

BROADLY SPEAKING

MAY 2020

MESSAGE FROM

THE DEAN

DEBRA MOSS VOLLWEILER

Welcome to Broadly Speaking, a brief news magazine highlighting the news and events at NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. This newsletter has been created as a helpful way for you to stay connected with the law school.

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

I hope this issue of Broadly Speaking finds you and your families healthy, with a positive approach to your days. For all of us in the NSU Law family, the events of this Winter semester brought challenges unlike any that we have experienced, but at the same time strengthened the sense of teamwork, support and community for which we are known.

NSU
Florida

Shepard Broad
College of Law
**NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY**



**Debra Moss
Vollweiler**

Interim Dean, Associate
Dean for Academic
Affairs and Professor
of Law

NSU LAW SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

At NSU Law, we were among the thousands of schools, universities and companies that adjusted mindsets and priorities to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We joined every law school in the country in offering our academic program for the final weeks of our Winter 2020 term through online learning, and we will begin our Summer 2020 term in the same remote modality.

As we continue to find our way during this pandemic and to prepare for the changes that the post pandemic world will bring for our students, our alumni, and our faculty and staff, we will be developing new programs to build on our academic strengths. With

our strongest-ever academic class, consistently high employment rates among our alumni, and an increasing demand for well-educated law graduates, we anticipate a very bright future. We embark on our 2025 strategic plan as a central part of the university's transformative new vision of national preeminence. No matter what the world brings, at NSU Law, we are committed to preparing lawyers who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

The past decade clearly has transformed the legal profession, and at NSU Law, we have responded successfully, giving us the full confidence that we

will continue to meet the challenges of today and of the future. Our Master of Science in Law program; which educates and trains hundreds of front-line professionals each year and helps them provide better healthcare services, educational programs, and human resources - continues to be a national leader in an ever-growing field. We will graduate our first experienced LL.M. students this year, and we continue to grow our undergraduate educational opportunities to provide employment-ready degrees in the legal arena.

In addition, we continue the important work of fostering academic and bar success for our students and graduates. Our Academic Success and Professionalism program has proven to be a leader nationwide in innovative academic support, particularly in the transition to remote learning and the planning for delays or alterations in the bar exam timeline this year. The program has provided daily support to students since the COVID-19 crisis hit, including a full online course dedicated to all students and graduates at different stages of their academic career, with and our professors of practice working individually through virtual office hours with everyone seeking help.

Over the past months, NSU Law has maintained our goals and dedication, while celebrating our well-earned successes. Our nationally ranked Legal Research and Writing program not only continues to rise in reputation, but it also earned the Florida Bar Group Professionalism award for student outreach programming. Our nationally ranked health law program also continues to rise in reputation, and



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our newly nationally ranked trial advocacy program, something for which we have always been known locally, is now being lauded on a national scale.

Many of these successes have come this past semester, while we are all adjusting to the new experience of a virtual learning and working environment. Our NSU Law students, faculty and staff not only made all the necessary adjustments efficiently and quickly, but they emerged as leaders in teaching and learning. All members of the community have provided technical, educational, and even emotional support to each other. It is through these important acts of kindness, flexibility, patience, and understanding that we can all see the true spirit of NSU Law flourish.

Our alumni have similarly answered the call, proving themselves to be true leaders in the community by serving their clients, working together, and ensuring that access to justice continues even in difficult times. We celebrate their achievements and are proud to call them our own.

Although I have shared this before, this fact is truly striking: the majority of the JD class of 2020 entered their 1L year in 2017 with Hurricane Irma and will graduate amidst a global pandemic. I truly believe this is the most dedicated and resilient group of students you will find in the legal community. We have confidence in their capacity to succeed under any conditions and know that they will continue to do so.

