

4-30-20 Stetson Law.

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[captioner standing by]

>> Good afternoon. My name is Karla Davis Jameyson the Assistant Dean for enrollment management at Stetson Law, on behalf of the entire admissions team I want to thank you for joining us today for this special live stream event. This is actually the sixth installment in our live stream series and we're pleased that you set aside some time to engage with us today.

I'm joined by 4 of our Stetson Law alumni, Amy Rigdon, Kevin Iurato, Lori Baggett and Chelsea Johnson Bennett. As the panelists present if you have questions we want to encourage you to pose those questions in the questions feature box and we will reserve some time at the end of the 4 presentations to take your questions. I will do a brief introduction of each of our pannists then allow them a short time frame in order to present their presentations, following all 4 of them as I said we'll all join in and take your questions, as many as we can take, we will try to make sure we cover all of them.

So first, Amy Rigdon is a partner in the Washington DC Office of Latham and Watkins where she represents fund sponsors in fundraising and operating traditional private equity funds as well as no traditional investment funds including special purpose acquisition companies and collective investment trusts.

Ms. Rigdon's core areas of practice are raising new private investment funds and

co-investment vehicles in the U.S., Latin America, Canada and Europe. She also practices structuring internal sponsor arrangements in negotiating key personnel departures, negotiating strategic investors around the world, structuring portfolio company acquisitions and divest herself, co-investment programs and management equity arrangements. Amy serves as the President of the Stetson Law alumni association board and Amy, I want to go ahead and stop there and allow you to do your presentation.

>> Thank you, Karla and hello, everyone. So sad we can't all be together in person, but glad that we have found a way to still connect in this new norm, as we call it. So, we have a brief presentation of 4 points to give you background about ourselves and maybe help your decision as you think about choosing Stetson Law. So the very first one is why I chose to attend Stetson Law. I attended Stetson University as undergraduate campus I would call it and I loved my experience there. It was an amazing environment with high caliber professors and a lot of opportunities that a school that size afforded me. And so frankly, I figured I couldn't go wrong with Stetson Law if it was anything like the undergraduate experience. With that I still applied to multiple law schools, as most of us do. And when I visited Stetson Law I just sort of knew. It was beautiful facility and campus, which some of you listening to this haven't been able to see the campus in person. The professors are extremely polished and knowledgeable and caring as well. They really take time to get to know their students and really support and help grow their students. And the last reason I think I chose it was based on our advocacy and legal research and writing rankings, frankly no matter what you do as a lawyer, no matter what kind of practice those are two skills you're going to

use no matter what. You're going to be writing and doing research and advocating for your client whether it's in a courtroom or in a business negotiation or, you know, in a different context. And so it felt for me like Stetson's got the core principles covered. The second question is my fondest memory of Stetson Law while as a student and alumnus. I think my fondest memory was actually my study group. My first year study group then became my core friends through Law School. And it wasn't so much studying that was my fondest memory but it was just the bonding that we had. It's an experience, and we're all over the place now and having that camaraderie it was not the paper chase where everyone was out to get the other. It was a very fun, as much fun as you can have amongst the homework and studying and we just enjoyed ourselves. As an alumnus I think my most enjoyable experience has been getting to serve on this alumni association council and currently the President of the board. It's a great alumni group. We have over 10,000 alumni across the globe and the score kind of represents the alumni in graduation years, our practices and geographies. So that's been a very satisfying experience. I'm happy that Stetson reaching out to alum to keep us engaged after we have attended as students. The third question was, how has Stetson prepared me for my career path. While in Law School I was a summer associate in Orlando, Florida then started my career in Holland and knight in 2008 before Lehman Brothers and the market collapsed so I feel I'm going through on the market down turn. I started my career as mergers and acquisition, a corporate acquisition and there was nothing to do so I kind of started moonlighting with other groups like litigation and investment funds. And the investment funds group was busy and sort of adopted me. Truthfully at that

point in my life I had no idea what hedge fund was, it's fine if none of you understood any introduction from Karla but it definitely prepared me to analyze the claw and to be adaptive and gave me the tools that I could become successful in a practice of which I had known nothing about prior to the day they came to my door. So, I really enjoyed the practice and stuck with it. I was recruited to join Latham and Watkins a little over 5 years ago in the DC office and that's a large international law firm with offices all over the world and last year I made partner there. So it's been a very fruitful experience and I do feel like I owe a lot of it to Stetson for giving me the tools and the confidence to take on these challenges. Lastly, my top advice for our admitted students, 3 things I'll say. One is while you're trying to select the school and which Law School to attend I would say trust the feeling you have as you explore your options. Probably many of you had a feeling about your under grad institution and when you made that decision and I think the same is true for Law School. It's important to consider the state where you want to live in the future but those things are not the end all, be all. It's important that you're in an environment where you connect and you feel supported and you're going to make the most of the opportunities that can be offered to you. My second piece of advice is do well your first year. It's hard your first year. No matter where you go. There's suffering of figuring out what Law School is and all the legalese. So do as well as you can and my last piece of advice is just be flexible. You know, life is what happens when you are busy making plans and while many of us like to plan out everything we can, 20 year old me had no idea what an investment fund was and now I'm in a practice that I love what I do, I love where I practice and, you know, have so far been successful in

getting to live out what I wanted for my career. And so, you know, I think it's good to be flexible and get to discover different practices and opportunities while you're in Law School and beyond. And I will stop there.

