



May 22, 2026

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### From the Dean



(L-R) Top Row: Jack Rowan and Megan Hauck  
(L-R) Bottom Row: Jessica Keen, Abigail Morgan, and Deborah O'Donnell

We are pleased to recognize five Spring 2026 Graduates for their accomplishments. These graduates completed rigorous externships throughout their time at FSU College of Law and have secured paid clerkships post-graduation.

- **Jessica Kaelin ('26)** completed a 1L Summer Judicial Externship with the Seventeenth Circuit in Broward County, with Admin County Court Judge Kenneth A. Gottlieb, a Criminal Litigation Externship with the Second Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, and is now a law clerk for Florida Supreme Court Justice **Renatha Francis**.
- **Abigail Morgan ('26)** completed a Judicial Externship with the First District Court of Appeal and is now a law clerk for Florida Supreme Court Justice **Meredith L. Sasso**.
- **Deborah O'Donnell ('26)** completed a Criminal Clerking Externship for the Florida Office of the Attorney General and is now a law clerk for Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice-elect **John D. