



# FSU LAW FOCUS

March 13, 2026

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## From the Dean

After 10 wonderful years of serving as dean of the Florida State University College of Law, I will soon be passing the torch.

Leading this remarkable law school has been one of the great honors of my professional career. FSU Law has been on an upward trajectory for many years thanks to the support and dedication of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.



Together, we have achieved a great deal over the past decade. We launched new centers and institutes—including the Stoops Center for Law and Business, the Election Law Center, and the Institute for Law, Technology and Innovation—expanded our clinical offerings in areas such as elder law, international human rights, bankruptcy, and First Amendment law, and introduced an online master’s program that now serves more than 750 students.

Our faculty continue to publish in leading journals and were recently recognized among the best professors in the nation, while our students consistently distinguish themselves through advocacy teams, journals, public service, and leadership.

These collective efforts have helped bring national recognition to FSU Law. This year, we are **ranked No. 1 in Florida** and have reached the **top 40 in the U.S. News & World Report rankings**. We are also proud to be recognized as the **No. 1 Best Value law school in the nation** for the first time ever.

**None of these accomplishments would have been possible without our alumni.** Your mentorship, engagement, and generosity play an essential role in the continued success of our students and the strength of this community.

A national search is underway for the College's next dean, and I will remain in this role until my successor is identified. Afterward, I look forward to continuing to serve the College of Law as a member of the faculty and to supporting the next dean as they build on the strong foundation we have created together.

**Thank you for your continued commitment to Florida State Law. I am proud of all we have accomplished as a community and excited about what lies ahead.**



Dean Erin O'Connor

## Business Law Review Symposium



*(L-R) Verity Winship, Tim Samples, Kelli Williams, Justin Sevier, Jennifer Robbennolt, Craig Glidden ('83), Jay Kesten, and Jessica Bregant.*

Last Friday, the FSU College of Law hosted its **fourth annual The event, which**

attracted over 600 attendees both virtually and in person, brought together leading law and psychology and business law scholars from across the nation.

The symposium, led by **Professor Justin Sevier**, the Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation, featured engaging panel discussions examining how behavioral insights shape corporate decision-making, governance, and accountability. Panels addressed topics including the psychology of corporate apologies following the FTX collapse, the role of punishment and institutional silence in shaping public perceptions of wrongdoing, evolving corporate governance challenges amid today's political and cultural climate, and new research on how courts evaluate notice and consent in digital contracts. FSU Law faculty also served as commentators, offering additional insight and helping guide discussion throughout the day.

The keynote address was delivered by Craig Glidden ('83), former President and Chief Administrative Officer at Cruise; former Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at General Motors; Executive Vice President and General Counsel of LyondellBassell; and Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company. Drawing on decades of leadership experience in corporate law and governance, Glidden provided real-world examples of the topics scholars explored and offered reflections on the evolving role of corporate counsel in an increasingly complex legal and regulatory environment.

The students in the *FSU Business Law Review* also played an instrumental role in organizing and supporting the symposium, helping to make the event a success.

Part 1

Part 2



**FSU Law Faculty News**



**Professor Brian Slocum**, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Stearns Weaver Miller Professor, recently presented his article, **“The Normative Canons of Criminal Law,”** at the **Yale Law School Legislative Roundtable**.

The annual event brings together leading scholars in the fields of legislation and statutory interpretation to discuss works in progress. Professor Slocum’s article was discussed by **Professor Jonathan Gould** of the New York University School of Law.

**Click here** to view his article.



**Professor Jacob Eisler**, the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, has an article titled, **“The Pro-Democracy Supreme Court”** in the *National Review*.

In the article, he argues that the Roberts Court has strengthened democratic governance by shifting power away from unelected bureaucracies and courts and returning key policy decisions to voters and their elected representatives.

He also explains that recent decisions limiting the authority of federal agencies and emphasizing constitutional separation of powers reflect a vision of democracy grounded in political accountability. According to Professor Eisler, these rulings demonstrate that the Court can reinforce democratic principles by ensuring that major policy choices are made through the political process rather than by administrative or judicial fiat.

