

From the Dean



This week, our students had valuable opportunities to connect with employers during two major networking events on campus. **Seventeen law firms** from across Florida and beyond participated—one through our **Office of Career Services**. **Meet the Firms**, which included a **panel discussion and networking event**, and another networking event hosted by the **Business Law Society**.

These experiences are a vital part of our students' professional development, enabling them to gain practical experience, build confidence, and expand their professional networks as they prepare to enter the legal profession.

We are deeply grateful to the firms, attorneys, and recruiters who took time to engage with our students and share their insight and guidance. Connecting our students with meaningful career opportunities is one of our top priorities, and events like these provide essential hands-on experience in professionalism, relationship building, and career exploration. They reflect the strong collaboration between our students, alumni, and the legal community that defines the FSU Law experience.

For those looking to stay connected, I encourage alumni and students to continue engaging through **FSU Law Connect**, where career and mentorship connections thrive year-round.




Dean Erin O'Connor

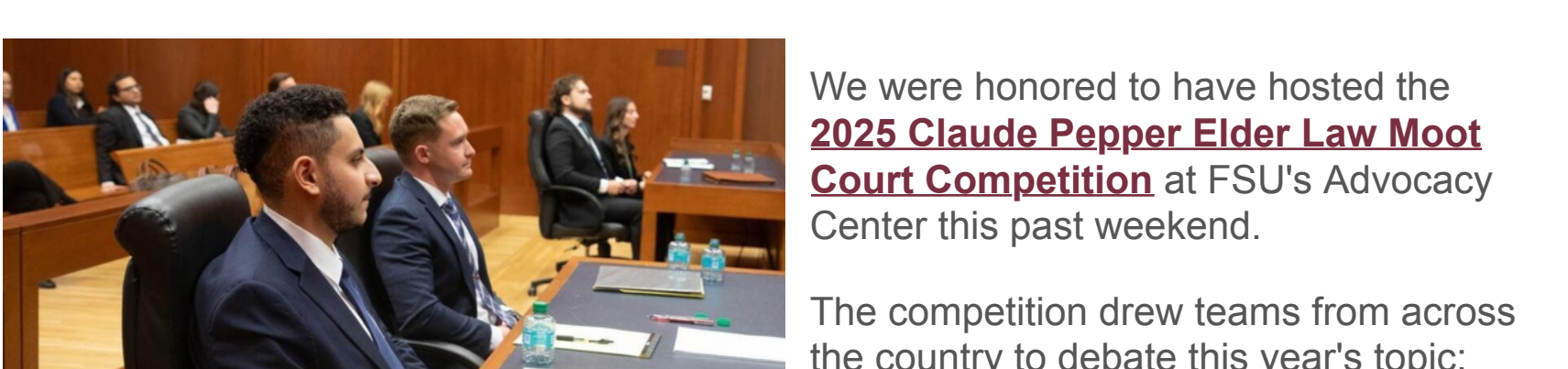
FSU Law News



In partnership with several other FSU Departments, **FSU Law's Public Interest Law Center** was honored to host **Albie Sachs**, a renowned human rights activist, lawyer, writer, and former justice of the **Constitutional Court of South Africa**.

Born and raised in South Africa under an apartheid government, which maintained a system of legalized segregation, Sachs' notable career defending those charged under repressive security laws and statutes led to him being appointed to South Africa's new Constitutional Court, where he helped rewrite the country's bill of rights and was a key part of the post-apartheid transition.

Sachs made a special stop at FSU Law, sharing his inspiring story with students and answering their questions. His remarks underscored the law's capacity to promote justice, reconciliation, and human dignity.



