

From the Dean



FSU
COLLEGE OF LAW

D'Alemberte
& Palmer
Lecture in
International Human Rights

SAVE THE DATE

March 12, 2026

Ambassador Mark Brzezinski

We are thrilled to announce that the 2026 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights will take place on **Thursday, March 12, 2026**, and will feature **Ambassador Mark Brzezinski** as our distinguished lecturer. He will be speaking on the topic, **"U.S. Embassies as 'Force Multipliers' for Democracy and Human Rights: The Case of Poland 2021-25."**

Ambassador Brzezinski has built a career at the highest levels of public service and global diplomacy. He has served as **U.S. Ambassador to two nations**, most recently to **Poland (2021–24)**, where he was awarded the **Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit** by the President of the Republic of Poland for his leadership and partnership during a period of historic geopolitical significance. During the Obama Administration, he served as **U.S. Ambassador to Sweden (2011–15)** and arranged the first-ever U.S. Presidential visit to Stockholm—convening all five Nordic heads of government for a summit that reshaped U.S.–Nordic cooperation on energy, innovation, and sustainability. For his service in Sweden, he was awarded the **Royal Order of the Polar Star**, a distinction rarely given to foreign ambassadors.

Ambassador Brzezinski currently serves as **President and CEO of Brzezinski Global Strategies**, bringing his diplomatic and strategic expertise to global policy and private-sector leadership.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

RSVP

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law News



(Left to Right) Eden Punch, Emma Chapman, Lauren Simpson, and Quinn Hoffman

FSU College of Law held its annual **Moot Court Team Final Four** at the Florida Supreme Court on November 5. Second-year FSU Law students **Eden Punch, Emma Chapman, Lauren Simpson, and Quinn Hoffman** presented oral arguments before all seven justices—a remarkable opportunity and long-standing FSU Law tradition.

Following the competition, Lauren Simpson was named **Best Oralist** by the justices during a reception honoring the finalists.

Congratulations to all of the participants, and a special thank you to **Shutts & Bowen LLP** for their generous sponsorship.

[Click here](#) to watch the recording.

FSU's **Center for Environmental, Energy, & Land Use Law** recently hosted its **Environmental Certificate Enrichment Lecture**. This year's speaker was **Alda Balthrop-Lewis**, the Associate Professor of Religion at FSU's College of Arts & Sciences. She spoke on the topic **"Thoreau's Walden: Reading Religion and Politics from the Woods."**

Professor Balthrop-Lewis examined the intersections of environmental ethics, faith, and moral philosophy, discussing how religious and philosophical traditions help shape humanity's relationship with the natural world.

[Click here](#) to watch the recording.



(Left to Right) Professor Shi-Ling Hsu and Professor Alda Balthrop-Lewis

FSU Law Faculty News



FSU D'Alemberte Professor of Law **Shi-Ling Hsu** was recently featured in an *Associated Press* article titled **"Singapore faces pressure to reveal carbon tax concessions to oil giants."**

In the article, Professor Hsu discussed Singapore's carbon tax and its global implications. It highlights how Singapore, one of the few Asian countries with a carbon tax, has faced criticism for a lack of transparency and for granting concessions to major emitters.

Professor Hsu noted that the effectiveness of global carbon taxes may remain limited "as long as the U.S. stays committed to fossil fuels."

His insight underscores the connection between U.S. energy policy and international efforts to curb carbon emissions.

Read more [here](#).

FSU Law Alumni News

Congratulations to alumnus Jon McGowan ('21), who has stepped in as interim executive director of the Jacksonville Bar Association.

In this role, McGowan will oversee daily operations and support the association's ongoing strategic planning while the JBA conducts a search for its next permanent executive director.

McGowan, who currently chairs the JBA's Government Relations Committee and was recently recognized with the association's Chair of the Year award, brings extensive experience in international and administrative law, as well as a strong commitment to advancing the legal community in Northeast Florida.