[Click here](#) to view his article.

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**Denise Harle**, Clinical Professor and Director of the First Amendment Clinic, was recently featured in a Q&A with *Raise the Bar Media* titled “**Are You Constitutionally Fluent?**”

During the interview, Professor Harle discussed the importance of constitutional literacy for lawyers and the role that a strong understanding of the First Amendment plays in modern legal practice.



She also reflected on the Clinic's work, where law students gain hands-on experience litigating First Amendment cases, including researching, drafting, and filing Supreme Court briefs.

[Click here](#) to read the full Q&A.

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## FSU Law Upcoming Events

The **Journal of Transnational Law & Policy** will present the **2026 Lillich Lecture in International Law** on **March 25 at 3:30 p.m. in the D'Alemberte Rotunda**, with a virtual attendance option also available.

This year's lecturer, **Steven R. Ratner**,



Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School, will present “**Can – and Should – the UN Charter be Saved?**”

Professor Ratner will examine whether the United Nations Charter’s rules and institutions remain worth preserving and explore practical pathways for strengthening the international legal system while recognizing its limits.

[Register](#)

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The Florida State University College of Law’s **Business Law Society** will host a special Q&A with Chancellor **Kathaleen McCormick** via Zoom on the Delaware Court of Chancery on **March 25 at 5 p.m. in Room 101 at the College of Law.**

Chancellor McCormick is also the first woman to lead the Court since its establishment in 1792.



During the event, she will share insights on corporate governance, high-profile litigation, and her path to the bench. She has overseen significant matters, including litigation involving Elon Musk’s compensation package, shareholder litigation involving Meta Platforms, and *Twitter v. Musk* (2022).

[Register](#)

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## FSU Law Past Events



Last week, [the Center for Environmental, Energy, & Land Use Law](#) convened a timely and thought-provoking virtual panel titled "New Controversies in Energy Law."

The event brought together leading scholars in energy law: [Professor Shelley Welton](#), Presidential Distinguished Professor of Law and Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; [Brian Slocum](#), Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Stearns Weaver Miller Professor at FSU Law; and [James Coleman](#), Professor of Law at Minnesota Law, to examine the rapidly evolving energy law landscape.

The discussion was moderated by [Professor Mark Seidenfeld](#), the Patricia A. Dore Professor of Administrative Law at FSU, whose expertise helped frame the conversation around regulatory accountability.

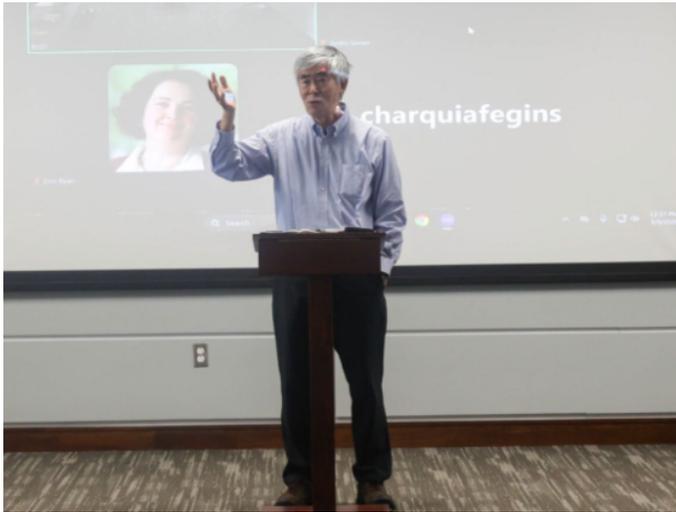
[Click here](#) to watch the recording.

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[The Office of Student Advancement](#) hosted its annual **Pro Bono Fair**, bringing together students and community organizations dedicated to public service and advocacy.

The event gave students the opportunity to meet with representatives from pre-approved pro bono sites to learn more about impactful service opportunities and how to begin fulfilling their pro bono graduation requirement.





As part of our **Faculty Enrichment Speaker Series**, we were honored to host **Hiroshi Motomura**, the Susan Westerberg Prager Distinguished Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Director, Center for Immigration Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law.