>> Great. Thanks, Amy. I love that you're a double hatter. That's a very special honor. And thanks also for outlining the questions that the panelists are going to present. I forgot to do that. So, thank you so much. Next we have Lori Baggett, Lori is a managing shareholder at Carlton Fields in Tampa, Florida and represents companies in labor and employment law with a particular expertise in workplace safety and health issues. She is one of a handful of Florida lawyers with OSHA 30 certification, she represents clients dealing with fatal and catastrophic accidents and helps had them resolve OSHA citations and whistleblower complaints and advises counsel and employers on workplace compliance issues, conducts internal compliance investigation and defends employment related claims. Her claims represent numerous industries including construction, proceed pain and natural gas equipment and systems and retail. Ms. Baggett's experience defends companies and disputes with former employees includes federal and state lawsuits, claiming discrimination, harassment, retaliation, overtime wages, violations. FMLA and violations of noncompete restrictive covenants. She also represents companies in the construction industry, including large scale national home builders, general contractors, suppliers and manufacturers in the areas of construction defects, contract disputes and OSHA investigation and compliance. She is a former division one basketball player, that was something I didn't know and Lori believes in the power of teamwork. That comes interests her experience as a basketball star and whether working with

colleagues or clients she takes a collaborative partnership approach. Lori.

>> Thanks, Karla. I appreciate that. Good afternoon everyone, it's good to be here. So the first thing I guess I'll tell you about is why I chose Stetson. I'm a native Floridian which there's not a ton of us but I am one. So I wanted to stay in the states. I'm originally from the panhandle so coming from the Tampa Bay St. Pete was far enough away my parents couldn't hop over but I could get back and forth to them quickly. I actually attended University of Florida for a pre-open program the summer before deciding where I wanted to go so chosen between the University of Florida and Stetson. The differentiator for me was in that summer program we really spent a lot of time getting to know ourselves. And took what a lot of you may know about the Myers-Briggs test, I'm an ISTJ, the most important one about that was that I'm an introvert. So I'm a forced extrovert because of my career. So for me and thinking about the ways that I learned and what's key to my personality, Stetson campus being unique in that it's just the law students and it wasn't as big and overwhelming as a campus like the University of Florida, I knew I was going to learn better in that kind of environment and as Amy said at least some of you have invested or seen pictures online but the minute you see the campus you fall in love anyway so it didn't take much beyond that but a key differentiator for me was the environment, the amount of times the professors spend teaching you and getting to know you and helping you really learn about how to be a good LA. I knew all those things were going to make a difference in how I learned in my success as a lawyer after Stetson.

My fondest Stetson memories. There are so many but, you know, to use props

I was looking around my office as we were preparing but it's certainly relationships. I have a picture there, Stetson Law if you can see it with some of my best girl friends as Amy mentioned. You really make relationships that last a lifetime. So many of my fond memories things I can't tell you about that we did when we were in Law School. But aside from that I would say in your first year when you have moot court competition I was fortunate enough to make it to the final round, I did end up winning that competition but the key memory there is that one of the panelists Stetson frequently invites sitting judges back as well as alumni to be on those panels. And as an African American woman for me, judge Mary Scriven a federal district court judge now in Tampa was actually on the panel at that point in time and also an African American woman and I come from a very small town. I had never met an African American judge before in my life so as you can imagine they do the bailiff, all rise and all these people in these black robes and if you've heard people talk about her or experienced yourself how important it is to see yourself reflected back, I think for me that moment in time and I've spoken with her about it since then was just very reaffirming for me at Stetson embraced diversity, that they were doing everything they could to bring all sorts of experiences to the students and it was just a very large turning point for me in my career. I then subsequently had the opportunity to intern for Judge Scriven and ultimately also worked for her husband. So they have just become great mentors for me and I love I'm still in Tampa practicing so the community is collegial and I was able to establish many relationships through Stetson that are still serving me to this day. So those are some great memories for me about my time there. After Law School as Karla told you I'm at Carlton Fields but I clerked