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



FSU Law Student News



In honor of Veterans Day, FSU Law students dedicated their time last Friday to assist nine FSU undergraduate student veterans with legal matters during **Veteran Pro Bono Law Day**. The event was a new initiative spearheaded by two student organizations: the Judge Advocate Student Association and the Student Veterans Law Symposium.

Nineteen law students participated in the event, collectively earning **102 pro bono hours**, while four local attorneys volunteered to provide supervision and mentorship throughout the day.

We are proud of our students for their commitment to service and their efforts to support those who have served our country.

Students in the **Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic** recently achieved two meaningful outcomes for clients navigating complex legal challenges.

2L Sara Boles, 3L Nathalie Aré, 2L Jake Schexnaydre, and 3L Ethan Ditman represented clients in a remote family court hearing, where they successfully secured a favorable result.

In a separate matter, Aré worked alongside community partners to help a client's daughters obtain green cards, thereby reuniting the family after years of separation.

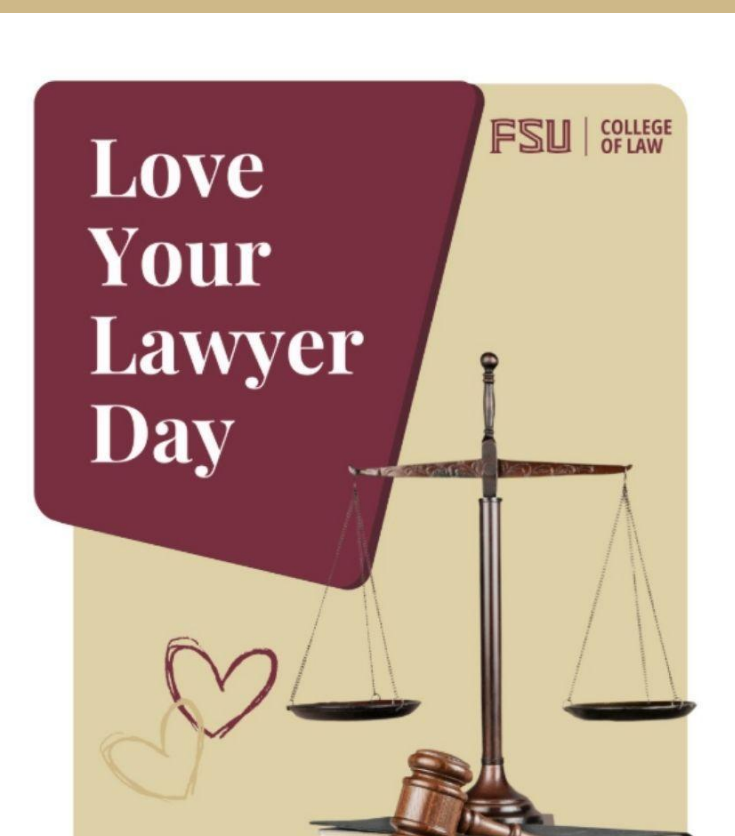


(Left to Right) Sara Boles, Nathalie Aré, Jake Schexnaydre, and Ethan Ditman

"The Farmworkers and Immigration Rights Clinic has provided me with invaluable opportunities to grow as a future attorney. From representing clients in immigration court to conducting direct examinations in family court, I've had the privilege of working alongside incredible advocates committed to justice. This Clinic truly embodies what it means to practice law with empathy and purpose."

- 3L Nathalie Aré

FSU Law Social Spotlight



This week, we celebrated **Love Your Lawyer Day** by honoring the dedication, integrity, and advocacy of lawyers everywhere—especially our incredible FSU Law alumni, faculty, and future lawyers who make a difference every day.

To support the next generation of legal leaders, visit give.fsu.edu/law.



Support the next generation of lawyers through the **FSU Law Book Award Program**. Sponsors select a course of their choice, and each award recognizes student achievement while helping the College of Law recruit and retain top talent. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

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