendment* (with Rosalind Dixon), 13 INT’L J. CONST. L. 606 (2015). **Presentations:** *Selective Entrenchment in Constitutional Design* (Fayetteville, Arkansas, University of Arkansas Symposium on State Constitutional Change, January 2016); *Constitutional Archetypes* (Seattle, University of Washington Trans-Pacific Comparative Public Law Roundtable, Commentator, January 2016).

Jake Linford

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Article: *The False Dichotomy Between Suggestive and Descriptive Trademarks*, 76 OHIO ST. L.J. 1367 (2015).

Presentations: *Are Trademarks Ever Fanciful?* (Lexington, Kentucky, University of Kentucky College of Law, March 2016) (Seattle, Washington, University of Washington School of Law, Works in Progress in Intellectual Property, February 2016) (Miami, Florida International Univer-

sity College of Law, Junior Intellectual Property Scholars Association Works-in-Progress, January 2016) (New York, New York, J. Reuben Clark Law Society Faculty Group Conference, January 2016); *Trademark Forfeiture and Residual Goodwill* (Chicago, Illinois, The University of Chicago Law School, Legal Scholarship Workshop, November 2015) (Washington, D.C., American University College of Law, 4th Annual Trademark Works-in-Progress, November 2015).

Wayne A. Logan

GARY & SALLYN PAJIC PROFESSOR



Articles: “*When Mercy Seasons Justice:*” *Interstate Recognition of Ex-Offender Rights*, 49 U.C.-DAVIS L. REV. 1 (2015); *Government Retention and Use of Unlawfully Secured DNA*, 48 TEX. TECH L. REV. 269 (2016).

David L. Markell

STEVEN M. GOLDSTEIN PROFESSOR



Articles: *EPA Next Generation Compliance*, 30 NAT. RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT 22 (ABA) (Winter 2016); *Sea-Level Rise and Changing Times for Florida Local Governments*, Columbia Law School Sabin Center for Climate Change Law website at <https://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/climate-change/files/Publica->

tions/Collaborations-Visiting-Scholars/markell_apr_2016_slr_fla_local_govts.pdf. **Presentation:** *Reducing Climate Risk and Creating Economic Opportunity* (Miami, Florida International University, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact RCAP Workshop, April 2016). **Recognitions:** Has served as associate editor, editing three articles in that capacity, of the YEARBOOK IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (Oxford University Press 2015) since the summer of 2015; Participated in a special meeting at the University of Miami School of Law arranged by Florida Sea Grant and the Florida Climate Institute to discuss possible law school collaborations.

Murat C. Mungan

D'ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR



Articles: *Abandoned Criminal Attempts: An Economic Analysis*, 67 ALA. L. REV. 1 (2015); *Political Uncertainty and the Market for IPOs* (with Jay Kesten), 41 J. CORP. L. 431 (2015); *The Property-Contract Balance: Comment*, 172 J. INSTITUTIONAL & THEORETICAL ECON. 70 (2016); *Wrongful Convictions and the Punishment of Attempts*, INT'L REV. L. & ECON. 79 (2015); *Stigma Dilution and Over-Criminalization*, 18 AM. L. & ECON. REV. 88 (2016). **Presentations:** *Conditional Privacy Rights* (George Mason University, Law and Economics Center, Conference on the Economics of Consumer Protection, April 2016) (George Mason University, Law and Economics Center, Research

Roundtable for Economists on Law & Economics of Privacy and Data Security, December 2015); *Reducing Crime Through Expungements* (George Mason University School of Law, Faculty Workshop, February 2016); *Sharing of Cost Related Information Can Increase Consumer Welfare under Risk-Aversion* (New York University School of Law, Next Generation of Antitrust Scholars, January 2016).