Once again, on behalf of the college of law, I thank you for your continued support. At NSU Law, we will continue to move forward. While our student, faculty, and staff health is paramount in our minds, we continue to support students in their goals to succeed. I wish each of you health and patience in the coming weeks and beyond.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PROFESSIONALISM

Amidst the transition to online learning, the Academic Success and Professionalism program (ASP) team has continued its focus to assist all NSU law students develop a solid foundation for success as they study for the bar exam. Each graduate is assigned an expert bar coach, either an ASP Professor of Practice or an NSU Law faculty member, who provides individualized support, counseling, and mentoring during bar preparation in the summer for the July bar exam and in the winter for the February bar exam. The program works with and supplements each student's commercial bar preparation course, offering additional opportunities to develop and practice the skills and content knowledge required for success on the bar exam and offering support and community during the months leading up to the bar exam. The ASP team's expertise in online learning means that we can support our students whether they are studying in the building or remotely.



Academic Success and Professionalism Professors of Practice & Staff

Studying for the bar exam is a full-time job. NSU Law Alumni & Friends can Help.

NSU Law offers a limited number of Bar Study stipends and scholarships that allow students to study full time for the bar exam, as they forgo working to dedicate their time to this endeavor. These scholarships and grants can be used to cover basic living expenses. NSU Law alumni can help expand this scholarship and grant program to more students, as well as support the ASP program's other bar efforts, through generous donations made directly to the College of Law's Florida Bar Scholarship or the Critical Skills Endowment. For more information on how your gift can make a direct impact with an NSU Law student contact Tiffany Garner, Director of Donor Relations & Stewardship at tiffany.garner@nova.edu or (954) 262-6261.

NSU LAW STUDENT

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The wellbeing of students at NSU Law is always our utmost priority. The administration recently secured a \$25,000 grant from the AccessLex Institute to provide financial relief to currently-enrolled students during this global crisis. While these funds are vital, we need your help to make a greater impact.

NSU Law is asking alumni, friends, and supporters to match the \$25,000 grant from the AccessLex Institute, so we can further provide emergency financial assistance to students in need, as well as assist recent graduates who are otherwise ineligible for the AccessLex Institute funds while they prepare for their Bar examinations.

The generous grant from AccessLex Institute only provides assistance to current students, but NSU Law has many students close to graduation who have reached out to our administration with financial concerns, having incurred sudden expenses including the loss of a job, food insecurities, or other emergency-related costs. A scholarship application for the NSU Law Emergency Relief Fund has been created for students to express their emergency needs. A faculty and administrative committee has been established to review these applications.

To give please visit: bit.ly/NSULawGift

NSU LAW RANKED NATIONALLY BY *U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT*



NSU Shepard Broad College of Law continues to grow its reputation in our JD program through its standing in the *U.S. News & World Report*. Overall, our Part-Time Law program is now ranked in the top 50 Law Schools nationwide, reflecting the many student-centered changes we've enacted throughout our program, and our commitment to ensuring access to legal education.

In the specialty ranking areas, our reputation has continued to grow among our peers. Across the board, nearly all our programs demonstrated upward movement in their rankings, including our new Intellectual Property concentration and our live client experiential education clinic program. This year, we were particularly recognized in three areas. Our Legal Research and Writing program is once again ranked 2nd in Florida moving up two spots to be ranked 18th nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. We have long recognized Legal Research and Writing (LRW) as a point of pride for NSU Law. Under the direction of Dean Olympia Duhart, the program has gained national prominence as the faculty in the program take on leadership positions in national organizations, publish significant books and articles, and help NSU's law students be

practice ready for their clerkships and internships. The LRW Student Outreach program was also recognized this year for its significant effort, with the Florida Bar Group Professionalism award, whose purpose is to recognize an organization (such as a bar association, judicial organization, inn of court, or law school organization) that has enhanced professionalism among lawyers and students through innovative programs that can be implemented by other organizations to promote and encourage professionalism across the legal community.