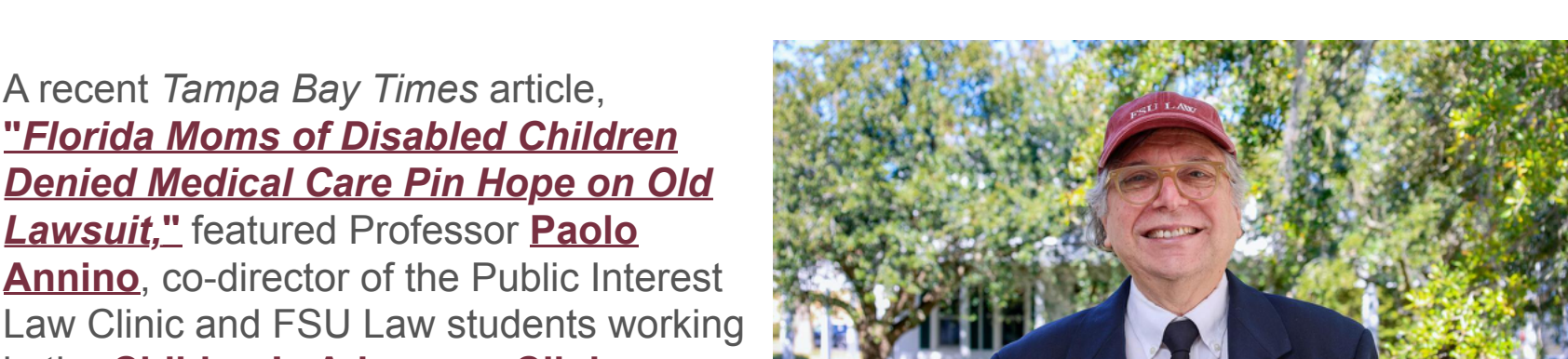
We were honored to have hosted the **2025 Claude Pepper Elder Law Moot Court Competition** at FSU's Advocacy Center this past weekend.

The competition drew teams from across the country to debate this year's topic: financial exploitation and liability issues surrounding retirement communities.

- **First Place** – *University of Georgia School of Law*
- **Second Place** – *Texas Tech University School of Law*
- **Third Place** – *Chicago Kent College of Law*
- **Best Oralist** – *Alexandra Walsh – Liberty University School of Law*
- **Best Brief** – *University of Houston Law Center*

Thank you to the **AARP Foundation** for funding the competition prize money and to the law students for their involvement.

Watch a recording of the final round [here](#).



A recent *Tampa Bay Times* article, **"Florida Moms of Disabled Children Denied Medical Care Pin Hope on Old Lawsuit,"** featured Professor **Paolo Annino**, co-director of the Public Interest Law Clinic and FSU Law students working in the **Children's Advocacy Clinic**.

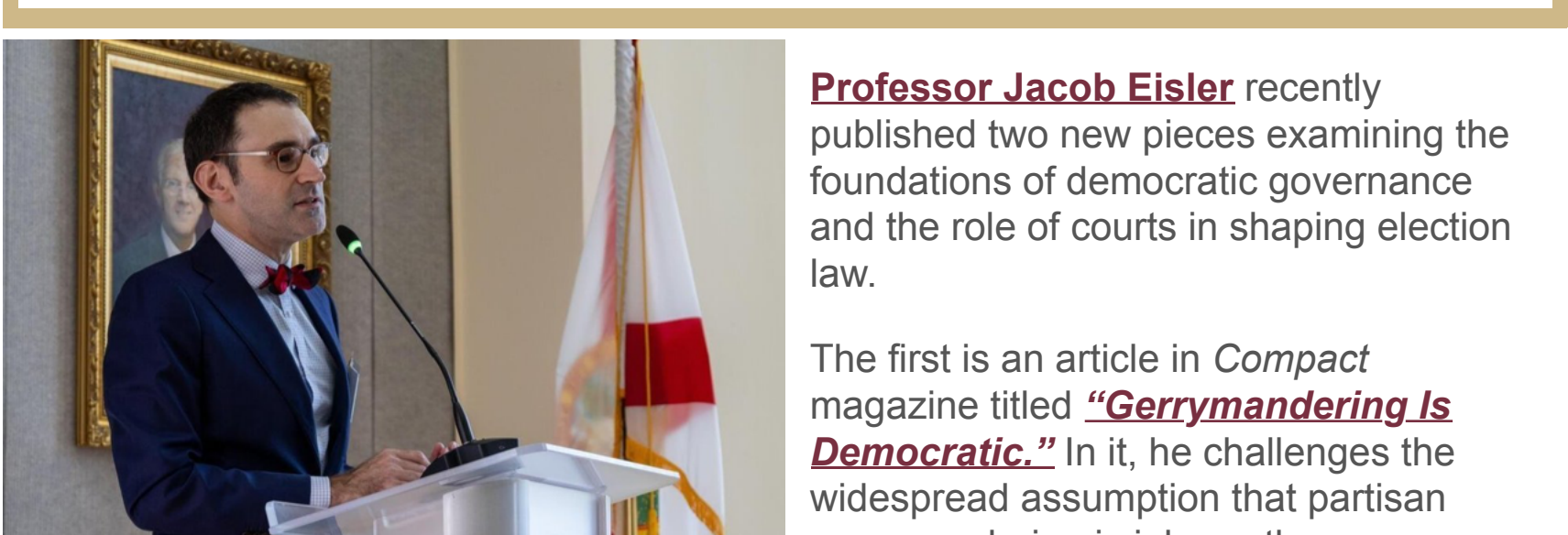
Professor Annino and his clinic students are deeply familiar with these issues—he represented families in a similar lawsuit against the State of Florida in 2012. Today, the Clinic continues that legacy of advocacy by representing families whose medically fragile children have been denied critical care.

Currently, the Clinic is handling a high volume of appeals on behalf of families challenging **Sunshine Health's** claim denials. Under Professor Annino's guidance, FSU Law students—including **Haven Branca** and **Emma Smith**—are working diligently to secure essential medical services and improve access to care for vulnerable children across the state.

[Click here](#) to read the article.



FSU Law Faculty



Professor Jacob Eisler recently published two new pieces examining the foundations of democratic governance and the role of courts in shaping election law.

The first is an article in *Compact* magazine titled **"Gerrymandering Is Democratic."** In it, he challenges the widespread assumption that partisan gerrymandering is inherently undemocratic. He argues that while often controversial, redistricting can also reflect natural features of democratic competition, prompting new ways of thinking about fairness and political representation.

His second article, **"Towards Defensible Judge-Made Democratic Process,"** appears in the *Southern California Law Review*. It responds to Yunsieg Kim's review of Eisler's earlier monograph, *The Law of Freedom: The Supreme Court and Democracy*—a work he describes as the capstone of his career. In this latest piece, he examines how judges can strengthen democracy by grounding their decisions on principles that connect individual liberty with collective self-government.

Together, these publications reflect Professor Eisler's continued leadership in scholarship at the intersection of constitutional law, democratic theory, and judicial responsibility.

Environmental Certificate Enrichment Lecture

Join us next week on **November 5 at 3:30 p.m.** as the **Center for Environmental, Energy, & Land Use Law** hosts its **Environmental Certificate Enrichment Lecture** featuring **Alda Balthrop-Lewis**, associate professor of Religion in FSU's College of Arts & Sciences. Professor Balthrop-Lewis will present on **environmental ethics and religion**, exploring how faith and moral philosophy inform humanity's relationship with the natural world.

Professor Balthrop-Lewis (Ph.D., Princeton University) studies ethics—the norms, principles, and practices people use in striving to live well.

Professor Balthrop-Lewis also serves as **Associate Editor of *Environmental Humanities*** and co-editor of the book series *Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion* (Oxford University Press).

[Click here](#) to watch the live-stream.