Erin Ryan

ELIZABETH C. & CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR



Chapter: *Environmental Federalism's Tug of War Within*, in THE LAW AND POLICY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERALISM: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS (Kalyani Robins, editor) (Edward Elgar 2015). **Presentations:** *Federalism, Regulatory Architecture, and the Waters of the United States* (Portland, Oregon, Lewis & Clark Law School, The Waters of the United States Symposium, April 2016); *U.S. Environmental Federalism's Tug of War Within* (Chicago, Illinois, University of Chicago, Chinese and American Environmental Governance Compared: System, Capacity, and Performance (Part I), March 2016) (Orlando, Federalist Society of Florida, Panelist, January 2016); *Federalism and Secession in the U.S.* (Bilbao, Spain, University of The Basque Country, Claims for Secession and Federalism: The Spanish Case in Light of Federal Experience, November 2015).

Mark B. Seidenfeld

PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH



Presentations:

Making Policy outside of Legislative Rulemaking (Tallahassee, 2016 Advanced Topics in Administrative,

Environmental & Government Law, The Florida Bar Sections on Administrative, Environmental and Land Use, and Government Law, April 2016); *New Faces in Administrative Law* (New York, New York, American Association of Law Schools 2016 Annual Meeting, Commenter, January 2016).

Justin T. Sevier

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Article: *Popularizing Hearsay*, 104 *Geo. L.J.* 643 (2016). **Presentation:** *From Delaware to Israel: Evaluating Israel's*

Quasi Experiment of a Specialized Corporate Court (Washington University in St. Louis, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Discussant, October 2015).

Mark Spottswood

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Article: *Ordering Proof: Beyond Adversarial and Inquisitorial Trial Structures*, 83 *Tenn. L. Rev.* 291 (2016).

Nat S. Stern

JOHN W. & ASHLEY E. FROST PROFESSOR



Article: *The Indefinite Deflection of Congressional Standing*, 43 *Pepp. L. Rev.* 1 (2015).

Fernando Tesón

TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR



Book: *THE THEORY OF SELF-DETERMINATION* (editor) (Cambridge University Press 2016).

Article: *Revising International Law:*

A Liberal Account of Natural Resources, 52 *San Diego L. Rev.* 1121 (2015).

Presentations: *A Kantian Defense of Classical Liberalism* (Las Vegas, Nevada, Association for Private Enterprise Education, April 2016); *Commentator on Steven Ratner's book, "The Thin Justice of International Law"* (San Francisco, California, American Philosophical Association Meeting, March-April 2016); *Panel on Fabian Wendt's paper, "The Sufficiency Proviso: A Case for Moderate Libertarianism"* (Chicago, Illinois, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chair, March 2016); *Le mystère de la souveraineté étatique* (Ottawa, Canada, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of International Law, Panelist, November 2015).

Franita Tolson

BETTY T. FERGUSON PROFESSOR OF VOTING RIGHTS



Chapter: *Offering a New Vision for Equal Protection: The Story of Harper v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, in *ELECTION LAW*

STORIES (Foundation Press 2016). **Ar-**

article: *What is Abridgment? A Critique of Two Section Twos*, 67 *Ala. L. Rev.* 433

(2016). **Presentations:** *Originalism and the Right to Vote* (University of Notre Dame Law School, Faculty Workshop,

April 2016) (University of Illinois College of Law, Faculty Workshop,

April 2016); *Elective Perspective: Judicial Regulation of Politics in an Election*

Year (University of Kentucky School of Law, Panelist, March 2016); *What is*

Abridgment? A Critique of Two Section Twos (University of Maryland Francis

King Carey School of Law, Constitutional Law Schmooze, February 2016)

(University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Faculty Workshop, February 2016)

(Duke Law School, Faculty Workshop, February 2016) (USC Gould School of

Law, Faculty Workshop, February 2016).

Donald J. Weidner

DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR



Book: *THE REVISED UNIFORM PARTNERSHIP ACT* (with Robert W. Hillman & Allan G. Donn) (Thomson Reuters 2015)

(successor to 1998-2014 editions).