for a judge on the 11th circuit Court of Appeals hands down one of the best years of my career. It was a great learning experience to sit for a federal appellate judge. I was very good writer when I got there. I was an even better writer after that year of working with the judge, preparing him for oral arguments, and I had 4 fellow law clerks who have all done amazing things in their career as well so that was definitely a great stepping stone for me and from there I dime Carlton Fields so I've been here since 2003 and again the career progression for me up to office managing shareholder has been phenomenal and I highly recommend if you want to do something like you should start the job in January and have a pandemic start in February. That's just a great plan. So it's been trial by fire. But it's been amazing and so as Karla mentioned I do a lot of OSHA and labor and employment and construction and defect work so tried and trued. When I've looked back at this point in my career I would say the relationships that you will make last a lifetime. Doesn't matter if you go to a big law firm or go to the public defender's office or start your own firm, in-house, you will make key relationships, key friends at Stetson who will then go on to do amazing things. And a lot of them just like you will remember the friends and the people that they learned when they were in Law School, they will remember your character. A lot of them will become your clients. My study partner as much as I loved hanging out with my girlfriends when there were there I studied throughout Law School with a guy who we knew we weren't going to spend time gossiping, we were going to get together, study and go our separate ways. He's also a good friend and he's now opposing counsel on a case I have right now so relationships are key in life as well as in the practice of law and I think that's all I have. Thank you, very much.

>> Thank you, so much, Lori. I too love judge Scriven. So I'm glad to hear. Yeah, that you have a strong mentor relationship with her. Next we have Chelsea Johnson Bennett, Chelsea graduated from Stetson Law school in 2015, during her tenure at Stetson she was a member of the Stetson -- of two, I'm sorry, two of Stetson's nationally ranked programs, alternate dispute resolution, and trial advocacy. Chelsea also met her husband at Stetson. They began Law School the same year and after graduating Chelsea moved to south Florida where she was an associate focusing on first party property insurance defense, specializing in sink hole litigation and providing opinions to national insurance companies, soon after Chelsea decided to switch career paths and accepted a position with the children's legal services in Miami-Dade county, currently division chief for children's legal services advocating for children and families in south Florida. While working full-time, Chelsea maintains a very active lifestyle and serves on various professional boards, including the Stetson Law alumni association. Chelsea.

>> Yes, hi everyone. As everyone shared it's good to be here with you today, even if it is electronically. So start with why I chose Stetson. There are a few reasons why I was drawn to Stetson. As was already mentioned the idea that Stetson was a smaller community, really drew me to it because I came from a very small town in New York. I went to a very small college in Virginia. And so, the idea originally I wanted to go to a big Law School and when I went to visit it did not feel right and it was not the place for me and I felt like it was right. It was where I could learn, it was where I could grow and at the same time, and speaking with professors before even beginning my career at Stetson and other students it seemed very much like a supportive team. The professors were there

to assist you and they wanted to see you succeed. And that was really big for me and a few of my professors, are mentors I still talk to and turn to for professional advice and career advice even to this day. Additionally as you heard I was part of some of the advocacy boards at Stetson, knowing the ranking of Stetson and knowing I wanted to really excel and expand my abilities in that area was really important to me and that just made Stetson the right choice and I could not be happier with the decision that I have made looking back today. As far as a memorable moment at Stetson, there are a lot. I think what Lori and Amy had already mentioned, the relationships that you made and that you make at Stetson, those were a lot of the most memorable wonders for me. I also had the opportunity to go to a lot of final advocacy competitions, with some of the people that did become my best friends and great colleagues and some of those memorable moments was there was one when we were in Chicago and actually at Stetson final which is always a wonderful place to be when you're going to advocacy competitions because no matter what you know you're friends and colleagues and going back with a win no matter which team it becomes. So we didn't end up winning but it was amazing being able to go into a competition against the people that you have been practicing with and learning from and growing from for months in preparation for that competition. And that's probably one of the most memorable things that stand out to me from my time at Stetson. Obviously, I did meet my husband there. So I have to say that's probably a very high memorable part of Stetson and something we're always grateful for. We have a one and a half year old now and we're both from south Florida so we are very thankful for Stetson bringing us together in that way as well. In terms of

how Stetson prepared me for my career path. The litigation and the professionalism are probably the two biggest aspects that Stetson prepared me for. In terms first of professionalism aspect, we're taught a lot at Stetson not only about professionalism in the courtroom but professionalism with your colleagues. I remember one of the first things I ever heard at Stetson, I think it was our first day on campus is look next to you and those are the people that you will see in your career, personally and you need to be professional with them and treat them in a professional manner and that was huge. And that still holds true today because some attorneys do not act that way and to know when you're going against a Stetson attorney as opposing counsel or negotiations that's huge. And you know you're going to get professional courtesy from them. In terms of the advocacy that I mentioned, you know, I'm in trial probably 2-3 times a week sometimes. Working with children's legal services, we are essentially a prosecuting party in child abuse cases. So abuse and neglect is what we focus on for children and families. And those trials, Stetson prepared me to be in trial. They prepared me to be in negotiations and mediations with these families and to be able to even train some of the newer attorneys that are coming into our offices that haven't had that training that Stetson prepared me for. I went into my first year trial advocacy or first trial advocacy class terrified of public speaking, terrified of being in front of a courtroom despite wanting to be a trial attorney, I was terrified of it. That first trial advocacy class gave me the confidence to believe in myself and the confidence to grow into the advocate I knew I wanted to be. And that I very much attribute to not only the colleagues that I had in my class that helped me grow but also the professors that I had along the way as well in that