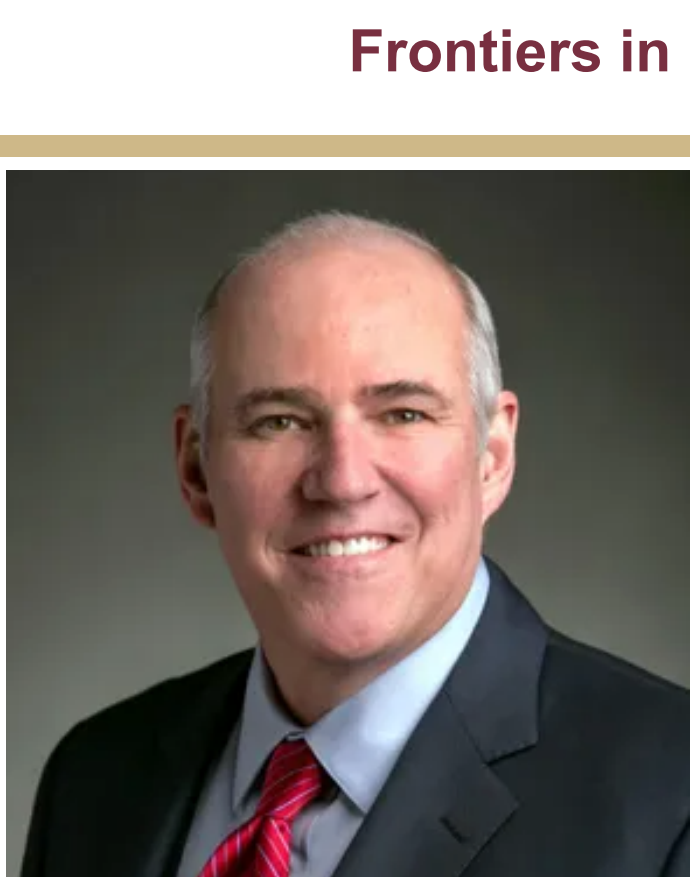


The FSU Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law presents...

Alda Balthrop-Lewis

[Register](#)

Frontiers in Law & Technology



Join us **next Friday, November 7**, for the **Frontiers in Law & Technology** webinar featuring **Craig Glidden**, former executive vice president of General Motors.

Glidden will present **"Crash Course: AI, Cars, and the Legal Road Ahead,"** a discussion on the future of autonomous vehicles and the legal frameworks shaping their adoption.

As AI-powered vehicles become increasingly common, the transportation industry stands on the brink of a major transformation. Drawing on his experience in the automotive sector, Glidden will explore the competitive landscape in the U.S. and abroad, as well as the evolving regulatory environment at the state, federal, and global levels.

This event is approved for **1.0 CLE credit**, including **1.0 Technology credit**, by The Florida Bar's Continuing Legal Education program.

[Register](#)

Moot Court Final Four

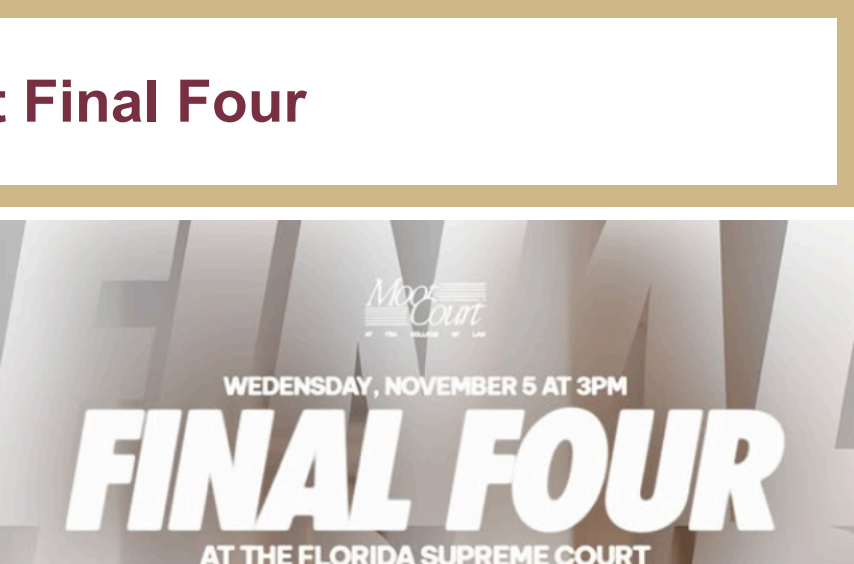
The **Moot Court Final Four Competition** will take place at the **Florida Supreme Court on Wednesday, November 5, 2025**, beginning at 3 p.m., followed by a reception in the **D'Alemberte Rotunda**. The event will also be **live-streamed** for those unable to attend in person.

Established in 1968, the **FSU Law Moot Court Team** has a proud tradition of excellence, earning numerous national titles and recognition for outstanding oral and written advocacy.

Each year, team members compete in regional, national, and international competitions addressing issues across a wide range of legal areas—including constitutional law, criminal law, intellectual property, and more.

Thank you to Shutts & Bowen's sponsorship of the Final Four Reception.

[Click here](#) to watch the live-stream.



2025 Moot Court Final Four - Emma Chapman, Eden Punch, Quinn Hoffman, and Lauren Simpson



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