Hannah Wiseman

ATTORNEYS' TITLE PROFESSOR



Chapter: *The Environmental Risks of Shale Gas Development and Emerging Regulatory Responses: A U.S. Perspective*, in

HANDBOOK OF SHALE GAS LAW AND POLICY (Tina Hunter, editor) (Intersentia 2016). **Article:** *Regional Energy Governance of U.S. Carbon Emissions* (with Hari M. Osofsky), 43 *ECOLOGY L. Q.* 143 (2016). **Presentations:** *Negotiated Governance and New Risks: A Productive Path Forward?* (Winston Salem, North Carolina, Wake Forest University, Symposium: Future of Government Regulation in a Time of Gridlock, March 2016); *Disaggregating Preemption* (Chicago, Illinois, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Environmental Law Colloquium, February 2016); *Balkanizing the Grid? Implications if States Make Different Choices* (Orlando, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University, Navigating the EPA's Clean Power Plan: Charting a Course for Southeast Energy, Panelist, January 2016); *Disaggregating Preemption in Energy Law* (Tel Aviv, Israel, Tel Aviv University Buchmann Faculty of Law, Law, Environment, and Energy Workshop, December 2015) (New York, New York, Brooklyn Law School, November 2015). **Recognition:** Received the 2015 Scholarship Award in the Emerging Scholar Category from the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law.

Samuel R. Wiseman

MCCONNAUGHAY AND RISSMAN PROFESSOR



Article: *Fixing Bail*, 84 *GEO. WASH. L. REV.* 417 (2016). **Presentations:** *Responding to the Money Bail Crisis* (American

Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting, Panelist: Hot Topic Program, January 2016); *Fixing Bail* (University of North Carolina School of Law, October 2015).

Mary Ziegler

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER PROFESSOR



Article: *Choice at Work: Young v. United Parcel Service, Pregnancy Discrimination, and Reproductive Liberty*, 93 *DENV. L.*

REV. 219 (2015). **Presentations:** *Judicial Review and the Trajectory of Conscience Claims* (Atlanta, Georgia, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 2016); *Repurposing Roe: The Right to Privacy in Modern America* (Harvard Law School Legal History Workshop, November 2015); *After Roe: The Lost History of the Abortion Debate* (Harvard Law School, November 2015); *Choice Rhetoric and Single Issue Politics: Abortion Politics in the Decade After Roe* (American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, October 2015).

Ziegler Wins Harvard University Press Award



In January 2016, Florida State University College of Law Professor Mary Ziegler, the Stearns Weaver Miller Professor, received the Thomas J.

Wilson Memorial Prize for her book, *After Roe: The Lost History of the Abortion Debate*. The award is presented annually by the Board of Syndics of Harvard University Press to an author's first book manuscript that is "outstanding in content, style and mode of presentation."

After Roe (Harvard University Press 2015) utilizes more than 100 oral history interviews and extensive archival research to challenge the conventional legal and historical account of social-movement reactions to *Roe v. Wade*. The book also explores reasons for the contemporary polarization of the abortion debate.

"I am so honored that the Harvard Board of Syndics selected *After Roe*, given how many amazing books the press publishes each year," said Ziegler.

Faculty Media Hits

Frederick Abbott was quoted in the February 3 *Modern Healthcare* article, “Could Massachusetts have the tool to fix high drug costs?” Abbott was quoted in the March 10 *UN Press Release*, “Experts, Advocates and Industry Debate How to Increase Access to Medicine and Promote Innovation,” regarding meetings of the Expert Advisory Group for the UN Secretary General High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, of which Abbott is a member. He was also quoted in the March 11 *IP Watch* article, “High-Level UN Initiative On Global Public Health Gap Holds Landmark Hearing” and the March 19 *IP Watch* article, “UN High-Level Panel: Ideas for Change to Global Health and IP System.”

Paolo Annino was profiled in the October 23 *Florida Guardian ad Litem* article, “FSU Professor Paolo Annino Honored as an Honorary Guardian ad Litem.” On November 2, he was quoted in the *Tampa Tribune* article, “Strangers Offer Support When Child Criminals Get Long Sentences.” The article was also picked up by *Bloomberg Business*. On March 21, Annino was featured in a *Florida Bar Foundation* article, “Foundation-funded project protects the rights of chronically ill children to specialty care,” regarding his work with the Public Interest Law Center.