class and others after. My biggest advice to students looking for schools, is really to put yourself out there when you're in school, when you're going through Law School, to really allow yourself to go beyond your comfort zone and you will grow. You will make those relationships. You will learn more about yourself than you may know now. Additionally, I think Amy had mentioned but in choosing a school and in the beginning why Stetson, really listen to what you feel when you're speaking to professors, when you're on these video conferences and being able to hear from, you know, the aluminum my, professors, really take that into consideration because that played into my success now and throughout Law School than deciding a Law School based upon where I wanted to practice or where it was located. That's probably my two tips, so thank you.

>> Sorry about that. Thanks so much, Chelsea. Finally last but not least Kevin Iurato. Kevin is a partner at the Iurato law firm in Tampa, Mr. Mr. he focuses his practice in business transactions and contracts, business law, securities, recapitalizations and restructuring, employment law, franchise law and marketing and advertising law. And also, provides general counsel services for his clients. Mr. Iurato's experience includes mergers and acquisitions, asset sales, reorganizations, entity formation and negotiating and drafting a variety of agreements. While Mr. Iurato's practice focusing primarily on business transactions with significant experience as outside counsel and high level in-house counsel Mr. Iurato has general legal experience and practical business experience handling, overseeing and advising on a large variety of legal issues that companies are faced with on a daily basis, including litigation, governmental and regulatory inquiries, audits and investigations and employee relations. Prior to joining the

Iurato law firm Mr. Iurato worked in private practice in the corporate securities and finance group at fowler White PA and corporate and securities franchise and distribution group at DLA Piper there after he served as general counsel for continental promotion group, which is a leading international provider of rebate, gift cart and fulfillment and marketing services with offices located in 3 countries and as assistant general counsel at proceed-vest LLC, a nationwide provider of legal support services with offices located throughout the U.S., while at Stetson Mr. Iurato served as assistant articles editor of the law review and served as intern to the honorable Susan Bucklew Federal District Court Judge and received a scholarship and Kevin serves on the Stetson Law Alumni Association board.

Kevin, thank you for being with us.

>> Thank you, Karla. You can hear me, right?

>> I do, you're good.

>> Okay. We have to shorten that bio next time. Anyway, I'll start with why I chose Stetson. Now keep in mind I graduated 20 years ago, I guess now. So I think I'm probably the oldest one here in terms of far removed from school. But at the time I recall I was joining because of the reputation that Stetson had in the community. I had moved -- I'm from the north East, I moved to Florida the Tampa area about a year before or so that I went to Law School so took a year off between under grad and Law School. And I knew I wanted to work in the Tampa Bay area so, you know, talking to people around that was certainly a no-brainer in terms of going to Stetson, because of the, again, the reputation of the lawyers that Stetson produced, you know, in this community and frankly nationwide now. And so, that was really the driving factor for me and also, you know, just if you

haven't had a chance to see the campus you must because it was nice then and it's gorgeous now. It's really unbelievable.

In terms of memories, I would say a couple things that stick in when I think of Stetson, certain things stick in my mind is one would be when I -- so when you're trying to get a job, so like your second year in the summer of your second year you might clerk for a law firm. And I was clerking for a law firm and at that time they used to bring in 12, 13, 14 attorneys, sorry, students, to clerk for the summer. And it was basically a summer-long interview and try-out for a job, essentially. And we had about 4 or 5 Stetson students then there were students from all over the country and some very, you know, well known named schools. And I just, I always remember that they gave about 5 or 6 job offers that summer and it was all the Stetson students and one or two other students from the other schools. And what stuck out to me is it clearly showed through the summer in terms of who was prepared, who knew, you know, who knew how to write well and who was prepared professionally and ready to hit the ground running as a new lawyer and clearly the Stetson students were a cut-above and that showed in the results from that summer. I think another thing that sticks out in my mind is my wife, I met my wife at Law School, I don't know if you mentioned that Karla but we met day one of orientation, actually. And so, she's actually very involved in school as well, she's on the Board of overseers now but one of the things that we did several years ago was decide to endow a scholarship at the school. So every year now, we get to go to the annual scholarship banquet and we get to meet the students that's awarded our scholarship and that's been a very rewarding, just really rewarding experience for us. We look forward to it every

year and just happy that we can do that and we're able to give back to the school and stay involved.