The NSU Law Health Law program has been ranked (tied) 1st in Florida and moved up two spots to be ranked 54th nationally. Under the leadership of Professors Kathy Cerminara and Marilyn Uzdavines, NSU Law has expanded its interprofessional partnerships with the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine, the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, and many of the other colleges and programs throughout NSU's Health Professions Division. The Health Law program once again was the focus of the annual Law Review symposium, as well as hosting other programs for the community, increasing its national reputation

for scholarship and innovation in the field. Combined with a wide-ranging curriculum and active involvement by many of the NSU Law fulltime and adjunct faculty, including longtime supporter and adjunct professor Gerald Morris (NSU 1977), this program will continue to be a leader in health law education as the field faces new challenges. The Health Law program at NSU offers a diverse and varied curriculum for students to become health law practitioners and policy makers.

This year, for the first-time our Trial Advocacy Program moved up more than 50 spots in the *U.S. News and World Report* specialty rankings, to be ranked 50th in the country. Encompassing a broad range of foundational, simulation, and live-client experiential courses, our curriculum, taught by an experienced and energetic team of full-time and adjunct faculty members is just the beginning for our students engaged in this program. The vast opportunities for co-curricular opportunities through competition

teams, and extra-curricular opportunities such as our Trial Advocacy Summer Institute (TASI), ensure that students can continue to grow their skill level in innovative and exciting ways. Our vast network of alumni volunteers have contributed immeasurably to our students' success, and we thank you and encourage you to get involved with our programs.

A key measure of our University is the strength of our community and connections. The focus that our faculty places on student success is a result of the teaching, scholarship, and broad interdisciplinary engagement of the NSU Law faculty, staff and NSU leadership. "Our faculty have developed exemplary national programs in these important, practice ready specialties," said Debra Vollweiler, Interim Dean of the law school. "This allows us to remain truly student-centered ensuring our students' future success in their chosen fields."

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING (LRW) STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM



AWARDED THE 2020 GROUP PROFESSIONALISM AWARD BY THE FLORIDA BAR

The LRW Student Outreach Committee is a special volunteer working group of LRW Faculty designed to target first-year law students by reinforcing legal research and writing skills with a concentration on professionalism. Since 2013, the program has provided an opportunity for NSU Law Students to focus on writing and wellness, citation, oral advocacy, interviewing, time management, ethics and legal networking with local lawyers and judges. Each year, the program offers highly interactive workshops. It

also allows upper-level students opportunities for "near peer" mentoring with the 1Ls. The LRW Student Outreach Committee is comprised of LRW Faculty committed to the discipline of LRW and student-centered instruction. Professor Joe Hnylka is the current Chair of the LRW Student Outreach Committee. Associate Dean Olympia Duhart is the Director of the NSU Law Legal Research & Writing Program.



MICHAEL RICHMOND

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT |

“ Be lawyers, not attorneys. Have more than the mind of an attorney. Embrace the heart of a lawyer. Care for your clients and care for the Law. ”

The NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, as it was then known, opened its doors to students in 1974 and graduated its first class of attorneys in 1977. Professor of Law Michael Richmond walked through those doors in 1978 and in May 2020 will “figuratively” walk through the doors for the last time as an honored and well-loved faculty member. Professor Richmond will retire officially on June 30, 2020 and we plan to honor his legacy properly once we are all able to gather together again.

Countless alumni attended his Torts classes through the years as well as his Constitutional Law II class, Law and Literature Seminar, and coached Moot Court teams, among his many educational connections. When asked why he chose to focus on Tort Law, Professor Richmond’s response was, “Torts is just plain fun!” One of his favorite classes included the case, *In re Polemis* that dealt with an explosion in Casablanca harbor during World War I. Professor Richmond provided a memorable experience briefing the case himself, dressed as Humphrey Bogart:

fedora, trench coat, cigarette dangling from his lip, and the character’s trademark accent. Another memory Professor Richmond shared was his annual “competition” with Professor Michael Flynn to see which Torts class could donate the greatest number of cans during the annual “canned immunity” food drive. The real winners were the Broward residents who could put food on their tables for Thanksgiving.

After 42 years with NSU and NSU Shepard Broad College of Law, Professor Richmond has won numerous awards, served on countless committees and has published a wealth of scholarly literature of which he is justifiably proud. He leaves the following wisdom for his fellow faculty and staff, and to his students; “Be lawyers, not attorneys. Have more than the mind of an attorney. Embrace the heart of a lawyer. Care for your clients and care for the Law.” To his students in particular, “You will always be my students and I look forward to the pleasure of learning about your careers and lives.”