Shawn Bayern was published on May 10, in the *Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog* post, “A Reassessment of General Partnership Law.”

Shi-Ling Hsu’s book, *The Case for a Carbon Tax* (Island Press 2011), was cited in the September 25 *San Diego Free Press* article, “Climate Change Fixers’ Bag of Tricks.” On April 19, Hsu was quoted about a carbon tax in the *CNN* article, “There’s a cheap, proven fix to the world’s biggest problem.”

Marshall Kapp was quoted in the January 27 *STAT* article, “Small share of doctors account for bulk of malpractice payouts.” On January 29, he was quoted in the *Tampa Bay Times* article, “Making sense of the Florida House’s free-market health care ideas.” The article was also picked up by the *Miami Herald*. Kapp was also quoted in the March 6 *NBC News* article, “Doctor of Deception? How a Florida Teen Allegedly Faked Being an M.D.,” and in the April 4 *Tallahassee Democrat* article,

“Take charge of end-of-life decisions.”

Jay Kesten was quoted in the February 26 *TC Palm* article, “Feds loosen requirements on selling AAF bonds, but railroad still faces jittery markets, skeptical investors.”

Larry Krieger was quoted in the Fall 2015 *National Jurist* article, “Best legal jobs: Where lawyers thrive,” which featured his research.

David Landau co-authored the December 17 *New York Times* opinion article, “How to Fix Latin America’s ‘Strongman’ Problem.” Landau was also quoted in the January 6 *Harvard Law Today* article, “Jorge Gonzalez S.J.D ’13: A career shaped by interdisciplinary and global perspectives,” where he discussed his theories regarding abusive constitutionalism.

“No one should be able to serve as president for life. Since the 1970s, most countries in Latin America have made the transition from military regimes to functioning but often troubled democracies. These hard-fought gains must not be reversed.”

— Professor David Landau, from his co-authored December 17 *New York Times* column.

Jake Linford’s scholarly article, “Are Trademarks Ever Fanciful?” was reviewed May 6 in the *Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*.

Wayne Logan was quoted in the January 12 *WTXL ABC 27* article, “The Fate of Death Row Inmates in Florida.” On February 1, he was quoted in the *Tallahassee Democrat* article, “Florida’s death penalty in legal spotlight.” Logan was also quoted in the February 7 *Tampa Bay Times* article, “New Pasco ordinance will push sex offenders farther away;

“Faculty Media Hits,” continued from page 44

could it also push them to re-offend?” as well as in the April 4 *Bloomberg BNA* article, “SCOTUS: No Need to Update Foreign Address Under Old SORNA Provision.”

David Markell authored the April 15 *Columbia Law School Climate Law Blog* post, “Florida Government Responses to Sea Level Rise: New Sabin Center Working Paper.”

Erin Ryan authored the February 16 *American Constitution Society* essay, “The Clean Power Plan, the Supreme Court’s Stay and Irreparable Harm.” The essay was featured on the *Huffington Post* blog and the *Environmental Law Prof* blog. She was also quoted as an environmental law expert in the March 8 *Bloomberg BNA* article, “No, Republicans Won’t Succeed in Abolishing EPA: Legal Scholars,” and in the April 22 *CQ Researcher* report, “Managing Western Lands.”

Mark Spottswood was heavily quoted in the December 11 *WFSU* article, “Out Of The Fryeing Pan, Into The Fire With Expert Witness Testimony,” regarding controversy about Florida’s rules for the admission of scientific expert testimony. On February 4, Spottswood was quoted in the *Sun Sentinel* article, “Despite \$23.1 million award, man paralyzed in deputy shooting faces uphill battle.”

Fernando Tesón was featured regarding his musical talent in two *Tallahassee Democrat* articles, “Law Professor Pursues Passion for Tango” and “Spring Sprang with Argentine Tango,” published February 14 and March 29, respectively.

