



May 1, 2026

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### From the Dean



Standing: Supreme Court Fellows  
Seated: Justice Meredith L. Sasso, Justice James R. Grosshans, Justice Jorge Labarga, Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz, Justice John D. Cooney, Justice Renatha Francis, and Justice Adam S. Tanenbaum

Join us in congratulating our five law students for completing the Florida Supreme Court Fellowship program:

- **3L Mason Bennett** was working for Justice Meredith L. Sasso
- **2L Haven Branca** was working for Justice Renatha Francis
- **2L Sheldon Burnell** was working for Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz
- **2L Zenani Johnson** was working for Justice Jorge Labarga
- **3L Steven Wiktorski** was working for Justice Adam S. Tanenbaum

This highly selective program provides law students with the opportunity to gain invaluable, hands-on insight into the inner workings of Florida's highest Court. Just as importantly, they built meaningful relationships and received mentorship that will help guide them as they begin their careers.

Our location, just steps from the Florida Supreme Court, continues to create unique opportunities. Thank you to the Court for offering this special fellowship experience.

*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

### FSU Law Faculty News



**Professor Mason Marks**, Florida Bar Health Law Section Professor and Senior Fellow for Psychiatric Projects at Harvard Law's Petrie-Flom Center, was recently quoted in several national publications, providing insight into the driving forces behind the current administrator's promotion of psychedelic research.

*The Guardian*, "Trump psychedelics order largely symbolic, analysts say."  
*NPR* podcast *All Things Considered*, "Trump's order is a milestone for proponents of using psychedelics as medicine."

*Time*, "What to Know About Trump's New Executive Order on Psychedelic Drugs."  
*Salon*, "Why is Trump wooing psychedelics? It's really about Iran."

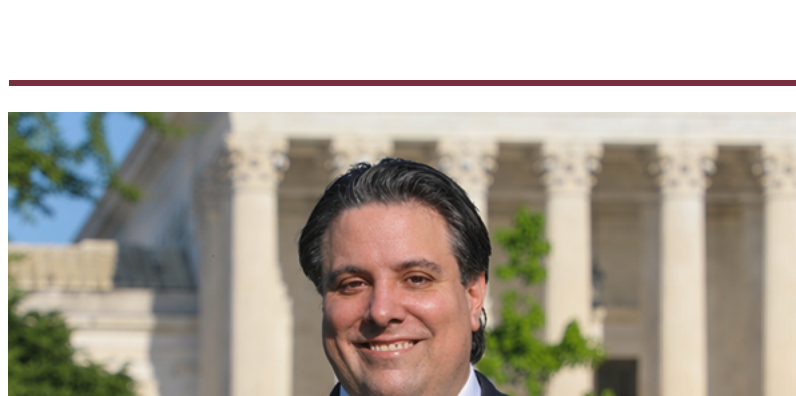
*the British Medical Journal*, "Trump's psychedelic executive order: president expands access to psychoactive drugs."



**Shi-Ling Hsu**, the D'Alemberte Professor of Law, was quoted in a *Bloomberg Law* article titled, "Alligator Alcatraz' Ruling Opens Environmental Review Loophole."

The piece discusses how Florida's detention center has set a legal precedent that negates environmental review, potentially impacting other federally protected projects.

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



**Michael Morley**, the Faculty Director of the Election Law Center and Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law, was recently featured in an *ABC 25 WPBF News* article titled, "With Cherfilus-McCormick out, what happens to Florida's 20th Congressional District?"

Professor Morley clarified the restricted administrative role and limitations facing staffers managing the 20th Congressional District after former Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick resigned ahead of a public hearing by the House Ethics Committee.

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

### Upcoming FSU Law Events



**Sunday, May 3**  
11 a.m.  
*Donald L. Tucker Civic Center*  
Reception on the Thompson Green to follow.

We hope you will join us this weekend for the **Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony, which will take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 3**, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, with a reception on the Thompson Green to follow.

We are pleased to welcome **Justin T. Sevier**, Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation, as this year's Commencement speaker.

Approximately 140 J.D., 11 LL.M., and 125 J.M. graduates will participate in the ceremony as we celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2026.

[Livestream](#)



**Understanding Claude, Sovereign AI & The Law**

**Please join us next Monday, May 4, at 1:45 p.m. EDT for the next Frontiers in Law and Technology Webinar, "C-LAW-D: Understanding Claude, Sovereign AI & the Law."**

This session will explore the rapidly evolving intersection of artificial intelligence, national infrastructure, and the law. Bringing together industry leaders, legal experts, and policymakers, the discussion will examine how emerging AI systems like Claude are shaping governance, national competitiveness, and legal accountability.

*This event is approved for 2.0 credits, including 2.0 Technology and 0.5 Ethics, by the Florida Bar.*

[Click here](#) to view the schedule.

[Register](#)

### FSU Law Faculty Scholarship



**Henry Zhuohao Wang**, Mason Ladd Professor of Law, has a newly published article in the *Utah Law Review* titled, "The Shadow of the Rules of Evidence on ADR," which is the first to examine how evidentiary rules influence alternative dispute resolution.

