



# FSU LAW

## Focus

March 22,  
2024

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### From the Dean

Holland & Knight



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TUESDAY @ 1:15 P.M.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FORUM

Please join us virtually or in Washington, D.C. on April 2, when our Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation and Holland & Knight will host an Artificial Intelligence Forum. The event will include three informative panel discussions featuring academics, policy market regulators, and thought leaders from around the world to discuss the promises and perils of artificial intelligence. Panelists include a senior attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, a commissioner with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, top attorneys in the area of AI, and a technology reporter with The New York Times. The event will begin with an overview

of AI and then address regulatory issues surrounding AI and the future implications of its use. The forum will conclude with a keynote speech by Columbia Law School Professor Anu Bradford, a leading scholar on the European Union's regulatory power and a sought-after commentator on digital regulation, among other subjects. You can [visit our website to learn more](#) about the event and the distinguished panelists, and to register to attend in person or virtually.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

## Students Win National Moot Court Brief Writing Competition

Congratulations to second-year law students Alyssa Hawthorne and Zachary Zepeda, who won the championship in the 2024 National Tax Moot Court Brief Writing Competition! The briefs were submitted in January and were graded by a panel of tax experts. Hawthorne and Zepeda also participated in the 2024 National Tax Moot Court Oral Argument Competition at Stetson University College of Law, and Hawthorne was recognized as one of five oralists who earned a perfect score in a round at the competition. Zepeda was also highly praised by the judges for his oral argument. Both the Brief Writing Competition and Oral Argument Competition were sponsored by the Tax Section of The Florida Bar.



"Alyssa and Zach's achievements are all the more impressive because both of our champions are 2Ls with no prior moot court experience except for the spring 1L advocacy exercise," said Professor Steve Johnson, who coached the students.

Participants in the two competitions included teams from law schools in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Judges included prominent tax and appellate attorneys, IRS chief counsel officials, and three judges of the United States Tax Court. Special thanks to Professor Johnson for coaching Hawthorne and Zepeda!

## Alum Profile: Kelsey E. Carlton ('21)

**Kelsey E. Carlton** is an associate at Meenan, P.A. in Tallahassee. She focuses her practice primarily on insurance regulatory matters throughout the country, aiding in the formation and licensing of insurance companies, service contract providers, insurance agencies, and other regulated entities. Before joining the firm in 2022, Carlton served as deputy director of human resources for a statewide political organization specializing in compliance with campaign finance laws. Carlton actively supports various civic organizations and nonprofit groups, including Tallahassee Women Lawyers, Junior League of Tallahassee, League of Women Voters, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, and the Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County.



*“I am grateful to FSU Law for providing access to so many dynamic opportunities. The law school’s proximity to the Florida Capitol facilitated my immersion into diverse practice areas and afforded me direct exposure to compelling career prospects. I eagerly anticipate further advancement in my professional journey and plan to leverage the skills I gained during my time at FSU.”*

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## Celebrating 2024 Grad Vivekka Suppiah

After graduation, FSU Law 3L Vivekka Suppiah will be working as an associate with Lawson Huck Gonzalez, PLLC in Tallahassee! When she graduates in May, Suppiah will also earn the Business Law Certificate. At FSU Law, Suppiah is president of the Student Bar Association and a member of FSU Law’s moot court and trial teams.

Suppiah argued before the Florida Supreme Court as part of FSU Law's 2022 Moot Court Final Four Competition and during The Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition in the summer of 2023. She has been named Best Oralist three times at state and national moot court competitions and earned a Moot Court Book Award in the fall of 2023. As a 2L, Suppiah was a legislative fellow, working as a policy analyst with the Education & Employment Committee at the Florida House of



Representatives, and as a 3L, she is a Florida Supreme Court fellow, working as a judicial fellow for Justice Renatha Francis. We wish Suppiah all the best in her new role and look forward to celebrating her 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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