Hannah Wiseman was quoted in the February 4 *Inside Climate News* article, “Fracking the Everglades? Many Floridians Recoil as House Approves Bill.” She was also quoted as an energy law expert in the March 7 *Mother Jones* article, “Are Big Power Companies Pulling a Fast One on Florida Voters?” On March 16, Wiseman was quoted in the *Bloomberg BNA* article, “\$4.2 Million Fracking Verdict Likely to Spark More Suits.” She was also quoted in the May 2 *Inside Climate News* article, “Colorado Court Strikes Down Local Fracking Restrictions.”

Sam Wiseman was quoted in the February 26 *Tallahassee Democrat* article, “The right turn that rocked Leon County Schools.”

Mary Ziegler was a guest on *KCRW’s To the Point* podcast, “The Abortion Wars, Clinic by Clinic” on November 20. Ziegler and her book, *After Roe: The Lost History of the Abortion Debate*, were the focus of the February 4 *WIA Report* article, “Law Professor at Florida State University Wins Book Award.” Ziegler was quoted in several articles regarding abortion rights, including the February 22 *Washington Post* article, “The most important abortion case at the Supreme Court in a generation focuses on women, not fetuses,” the February 29 *ProPublica* article, “The Supreme Court Decision That Made a Mess of Abortion Rights,” (co-published with *Mother Jones*), the March 1 *Christianity Today* article, “Supreme Court Weighs Why Abortion Clinics Are Closing at Record Rates,” and the March 1 *Slate* article, “Texas’ Big Lie.” Ziegler also authored an April 1 *Washington Post* article, “Everyone agrees women who have abortions shouldn’t be penalized. Or do they?”

“Strategically, antiabortion leaders have long understood that it was unwise to call for punishing women. Showing that anti-abortion activists care about women has always been a crucial step in undermining support for *Roe*.”

— Professor Mary Ziegler, from her April 1 *Washington Post* column.

Spring 2016 Placement Networking Events

Building on a strong record of alumni engagement, more graduates met with students through Networking Noshes during the Spring 2016 semester. Alums and non-alumni participated in these sessions, meeting with students in person in Tallahassee and via video conference. Networking opportunities hosted by the Placement Office also took place in Washington D.C. and South Florida. During the Spring 2016 semester, the following alumni generously shared their time and expertise with our students through the Networking Nosh program:

- Manuel Farach ('86), McGlinchey Stafford, Fort Lauderdale
- Bryan Gallian ('14), United States Marine Corp JAG, Daytona Beach
- Paul Harden ('75), NFL Jacksonville Jaguars, Jacksonville
- Michael Mardis ('01), Home Shopping Network, Saint Petersburg
- Steven M. Millsap ('98), Global Advanced Metals, Waltman, Massachusetts
- Celeste Perrino ('07), Bloomin' Brands, Tampa
- Amy Quintana ('03), World Fuel Services, Miami
- Matthew Rearden ('01) SeaWorld, Orlando
- Terry Sanks ('98), Beusse Wolter Sanks & Maire, Orlando
- Zach Scharlepp ('10), Coppins Monroe, Tallahassee
- Patricia Sellers ('91), Microsoft, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Haley Van Erem ('13), United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.



(ABOVE) Students and alums gathered for a networking reception in South Florida.



(LEFT) The Home Shopping Network's Michael Mardis ('01) spoke with students during a networking nosh in the Advocacy Center.

(BELOW) Current students and alums mingled at a networking reception in Washington, D.C. this spring. (L-R) Forrest Pittman ('13), Kaitlin Monaghan ('14), Brian Labus ('16), Lauren Storch (rising 3L), and Brittne Baker ('15).



BLSA Wins National and Regional Awards



BLSA regional competition winners pose with their awards in front of the College of Law rotunda.

The College of Law's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) again received the national Chapter of the Year award in the mid-size category. The award was presented on Sunday, March 13 at the National Black Law Students Association's 48th Annual National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Other law schools competing for the award included the University of Florida and William & Mary. The award is based heavily on an organization's community service and educational outreach activities. BLSA competed for the national title after winning the regional award in January, marking the fifth time in seven years that Florida State won the regional title.