IURY CARVALHO

J.D. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Iury began his legal career well before law school with a “few weeks to help out” at the Shaked Law Firm in Miami, Florida with Sagi Shaked, NSU Law JD 1999. Those few weeks have lasted 10 years and as of March 2020, Iury has agreed to be the newest Associate Attorney with the firm after he graduates. “I have learned so much from the attorneys at the Shaked Law Firm. I have been very fortunate that they are great mentors and value my opinion. One of my favorite moments was helping the attorneys during a wrongful-death trial where they obtained a verdict of over \$12M. I absolutely love personal injury law and I cannot see myself practicing in any other area.”

Iury is heavily involved in student organizations (12) at NSU and NSU Law all while maintaining his Dean's List status. “It is an honor to serve the NSU Law community. I encourage all law students to be involved, as much as their studies will allow, and to participate in all the networking opportunities possible. The relationships that are built with legal professionals during school will place you in a better position for the future.” Iury represented NSU Law on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law Student Division from 2017-2019 and was later appointed by the President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, to serve as one of three law students on their Law School Exploratory Committee in 2019-2020. One of the highlights of his involvement with The Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division was the opportunity to meet Florida Supreme Court Justice and leaders of The Florida Bar.

Iury has traveled extensively, including to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he was born and still has family, and Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany. He enjoys everything about traveling—the food, cultural events, music and especially the people.



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In May 2020 Iury Carvalho, along with 164 of his classmates will graduate from NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. Iury was voted to be the graduation day speaker for the JD students. The COVID-19 pandemic put a damper on the physical connections but not the enthusiasm and energy of the NSU Law class of 2020. At the time of publication, NSU and NSU Law are in the midst of re-scheduling commencement ceremonies.

MACKENZIE SCHOOLMASTER

M.S. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Mackenzie Schoolmaster's career as a registered nurse has provided her the ability to maintain job security and flexibility to support her growing family. As a student at Mercer University earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she always intended to further her education. "While emergency nursing was always my passion, I was very interested in pursuing a legal nursing degree. Working in the ER I experienced conversations and events that made me realize I could advocate for my patients in such a different way."

After seven years in the clinical environment, Mackenzie shifted her career to a position as an Utilization Manager (UM) simultaneously starting her Master of Science in Health Law at NSU. In her current role, she ensures that patients are admitted properly to acute care facilities and continues to follow the patients as they progress through their inpatient treatment. She works directly with the acute facilities to promote proper discharge planning and care. "The Medicare and Medicaid Law class translated immediately to my current role, helping clarify how the health care services are involved in management the Medicare Advantage plans with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid."

"The NSU MS Law staff and faculty provided exceptional counseling with a genuine personal touch. The team was always proactive. I sincerely appreciate NSU's willingness to invest in the most effective platforms for online education and to provide training to faculty and students to use the technology efficiently." MacKenzie credits the support of her husband and her two children as paramount in providing her the opportunity to further her education. She is grateful that both her family and the NSU team have helped her navigate the online learning platform to ensure that her time learning and growing was successful.

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ANTONY ROBRENO

PARALEGAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Antony will earn his B.S. in Paralegal Studies with a minor in Business Administration, International Studies and Political Science in May 2021.

One of Antony's first NSU classes was UNIV1000, which provided him with the fundamental expectations of college learning with a focus on student success. After meeting with Professor Jessica Garcia-Brown and discussing a legal career following graduation, Antony enrolled in the Introduction to Law and the Legal Profession class and was hooked.

"My understanding of the practical nuances of legal research and writing, ethical issues, and critical thinking skills relates directly back to the real world experience the faculty bring. Classes are not just lectures, they are stories and connections."