In terms of my career path, so Karla mentioned some of it and, you know, I've kind of been all over the place. You may have heard I started at big firms, one was Florida statewide firm then I went to a national firm. From there I moved in-house and I was general counsel as she mentioned of a company that had about 400 employees. That company eventually went bankrupt which required me to go to another company where I was assistant general counsel but really enjoyed my time as in-house counsel but at one point my wife who was also working at a big firm, she had our son, decided she wanted to step away from the big firm and start her own thing from the house so she started in the house and I started helping her on the side and here we are 7 or 8 years later with, you know, a small firm, the two of us, we've got a couple paralegal that is work for us and it's been great and allowed us a flexibility that we really charge with our kids.

They're 10 and 8 now and just been around and able to experience everything with them as they've grown up. So I really enjoy this having our own firm.

There's always been a little bit of an entrepreneurial bug in me. I always wanted to run a business but had no idea what that would be so I get to experience that a little bit through having our own law firm. So I really enjoy that and I would say Stetson in terms of how it prepared me for that, you know, I would say just overall being well rounded, creative thinking lawyer. I've been in a lot of different scenarios, played a lot of different roles as an attorney and it requires creativity, it requires confidence, it requires skills and all of that I attribute to gaining while I was at Stetson.

In terms of my advice for incoming Stetson students, I would echo what my colleagues have said here. I would also add, you know, the career service office is a vital office at any Law School. I'm assuming most of you want a job after Law School and that's why you're going. And the career service office at Stetson is top-notch. They are amazing and I would get to know them early and stick with them through your time at school there and they will be a great service to you. So that's important in choosing any Law School. You really should look into, you know, that office and what they have to offer. And I think lastly I would just say based on my own experience something I wish I would have done when I was in school is take advantage of more of the programs that Stetson has to offer. I did a few things but looking back, I mean there was so much more, you know, between traveling abroad, which hopefully at some point following this pandemic that will open up and clinics and internships and I mean you can intern at companies now. I mean it's just really -- there's limitless programs. And so I would just advise everyone to take advantage of that to the extent that you can. And with that I think that's it for me.

>> All right. Thank you, Kevin. It's really interesting to hear about all of these marriage matching that happens at Stetson. So a JD degree and marriage license. Love it. So, thank you so much to the panelists for their presentations and their advice and guidance regarding why they chose Stetson and some things they would like to pass along to you the audience, our admitted students. It's now time for us to take your questions. I see some questions are already starting to pop up in our question box here. I think Carman Johnson our Associate Director for admissions and diversity initiatives is going to help moderate our

questions for our panelists. Carman, are you there? Okay. I'm not hearing Carman. Darren, are you there?

>> Oh, I am here. Can you hear me now?

>> Carman --

>> Yes, I'm here.

>> Okay. Excellent. So Carman do you have some questions for the panel?

>> Yes we do and it looks like I was muted so thank you, Karla and thank you everyone for joining us. So now we're going to start get to go your questions. It looks like we have some more coming in. So feel free to keep posting those questions and I know our alumni are excited to get to them. And so before we get to those specific questions I do want to start with Amy. And you had mentioned briefly the Stetson Law alumni association and I wanted to make sure that the admitted students got to know a little bit more about the organization and the type of things that you do.

>> Yeah, absolutely. So, it's an organization you're automatically part of upon graduating from Stetson Law. So no application required. And it is, you know, what we do to try to keep alumni engaged because networking and relationship as Lori mentioned are a very important part of life and the practice of law. And so we want to help facilitate the network that you created in Law School and expand that beyond to the other alumni. So we have chapters throughout the country of different alumni groups. So there are various chapters throughout the state of Florida, where we have significant alumni and chapters in Atlanta and DC and Chicago and Texas, forgive me I'm forgetting where they are but it's something we've been working with the University at the college of law to expand and grow

so each of the chapters organize events throughout the year so we can get together when we're allowed to get together, in-person and continue to network and foster these relationships. The association has a board, which is comprised of about 15 members and the 4 of us are all members of that board. Kevin is actually the incoming President after my term ends here in June and we do our best to meet with the University 2-3 times a year and hear what's going on with the college of law and give our input as alumni and help where we can to make sure that students are being served well and alumni are being served well.

>> Yeah. Thank you so much for that insight and I even remember as a graduate being able to get some great assistance from SLAA in terms of mentorship and also reaching out for advice so thank you for that and thank you for your leadership. So now the fun part. We get to the questions and the first question is from Del, hello Del, he graduated from the naval academy. His question is what does the aluminum any network look like in other Florida cities? So maybe we can toss that to Chelsea since you're done in the south Florida area.