BLSA also won first place in two major advocacy competitions at the Southern Region Black Law Students Association (SRBLSA) Regional Convention in January.

Florida State's BLSA won first place in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. A total of 16 law school teams competed, including teams from

Emory University, University of Alabama, University of Florida, University of North Carolina, and University of Tennessee. Winning team members were third-year student Mario Errico from Buffalo, New York, first-year student Raymond Jack from Jacksonville, first-year student Dominique Mortimer from Miami, and first-year



BLSA President Anika Boyce accepted the national BLSA Mid-Size Chapter of the Year award.

student Jessica Murray from Miami. They were coached by Florida State law alumna C. Erica White ('01), who is a chief attorney at the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation. Another team from Florida State, coached by alumnus Kevin Alford ('15), placed third overall in the same competition. The students on that team were third-year student Ellen LeGendre Carlos from Pensacola, second-year student James Falls from Jacksonville, first-year student Tawanna Franklin from Greenville, North Carolina, and third-year student Justin Schneider from Fort Lauderdale.

The BLSA Moot Court Team also won first place in the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, an appellate advocacy competition. Thirteen teams competed, including Emory University and University of Alabama. Winning team members were second-year students Matletha Fuller from South Bay and Aqueelah Mitchell from Miami. The team also won the award for Best Petitioner's Brief and Fuller earned the competition's overall Best Oral Advocate award. Florida State law alumna Karla D. Ellis ('96), who coached the 2015 BLSA Moot Court Team to a national title, and Professor Nat Stern coached the team.

"FSU BLSA continues to excel on the regional and national stages and is an example for our entire law school community," said Dean Donald J. Weidner. "We are extremely proud of the student advocates, their dedicated coaches, and all the BLSA members."

Race & Justice Forum Features High-Profile Alums



(L-R) Alums Mark O'Mara and Daryl Parks

Alumni Mark O'Mara ('82), of O'Mara Law Group in Orlando, and Daryl Parks ('95), of Parks & Crump in Tallahassee, visited the College of Law on November 9. They spoke candidly at a Race and Justice Forum, where they discussed their thoughts on race and the justice system, as well as their national cases. The forum was moderated by Professor Wayne Logan.

O'Mara, who also held a Q&A session with students while on campus, is well-known for leading the high-profile defense of George Zimmerman in the shooting of Trayvon Martin. He is board certified in criminal trial law and marital and family law. O'Mara also serves as a CNN legal analyst.

Parks, who has been involved in several high-profile cases around the nation, represented Martin's parents in a civil case. He is a past president of the National Bar Association and has appeared on numerous national television broadcasts.

Students Hold Annual Powderpuff Game

Students enjoyed a fun afternoon of powderpuff football on the law school green on January 28. The annual event pits fans of Florida State University against fans of the University of Florida and usually coincides with the week of the FSU vs. UF football game, but was postponed due to inclement weather. The FSU team was victorious, beating the UF team 16-0.



The FSU powderpuff team and their coach pose in front of the rotunda before their shutout victory.



Don Voyage!



FSU President Thrasher

On April 15, alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered at the College of Law to honor Dean Donald J. Weidner and to celebrate his retirement as dean. Alumni traveled from across the southeast for the event. Special guests included Florida State University President John Thrasher, who provided opening remarks and thanked Weidner for his contributions to the law school. Many non-alumni, including judges and university leaders, also were in attendance.

Weidner served as dean of the law school from 1991-1997, as interim dean from 1998-2000, and again as dean from 2000-present. He joined the Florida State law faculty in 1976 and will continue to be a member of the full-time faculty after he retires as dean at the end of June.



Guests mingled in the rotunda for the “coastal casual” themed retirement party.



(TOP)
A steel drum band accompanied the festivity on the green.