He presented excerpts from his book, ***Borders and Belonging: Toward a Fair Immigration Policy***, a concise and thought-provoking examination of how nations regulate migration, citizenship, and belonging.

The book explores how immigration policies shape rights and opportunities while also considering the human consequences of national borders and the ethical questions they raise.

## In Case You Missed It: Frontiers in Law & Technology Webinars

The **Frontiers in Law & Technology** webinar series continues to bring together leading voices at the intersection of law and innovation. If you weren't able to attend live, you can still catch up on recent programs exploring emerging technologies, professional ethics, and the future of legal practice. Watch the recordings of our recent webinars below.

### Current Ethical Issues with Online Advertising and Social Media Use by Lawyers

This webinar examined the evolving ethical landscape surrounding how lawyers advertise and engage online. **Sia Baker-Barnes**, **Lauren Angulo**, and **Jonathan Grabb** discussed attorney advertising rules, online testimonials, sponsored content, and how lawyers can maintain a strong and ethical digital presence.

[Watch the recording](#)

### Smarter, Not Bigger: Innovation for Small- and Medium-Sized Law Firms

**Joshua Lenon** shared insights on how small and medium-sized law firms can thrive through innovation. The program highlighted practical strategies for leveraging technology, data, and improved processes to enhance client service while building more efficient and resilient practices.

[Watch the recording](#)

### **AI Day in the Capital: Afternoon Keynote Speaker**

As part of the AI Day in the Capital event at Florida State University College of Law, **Maria Gervais**, General Manager for the Aerospace Defense Government Business Unit at SynthBee, delivered a keynote exploring the growing role of artificial intelligence across government, industry, and the legal field. The session also included a panel discussion on emerging AI issues and opportunities.

[Watch the recording](#)

### **From AI to Zoom: Technology Tools in Dispute Resolution with the American Arbitration Association**

This program explored how technology is transforming arbitration and mediation. Speakers included Lisa Romeo, Myrna Barakat, Samir Patel, and Kent Sinclair, who discussed tools such as AI, online case management systems, and video conferencing platforms like Zoom, and how they are shaping modern dispute resolution.

[Watch the recording](#)

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## **FSU Law Student News**

The student organization, the **Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies**, recently welcomed Judge **Lawrence VanDyke** of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for a Q&A.

In conversation with his former law clerk, Judge VanDyke offered students insight into his path to the bench and his work on one of the nation's most influential federal

appellate courts.



## FSU Law Social Spotlight



 fsucollegeoflaw  ...

 fsucollegeoflaw  We're halfway through the semester — keep pushing, FSU Law students!

A little inspiration from one of our campus regulars: the early bird gets the worm.

1w

 kellykell\_7 He's beautiful! What a treat to have such great shots of this majestic visitor 

1w 3 likes Reply ...

 286  1  3  53

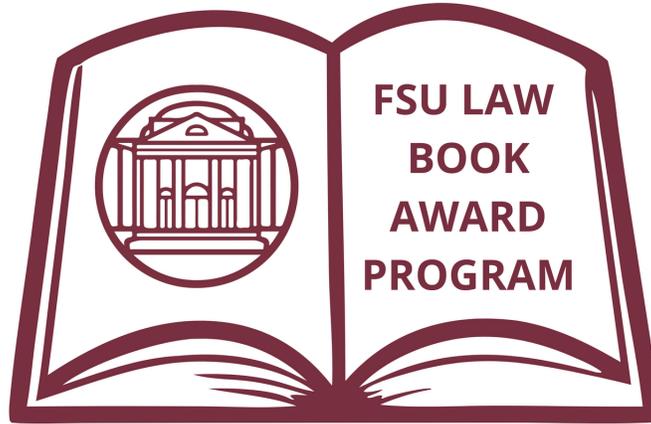
 Liked by  and 285 others

February 26

 Add a comment... 

We can't believe we're already a little over halfway through the semester!

Last week, we featured one of our most frequent campus visitors — a hawk who seems to embody the saying that the early bird gets the worm.



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.

**[Become a Book Award sponsor today and make a lasting impact.](#)**

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