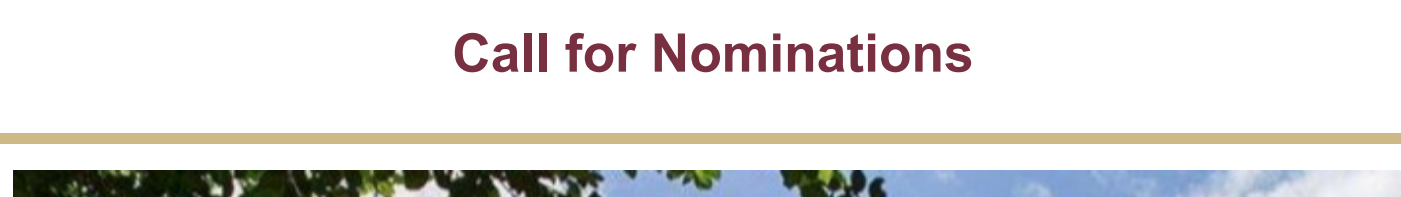
Challenging the under-theorized assumption that "rules of evidence cast a shadow on ADR," the article argues that this shadow operates differently across negotiation, mediation, domestic arbitration, and international arbitration. Professor Wang received the inaugural "New Voices in Dispute Resolution" Scholar/Stephen B. Goldberg ADR Scholar Award from the AALS ADR Section for this article.

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

Professor Wang also co-authored an article in the *Texas Law Review*, "Evidentiary Rules for Administrative Hearings," with Edward K. Cheng from Vanderbilt Law School. This work builds on his broader research examining how evidentiary rules should adapt as more adjudication takes place outside of traditional jury trials, including in administrative hearings, arbitration, and bench trials.

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

### Call for Nominations



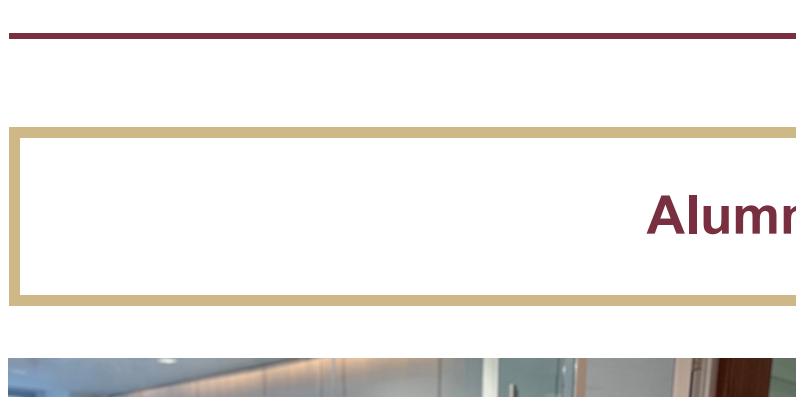
As we continue to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our alumni throughout the year, nominations for the **2026 Exemplary Public Service Career Award** are extended.

The award recipient will be recognized during a special ceremony, and a painted portrait will be permanently displayed at the College of Law to honor their significant contributions to public service.

**Nominations are due May 15.**

[Nominate](#)

### Alumni News



(L-R) Tara R. Price ('12), FSU Alumni Association President and Betsy Shepherd, Executive Director of Alumni Outreach and Engagement

Recently, we hosted the Palm Beach Area Alumni Reception, reconnecting with our outstanding alumni community.

We welcomed FSU Law graduates for an evening of celebration, networking, and shared Seminole spirit.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to our sponsor, **Shutts & Bowen**.

Our next Alumni Reception will be in Washington, D.C.

View the reception photos on [FSU Law Connect](#).

### FSU Law Student News



Continuing from last week's feature, we are proud to share that an additional 3L from the Class of 2026 has secured a federal judicial clerkship, **bringing the total to nine FSU Law graduates.**

Congratulations to 3L **Nick Magistrate** on his placement with **U.S. Magistrate Judge Nicholas Mizell** of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

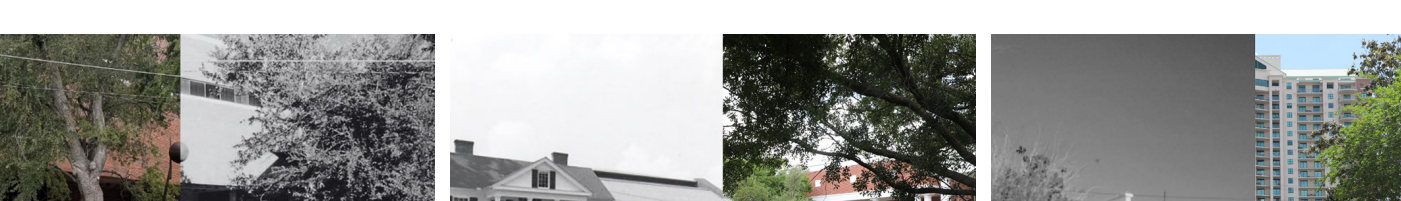
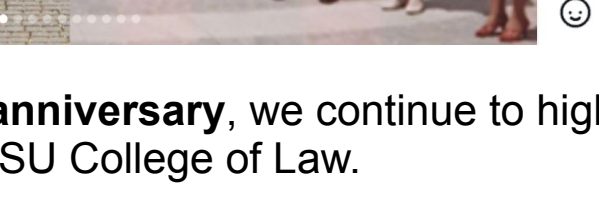
### FSU Law Social Spotlight



As we celebrate our **60th anniversary**, we continue to highlight the people and places that have shaped FSU College of Law.

This week, we took a look at how the campus has evolved over the decades. From its earliest days to today, these spaces have supported generations of students, marked important milestones, and reflected the College's growth.

Have historical photos of FSU Law? Share them with us - [law.fsu.edu/60th](#).



FSU College of Law has produced a **60-Year Commemorative Coin** to recognize participation in supporting the law school during its 60th year anniversary.

Alumni can earn a 60-Year Commemorative Coin by Donating \$250+ AND joining and engaging on FSU Law Connect, OR attending an in-person Alumni Event. These actions must be taken **between January 1 and December 31, 2026**, to be eligible for the coin.

[Find Details on Eligibility Requirements for FSU Law's 60-Year Coin.](#)

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