(CENTER)
Dean Weidner listened to remarks from President Thrasher and law faculty, students and staff with his family. (L-R) Wife Jiji Weidner, son Peter Weidner, Don Weidner and daughter Michelle Augusty

(BOTTOM)
Guests gathered under the tent on the green for food and drink.



Dean Weidner reflected on his years as dean and expressed appreciation for the law school community.

preLaw Magazine Ranks FSU #2 in the Nation

In January, *preLaw* magazine ranked the nation's best law schools for public service, ranking Florida State University College of Law the second best law school nationally in the category of public defender/prosecutor. The list identifies schools that best prepare students for jobs in public interest and government. The ranking, which was published in *preLaw's* Winter 2016 issue, takes into account ABA employment data, school curricula, *U.S. News & World Report* indebtedness and salary data, and loan repayment options. Florida State is the only Florida law school ranked as one of the nation's best for public service.

The national ranking reflects the law school's strong job placement outcomes. According to American Bar Association data, Florida State is Florida's #1 law school in terms of the percentage of 2015 graduates employed 10 months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs. "It also reflects our outstanding criminal law faculty and programs," said Dean Donald J. Weidner, "which include both academic excellence and 'real-world' exposure."

Florida State is the only Florida law school ranked as one of the nation's best for public service.

FSU Hosts Annual Mock

The College of Law hosted its fourth annual national civil law mock trial tournament on February 26-28, utilizing the school's state of the art facilities. This year's case involved a hypothetical situation based on a real-life prosecution that took place in 2009, in Walton County, Florida, when a man was prosecuted for "trespass after warning" upon refusing to leave privately owned beach property.

Professor Ruth Stone drafted the problem, which included a complaint, answer, reply, depositions, exhibits, jury instructions and a verdict form. The mock trial problem assumed the fictional Antonio Vargas was found not guilty at the criminal trial, and sued Crump, Inc. claiming he was on public property, and if on private property, that the public enjoyed a right of customary usage to the sandy beach area owned by Crump.

Fourteen law school teams competed from Brooklyn Law School, Charleston School of Law, Charlotte School of Law, Faulkner University, Florida Coastal School of Law, Fordham University, Georgetown University, Louisiana State University, St. Johns University, Stetson University, SUNY Buffalo, University of South Carolina and University of Wisconsin. Fordham won first place in the competition after beating Louisiana State in the final round.



(ABOVE) Florida State Professor Emerita Donna Christie shared her thoughts on a team's performance.

Trial Competition



Final round judge Josh Toman (left) with the winning team from Fordham University School of Law.

The competition was made possible by the generous support of renowned trial lawyer and alumnus Wayne Hogan ('72) and his wife Pat.

Several local attorneys, judges and College of Law professors also volunteered their time and contributed to the success of the competition. They were:

- Professor Richard Benham ('05)
- Lo Bielby
- Professor Tamara Blenkhorn
- Joe Bodiford
- Chevonne Christian ('13)
- Professor Emerita Donna Christie
- The Honorable David Culpepper
- Christian Cutillo ('11)
- Nancy Daniels ('77)
- Gerry Hammond
- Sarah Hassler ('13)
- Stephanie Haynes
- The Honorable Barbara K. Hobbs ('81)
- Professor Steve Johnson
- Vicki Kaufman
- Jennifer Keegan ('13)
- The Honorable Lewis M. Killian, Jr. ('76)
- Ross Marshman ('12)
- Adrian Mood ('13)
- Steve Preisser ('80)
- Lagran Saunders
- Professor Mark Spottswood
- The Honorable J. Layne Smith ('87)
- Ron Stowers
- Frank Symphorien-Saavedra ('08)
- Richard Tanner
- Lieutenant Colonel Christopher J. Thielemann ('02)
- Joshua Toman ('01)
- Ed Walborsky ('79)
- C. J. Weinman ('89)
- Bib Willis ('87)

In addition, mock trial members Lexie Miller and Katie Harrington helped coordinate the competition and many other team members served as runners, tabulators and timekeepers.

