



May 8, 2026

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From the Dean



We proudly celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 during the Spring Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 3, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.

A total of 140 J.D., 11 LL.M., and 140 J.M. graduates received their degrees during the ceremony, marking a momentous milestone in their legal education.

The ceremony featured remarks from FSU President Richard D. McCullough and a Commencement address delivered by the Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation Justin T. Sevier, who was selected by the graduating class for his impact on their education and lives.

Student Bar Association President **Garrison Andrew McDaniel** also addressed the graduates on behalf of the student body.

During the ceremony, **Jacob Eisler**, the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, was honored with the **Open Door Faculty Award**, having been chosen by the graduating class for this distinction.

Several students were also recognized for their outstanding achievements:

- J.M. graduate **Allison DeSanto** received the Leading the Way Award.
- J.D. graduate **Sarah Augustine** was honored with the Blaise Gamba Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service for completing more than 550 hours of pro bono service during law school.
- J.D. graduate **Mason Bennett** received the Raising the Bar Award, as selected by his graduating class.

To all who joined us—whether in person or virtually—thank you for being part of this meaningful celebration of our graduates and their achievements.

[Click here](#) to view the photo gallery.

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



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Celebrating Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor



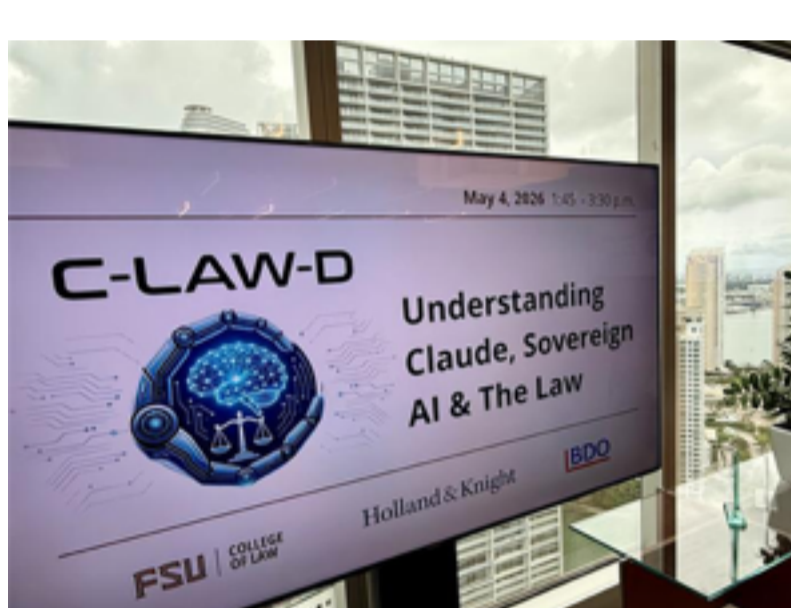
The FSU College of Law recently celebrated the enduring legacy of **Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor**. The event recognized the accomplishments and community that Dean O'Hara O'Connor has built and maintained during her 10 years at FSU Law.

The celebration featured guest speakers, a special video message, and the unveiling of a commemorative stone placard in the Thompson Green breezeway.

[Click here](#) to view the photos and video from the event or leave a message for Dean O'Hara O'Connor.



C-LAW-D: Understanding Claude, Sovereign AI & The Law



This week, the **Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation**, in partnership with **Holland & Knight** and **BDO**, welcomed policymakers, lawyers, and operators from across the nation for **C-LAW-D: Understanding Claude, Sovereign AI & the Law**, hosted in Holland & Knight's Miami office.

The event explored the intersection of frontier AI, sovereign infrastructure, and legal architecture with an in-depth examination of how models like Claude and emerging regulatory structures are reshaping institutional governance, national competitiveness, and liability in the age of AI.

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

FSU Law Faculty in the News



Michael Morley, the Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, was recently featured in an **NPR Podcast** episode of the Morning Edition titled, "**DeSantis calls back lawmakers for Florida redistricting effort.**"

[Click here](#) to listen to the episode.

