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From the Dean



Ambassador David Scheffer presents to a packed room.

On Thursday, February 29, we hosted Ambassador David Scheffer, who presented “The Future of International Criminal Justice” for our 2024 D’Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights. Scheffer, who was the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues (1997-2001), examined the current performance of international criminal tribunals as well as the character of crimes being investigated

and, when possible, prosecuted against perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. Scheffer's lecture focused on international criminal justice in the context of the Russia-Ukraine and the Israel– Hamas wars, and he also addressed gaps in international criminal justice, including in the United States. After the lecture and a Q&A with audience members, we recognized two outstanding FSU Law students—Robin Rodriguez received the 2024 Ellis medal for excellence in international human rights studies and activities, and Nicholas Lower was announced as the 2024 D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellow. You can [read a university article about the lecture to learn more](#), and [watch a recording of the full lecture](#).

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Dershowitz Visits FSU Law Seminar



Alan Dershowitz speaks to students in FSU Law's Civil Liberties in the Digital Age class.

On Tuesday, February 27, Alan Dershowitz, the Felix Frankfurter professor of law emeritus at Harvard Law School and a renowned litigator, visited the Civil Liberties in the Digital Age seminar, a class offered by the College of Law's Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation. Dershowitz discussed his forthcoming book on “the preventive state”—or as he describes it, “the challenge of predicting and preventing cataclysmic harms without granting too much power to government,” and students in the seminar were able to read a portion of the unpublished manuscript. Students asked Dershowitz questions about free speech, social media censorship, discourse on campus, the moral and ethical dimensions of representing clients, and other

subjects. FSU President Emeritus John Thrasher and FSU Law Visiting Professor Jules Coleman participated in the seminar as well, engaging in a spirited exchange with Dershowitz on some of the philosophical elements of free speech. Past and future sessions of the Civil Liberties in the Digital Age seminar include several accomplished guest speakers and cover topics such as law and technology in the workplace, artificial intelligence and deepfakes, gene editing, and data and information privacy.

Alum Profile: Cedell “Ian” Garland ('08)

Ian Garland serves as deputy director for civil enforcement at the Florida Medicaid Fraud Control Unit within the Florida Office of Attorney General. In this role, Garland oversees all Florida False Claims Act litigation involving allegations of Medicaid fraud and represents Florida on the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Unit's (NAMFCU) Qui Tam Subcommittee. Garland also co-chairs the Managed Care Working Group within NAMFCU and participated in drafting comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regarding their 2015 proposed rule regarding Medicaid managed care. He also serves as a liaison to the United States Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Justice, and Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Before becoming deputy director in 2020, Garland served as a senior assistant attorney general for the unit. His experience also includes serving as an assistant attorney general for the Florida Office of the Attorney General Corrections Litigation Bureau, where he represented the Florida Department of Corrections in prisoner §1983 actions, and the Office of the Attorney General Child Support Enforcement Bureau. Garland received The Florida Bar's Claude Pepper Outstanding Government Lawyer Award in 2020, the Government Attorney of the Year Award from the Florida Government Bar Association in 2022, and a Special Achievement for Affirmative Civil Action Award from the South Florida Inspectors General Council in 2024. He is active in several voluntary bar associations around Tallahassee and is a former president of the Florida Government Bar Association.



“My legal career to this point has been nothing like what I expected when I began my 1L year at FSU Law.”

Working in public service has been far more rewarding than anything I'd imagined myself doing, and the opportunities it's presented have been nothing short of incredible. I'm grateful for the role FSU Law and its alumni community played in preparing me to represent the State of Florida and its citizens."

Celebrating 2024 Grad Dylan Rhoades

After graduation, FSU Law 3L Dylan Rhoades will be working as an associate in the Tampa office of Holland & Knight LLP! When Rhoades graduates in May, he will also receive the Business Law Certificate. Rhoades has been a staff member of the FSU Business Review since the spring of his 1L year and of the Florida State University Law Review since his 1L summer. At FSU Law, he also serves as an academic support fellow and as treasurer of the Technology Entrepreneurship Club. We wish Rhoades all the best in his new role and look forward to celebrating his future accomplishments!



We are inviting all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a new platform exclusively for the FSU Law community. Alumni can keep in touch with the College of

Law and other alumni, post jobs, and access career development tools. If you haven't already joined FSU Law Connect, please join today to help us increase engagement and connection.

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