Technology for Lawyers at FSU College of Law



Elizabeth Farrell Clifford

The College of Law’s Research Center is proud to be a leader in offering technology programs and services to students. In addition to the array of technology available for check-out, the Research Center offers supplemental, non-credit, research-focused and technology-focused lunchtime workshops. Attendance at these workshops reached over 400 students during the 2015-16 academic year, and included topics such

as power searching and e-discovery. Additionally, a recently awarded technology grant has enabled the Research Center to upgrade the facility’s computer equipment and software. Students and faculty members will have access to top of the line software used in modern law practice.

“We are always trying to make as many tools as possible available to our students,” said Elizabeth Farrell Clifford, who is the interim director of the Research Center, and also teaches the college’s Technology for Lawyers course.

Technology for Lawyers is a robust course that provides background in both theory and practice to help students understand how technology is changing the practice of law across all fields and venues. The skills course was developed in response to the demands of employers and the American Bar Association’s call for technology competency. Over the past few years, more than 20 states have added ethical rules requiring technology competency for lawyers.

The course promotes adaptable, tech-savvy, practice-ready lawyers who can make a positive impact on their organization from day one. The key course topics – including ethical considerations, information security, automation and efficiency, legal process and project management, and electronic discovery – foster lawyers who can utilize technology to address challenges in the current legal industry.

“The current market doesn’t really support 100% bespoke services anymore. There’s a lot in the news about the cost of legal services, and how we can harness technology to become more efficient and provide better service and value for clients.

That’s ultimately the overarching theme of this program,” said Clifford. “Dean Weidner was an enthusiastic early supporter in creating this program to help build the sophistication and technological competency of our students.”

Kadmiel Perez, a rising 3L at the College of Law completed the course this past year. He noted, “This is not your typical law school class. It featured many in-class activities that exposed students to a variety of different legal technologies. The activities often provided a first-hand experience with legal technologies and software that most aspiring lawyers aren’t exposed to until their first few years as an associate, or until they have started their own firm. Through a combination of lectures, demonstrations, and in-class activities, students are made aware of the advantages, drawbacks, and confidentiality/ethical concerns that are inherent in new legal technologies.”

In addition to providing a foundation in technology for legal practice, Clifford hopes to inspire students to be more innovative and entrepreneurial in their pursuits, and to position them to recognize technology opportunities in the legal industry. She noted that the legal technology space is a vibrant, growing area, and has hundreds of start-ups due to the continuing demand for legal services. To address this, the Technology for Lawyers course includes a component on future trends in the industry, preparing students to identify opportunities to further develop the use of technology in the legal field.

The technology programs offered by the College of Law Research Center are possible because of its tech-savvy and service-oriented staff. Clifford noted that the center is more than just a facility to house books – it is also a service available to the entire law school community. “We’re always happy to hear from alums, and to help them with their research questions,” Clifford said. “We love learning how our programs and services have helped them in their careers, and we always appreciate hearing about their experiences with technology too. We try to make our programs both cutting-edge and practical so we can prepare our students for the practice of law today and in the future.”



Harvard University Professor Alberto Mora presented the 25th Anniversary Distinguished International Law Lecture in April. He spoke about legal ethics related to Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo.

CLOSING NOTES...

According to ABA data, Florida State is the #1 law school in Florida in terms of the percentage of 2015 graduates employed 10 months after graduation in full-time, long-term, bar passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs.

The 2015 entering class has a **median LSAT of 158 – the highest in the state – and a median GPA of 3.52.**

Since 2010, the Moot Court Team has won 1st place in 11 national competitions and in one international competition. During the fall 2015 semester, the Mock Trial Team won 1st place in two national competitions.



FLORIDA STATE LAW

COLLEGE OF LAW
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306-1601

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TALLAHASSEE, FL
PERMIT #55

Visit us on the web at www.law.fsu.edu



**Visit us
online**



**Like us on
Facebook**



**Follow us on
Twitter**



**Watch our
videos on
YouTube**

Use your web-enabled smart phone to scan the QR codes.