>> So, I know the aluminum any association in south Florida there's a few different chapters that we have. We have one in Miami then there's one in St. Lauder Dale Palm Beach area. So we do professional events to all meet up for a happy hour or something we can all get tock and talk and connect. Also I've noticed a lot in our area in south Florida and I believe it also exists in other areas throughout the state of Florida and as Amy mentioned in the other states that we have these alumni chapters. That you have the opportunity to reach out to these individuals. I reached out to a few in our area to be able to speak to them if I need to refer a case or if I have a question about an area of law that I don't

practice in. You always have the opportunity to turn to them and be able to have that growing network of people throughout everywhere in these chapters to be able to connect with.

>> Fantastic. Amy, yes, exactly. Go ahead.

>> I was just going to add before I moved to DC I was practicing law in Orlando and we have a strong chapter in Orlando, there's a strong chapter in Jacksonville as well as the panhandle area of Florida. So there are multiple chapters throughout the state of Florida that are very active and having events and we also try to connect the chapters of people who are new to the area. So when you graduate if you're moving to an area in Florida or outside of Florida that you haven't been and don't have an established network we try to use those chapters to get you access to people, to just create a network, maybe help with job searches if that's something you want.

>> Then also, I know you had briefly mentioned you were practicing in DC. Do you know about the other chapters, I think there's one in New York, Atlanta.

>> Yes. Thank you. New York is another city we have a chapter. We actually -- Stetson has a lot of alumni outside the state of Florida. Granted a significant number are in the state of Florida. It's Florida's great economy and there's a lot of legal opportunity there and it's wonderful weather because I'm looking at a gray day outside now, it's still cold here. So a lot of people like to stay in Florida but New York, Atlanta, DC, a lot of metro areas, Dallas, we have very strong members and alums. So we are trying to organize and make sure we have opportunities to connect and get together. Sometimes people don't realize there's so many of us in a metro, unless you have the opportunity to have

organized events and get together and connect. So that is something that the college of law and the FLAA has been working hard to make sure we're fostering and growing and in the metro areas where we have those significant numbers.

>> Okay. Thank you, so much. The next question --

[speaking at the same time]

>> Okay. The next question is from Jacquelyn and we're going to toss this one to Lori. And basically in terms of looking at hiring Stetson graduates, Lori, what are you looking for? What would you look for when trying to hire a Law School graduate, particularly from Stetson?

>> I think I would say in terms of hiring lawyers, we probably look for the same thing no matter where they come from. But that is grades, I think someone else mentioned it earlier. It's important to apply yourself and get a good start off your first year is always a great idea. It's tougher to dig yourself out of a hole than really applying yourself and starting off really well in the first year. We always -- a lot of the trial advocacy organizations that Stetson has usually give people a leg-up. You might hear a lot of, if you have friends who are in other law schools and hear people talk about it in the industry, in Law School they don't teach you to you hob a lawyer. I think Stetson really does teach you how to be a lawyer. There's lots of internships and judicial programs that you can get involved in, practicums, there are lots of classes that allow you to work with practicing lawyers. I took an employment class with professor pickle when I was in Law School and we basically were associates, out site associates to practicing lawyers who are also Stetson grads and I actually ended up with Donita James, I had to research an assignment, got to go to her office and present it to her and

talk about it, we had follow-up questions, essentially what a first year associate does. So it's a really great experience to do things like that. So when we can see that while students have those kinds of experiences in Law School where they've at least already started digging in and learning how to be a lawyer, that really helps set them apart from, sometimes from the bigger maybe ivy league law schools where they're taking the same classes. I think it sets Stetson lawyers apart and the relationship I think is also important because in big law what I do, you know, you have to generate clients. You have to generate money, bring in money and those relationships, people do business with people though know, they like and they trust and those are relationships. And as we all talked about I think the relationships and the friendships that you make at Stetson, that can turn into business opportunities for you, so those are the things we look for as well.

>> And that is really good advice and related to our next question. It's from Robert and I'm going to throw this one to Kevin. Robert is wondering how did you get your first job? And how did you determine what area of practice that would be? Because a lot of our admitted students don't necessarily know what they want to practice right away.

>> Okay. So, in terms I'll start with the practice area. When I went to Law School I knew one thing, I knew I did not want to be a litigator. That's about all I knew at that point. So I stayed in the transactional type practice lane. Right? And so, as I went through school, I just, you know, realized, okay, over time it looks like I'm going to want to be some kind of business transactional attorney, that's what attracted me the most. And I enjoyed those, you know, classes that

related to that topic as well. And so for me it was just, you know, that's basically how I chose transactional work. My job was through the summer clerking, I think I mentioned that earlier. It was on campus interviewing. And so, you know, we were -- Stetson brings, you know, firms on campus to interview students. So I started the summer of my second year after my second year and we -- so I interviewed with several firms and ended up going with a firm at the time that was a state-wide firm, fairly large, several hundred lawyers. And, you know, that was basically how my career started and went from there. But I would say summer -- the on campus interview, the key component of me getting that first job.