After his first year at NSU, Antony earned a position as an NSU Peer Leader and is currently a Resident Assistant. These opportunities to serve as a role model for incoming freshman opened other leadership roles including positions as the President of the NSU Phi Delta Theta fraternity, the NSU Men's Club Soccer team and Vice President of NSU Club Sports. As president, Antony is proud that the Phi Delta Theta fraternity has the highest cumulative GPA within all the fraternities at NSU and they have contributed over 100 volunteer hours, specifically to ALS charities.

Antony is looking forward to interning this summer at a law firm in the Broward or Miami-Dade counties and is interviewing for positions at the time of publication.



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YINETH ASLAN

| ALUMNI NSU J.D. 2016

“Being a lawyer is more than just having a job; it is becoming a member of the legal profession, to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the profession and to the community.” Yineth Sanchez Aslan graduated from NSU Law in the spring of 2016 and continues to fulfill her goals of advocating for victims. She also continues to promote the need for diversity and inclusion of underrepresented minorities in the law.

Among the many reasons that NSU Law has earned a *U.S. News and World Report* specialty ranking in Trial Advocacy is the Trial Advocacy Summer Institute (TASI). Yineth, along with the NSU Trial Association leadership team and faculty advisors, organized the first TASI program in August 2015. The institute is a platform specifically designed for intensive learning of basic trial skills unconnected to any coursework. Each year, TASI continues to connect excited and eager law students with top trial attorneys and judges from Miami-Dade, West Palm Beach, and Broward counties. TASI provides an intimate environment where the instructors can nurture and shape the raw talent of the students, transforming that talent into measurable skill. As of 2020, more than 400 students and more than 200 alumni and attorney trial instructors have participated in the program.

As a member of the board of directors of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association (BCHBA), in January 2020 Yineth and the BCHBA board founded the first Broward County Bilingual High School Conference, *Our Bilingual Journey: The Challenges and Benefits of Bilingualism in the Legal Profession*. In a partnership with the Broward County Public Schools and BCHBA, 125 students and panelists gathered for a full day of large and small group discussions. Attorneys, judges, and Spanish-speaking high school students shared their bilingual experiences, the benefits and challenges of growing up in a bilingual home, the effects of bilingualism in the legal profession, and how



“Being a lawyer is more than just having a job; it is becoming a member of the legal profession, to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the profession and to the community.”

to use bilingual skills to excel professionally. Yineth and the BCHBA team are looking forward to the 2021 conference. “The passion and determination to overcome the challenge of a language barrier are remarkable proof of the resilient spirit of immigrants. My hope is that other groups and organizations will recognize that and in turn create more opportunities for success for this bilingual population.”

2019 - 2020

NSU LAW MOMENTS



National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Tournament National Champions. Professor Mark Dobson, Scott Simmons (JD 2020), Wesley Wallace (JD 2020), Professor Megan Chaney, Professor Jon Garon



NSU Black Law Students Association November 2019 "When They See Us" Panel with BLSA leadership



NSU Honor Student reception guests Alison F. Smith (JD 2003), Professor Florence Shu-Acquaye, Rachel Trotogott (JD 2023)



NSU Law Trial Association Summer Institute student Linda Harris (JD 2021) with volunteer Judge The Honorable Mariya Weekes (JD 2008).



NSU Law Alumni Association Palm Beach Chapter holiday party Marta Gomez (JD 2020) and Drew Sando (JD 2013)



NSU Trial Association Buffalo - Niagara Invitational Mock Trial Tournament Champions Kevin DeMatteo (JD 2020), Rachel Glaser (JD 2020), Jihad Sheikh (JD 2020), and Alessandra Litowsky (JD 2020).



Mentoring Dinner - Journey to the Bench with Dean Debra Moss Vollweiler, The Honorable Mariya Weeks (JD 2008), Professor Jon Garon, The Honorable Melanie May (JD 1981), Dean Janice Shaw, The Honorable Betsy Benson (JD 1984), Asst. Director Michelle Denis (JD 2016)



NSU Law students met with staff from the Miami Dade School Board Attorney's Office and 32 of other public interest organizations in February 2020.



5th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. letter writing award winners, Abigail Chapman (JD 2022) and Deandra Hilaire (JD 2022)

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