In a further development of this story, Professor Morley was featured in an **NPR article** titled, "**Florida lawmakers pass a voting map that could help Republicans flip 4 House seats.**" The Florida Senate passed a redistricting plan, which was subsequently signed by Governor Ron DeSantis.

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

Additionally, Professor Morley wrote an article for **Cardinal News** titled, "**Law professor: Cooking Virginia's referendum on partisan gerrymandering.**"

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



Denise Harle, Clinical Professor and Director of the First Amendment Clinic, was featured in a **Fox 49** article titled, "**Tallahassee man pleads guilty to federal threats against Trump, other politicians.**"

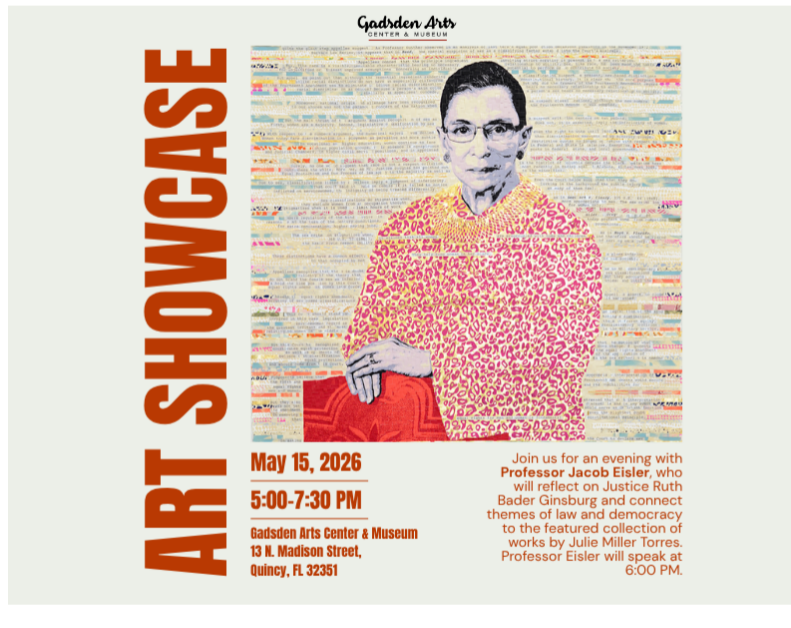
Professor Harle provided expert insight into the bounds of the First Amendment regarding speech that suggests harm and criminal threats.

[Click here](#) to read the article and watch Professor Harle's interview.

FSU Law Faculty News



Frederick Abbott, the Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, was recently in Beijing, China, serving as a panel judge for the East Asia and Oceania Regional Round of the 24th edition of the **John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in International Trade Law**.



Jacob Eisler, the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor of Law, will be a guest speaker at the **Gadsden Arts Center & Museum** for "**Generations**," a solo exhibit by Julie Torres featuring a special presentation at 6 p.m.

The talk, which will be held in the Sara May Love Gallery, will explore the lasting impact of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, how interpretations of law and art have changed over time, and the impact of democracy in our everyday lives.

[Click here](#) for event information.

FSU Law Student News



(l-r) 2L Ethan Martin and 2L Alvaro Molina

Congratulations to **2Ls Alvaro Molina** and **Ethan Martin**, who earned third place in the competition for Best Oral Argument during **The Florida Bar Tax Section's 2026 National Tax Moot Court Competition**.

Fifteen teams representing 14 law schools from across the country showcased their written and oral advocacy skills during the event, which took place at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport.

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

FSU Law Social Spotlight



From their first day of classes to this defining moment, our Spring 2026 J.D. graduates have demonstrated dedication and excellence every step of the way.

Congratulations to all of our graduates—your journey is just beginning.

[Check out the full post](#) and leave a message to celebrate them.



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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Florida State University
425 W. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32306, US

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