>> Sure. And I have somewhat of a similar experience. So that's very good advice in that regard. So thanks for that question, Robert. We do have several questions so we're going to move on to the next one. And so basically from Caitlin then also from Samuel kind of a similar question. I will throw this one to Amy. If there was a particular extracurricular activity or class that you felt best prepared you for practice?

>> So I actually did law review, y' all if that was mentioned earlier, I was editor and chief my third year and I will say I think law review was amazing preparation because it's a lot of research and writing and heavy writing. And no matter what practice you have, I like having a corporate lawyer, I don't go to the court house but whether you do or you don't you're going to be researching and writing because you're either preparing memos or responses or briefs forecourts or doing stuff for clients. You want research memos, et cetera and want drafted contracts. So I do think law review was extracurricular in that regard. Although I think it's

important to do any kind of extracurricular, just to get further exposure, especially if you're coming into Law School not knowing exactly what practice you might want to have. Which I think is good. I think it's good to come to Law School not knowing what practice you want, you are open to whatever you can experience. We have really good clinics both sort of in-house and external, more like externships. Do as many of those as possible because it kind of like getting to try out practices and law firms and public defender's office, prosecutor's office, kind of no strings attached because it's only a semester. And then further I think you asked about class. I actually didn't go to Law School to be a business attorney, I thought I would be a litigator so after my summer internship and I got a job offer in the corporate practice group I went back to my third year of Law School to figure out, let me take some business law classes. And so they were very useful and effective. I think -- so I will answer this with a typical lawyer, it depends answer. But I think -- I think you should -- once you have the type of practice you might do then take classes that help support that, those extra, you know, outside of the core curriculum classes. But I can't say that one is Bernie of the other because it will depend on what you decide you want to do.

>> And that's a really good point because a lot of the courses they build on each other and it gives you a good view of what practice may be like. So this is kind of related to another question and I'm going to pitch this to Chelsea. What was your -- not necessarily did it prepare you for practice but what was your most memorable Law School course?

>> The most memorable Law School board I had was definitely being on trial team. Actually trial team and resolution board. They both are kind of equal for

me based upon the growth that I had during those teams. What I learned from the coaches, from the students that I was on the team with, my colleagues and the relationships that I built from that, those were huge. And mentioned in the bio the biggest thing that stands out to me was making it to finals and really being able to showcase what we've learned and all the hard work we were able to put into it and now that's what I do day in and day out. So I definitely still also prepared me for being in the courtroom for negotiating and mediating cases outside of the courtroom and just litigation as a whole.

>> Okay. Very good. And in terms of Lori or Kevin, was there a memorable class that you took not necessarily preparing you for classes but something memorable to you or a professor?

>> Lori you want to go first?

>> Sure. So I had civil procedure with Patrick Longen, because I'm probably second oldest to Kevin, long gone from Stetson. But it was 8:00 a.m. on Monday and Friday I think it was which is just as you can imagine not pleasant. And he was the type of professor who when he came in and closed the door if you weren't there then you were absent so when the roll came around it was the honor system so you could sit in class but not be present. He called on you and there was the fear of God where you would not know what to say so as fearful as those look in some of the movies and betrayals it was not nearly that bad but it did force me to prepare and, you know, actually get, you know, learn the things like I had lots of court hearings as well. I'm a litigator and I have to be at the court house in Tampa, it starts at 9:30 on a Monday morning, Monday also is jury selection day so the line and parking and just all sorts of nightmares so I typically will get to

court at 7:00. So I can get to park and, you know, go to the restroom and get some water and have some peace and calm before it starts. So that class is memorable for me because just at the time I thought it was so traumatic but it was just kind of preparing me for things to come.

[Laughing].

>> Kevin?

>> I would just quickly, I started in the summer where we only took two classes that semester and I had Calvin whose name you will hear if you come to Stetson and then another professor for property and both of them were as Lori said the Socratic method and it was interesting introduction to Law School and a good way to start so that sticks out in my mind.

>> Sure. And it's kind of on a related note, somewhat related to what Lori was saying, the next question is from Laura and she's calling in from south Carolina. How did you manage work with part-time I don't know if anybody was part-time so maybe internship. So Kevin I will have you take that one and ask Amy to follow-up.

>> Well when I was in school I really focused -- school to me was first and foremost because I was just kind of focused on doing the best that I could to give myself the most opportunity possible, you know, after graduation. And so, you know, it was busy. You know, you felt like you were kind of working around the clock but the life of a lawyer is pretty busy as well. Things don't change too much when you get out in the real practice. So I would just say, I don't know if I'm the best to say I managed it well because I pretty much focused on school as much as I could and maybe some other things went by the way-side during that period.

>> Amy?

>> Yeah, so this is rough advice to hear, particularly for those that are just graduating college right now and probably [Indiscernible] but I think to the extent you really can, it's worth taking the loans for your first year and not trying to have a part-time job if you at all can, because the more you focus on school that first year the best you set yourself up for the most opportunities. Because a lot of at least law firms start looking at you as a second year law student. And so, you know, they only have the first year grades to go on. So like Kevin, I didn't have any other kind of job, school was my job that first year. But I am, you know, all work and no play makes me an upset girl so I still found ways to have outlets. I was actually in a long distance relationship at the time so I tried very hard to get all of my work done during the week so I could spend weekends seeing my then boyfriend. And honestly like every night my roommate and I who were in Law School together with sit on our couch and read all of our cases and there would be 100 pages of reading and it's a lot to get through because you don't want to get called on by one of these professors and, you know, you're more terrified when you're unprepared then feeling terrified when you're prepared. And so my best advice is stay on top of it. That first year is daunting but to the extent you don't get behind and do the reading every night, it's a lot to catch up if you miss 100 pages of reading then the third night is 300 pages so I think the work life balance is you make time for school and carve out fun times. I still had a lot of fun in Law School. I still have great memories of partying with friends and, you know, hanging on with the boyfriend on the weekends and going to the beach on Friday when our classes ended, which is another, none of us mentioned, another good

thing about Stetson is the beach is right there. Friday the classes ended at noon and we all went to the beach. So it can be done. It's just you've got to be -- you've got to exercise time management and be diligent but those are great skills to start honing if you haven't already because to practice law is to do the same thing.

>> Thank you, so much for that. And I see we have 2 minutes remaining. So I did want to throw one more question out to Chelsea and Lori. Time passes when you're having fun. Right? A lot of incoming students asked this question where before Law School, what should they do in preparation before Law School? So I'm going to start with Lori then we will end with Chelsea.

>> Basically the summer before Law School, just the summer.

>> Travel, if you can, if it's not a pandemic. Aside from that, I would say -- I thought as I mentioned I was in a pre-law program, assuming you're not in that I think the main thing that was helpful about that was to really think about under grad, you learned something about yourself and how you learn. Some people are visual learners, some people auditory, some people need to, you know, the tactile type things out, do things, that's what I learned about myself then I made sure that I approached Law School the same way. I'm very outlined oriented, it helps me to write things out or type things out and as Amy mentioned to not let it creep up on you. Do the reading each night and even if you get behind at least by the weekend you need to treat this like your full-time job and prepare on the weekend. Go back through what you covered that week and if you don't understand, go during office hours and talk to the professor, not wait until the end, because it's unlike anything you've every experience when they expect you to

apply everything back to them in essay format and if you wait till the end to do that, God help you. So I think that for me, just knowing how I learned and making sure that I practiced that throughout the time going to Law School, I figured that all out the summer before so I knew how to approach Law School.

>> So, I went right from my undergraduate students right to Law School so the summer between, you know, under grad and Law School I really took that time to spend with friends, I really relaxed a lot because I wanted to give that focus to my first year and to not get behind. So that's something that I mean I really tried to relax, get myself ready for 3 years of a lot of hard work and the career that would follow after. There was a few weeks that I did intern with a state attorney's office just getting to know kind of a little bit of the law before I started, because I was serious about it and I was interested in that to begin with. So that was really insightful, also for me going into Law School already having an idea of something of what an attorney does, because I honestly didn't know too much about it before, before going into Law School. And so if there's something you know you're interested in, maybe you shadow an attorney for a few weeks but also enjoy and try to relax a little bit before you're really going into a full-time job.

>> Yes and thank you so much for answering the questions and thank you all admitted students for asking necessary great questions. We have a few more questions so what we'll do is follow-up and then we're going to toss it back to Dean Jameyson.

>> Thank you, Carman and thank you to our panelists. We really appreciate you taking the time out of your schedules today to be a part of this live stream. I learned a lot, which is great. And I hope that our admitted students did as well.

So thank you so much for joining us. To our admitted students, thank you for participating. You had some great questions. We really appreciate you taking the time to engage with us. If you have any follow-up questions that we weren't able -- that you weren't able to ask or we weren't able to answer please follow-up with the admissions office and we'll be happy to get those questions answered for you. We'll work with our panelists if there are any questions specific to them. I also want to remind you we recorded today's session so if you joined us late or just want to watch it again for fun, we will be sending you the link so you can check it out at a later time. And then wanted to lastly just mention that we have another live stream scheduled for next Thursday, May 7. Featuring Dean Alexandre so the Dean will be introducing herself to you and talking a bit about why she's excited to be at Stetson and be available to answer your questions for a 45 minute session, next Thursday, May 7, starting at 1:15. That concludes today's live stream, again thank you for joining us, we hope that you have an enjoyable rest of your day and that you stay safe and healthy. Thank you!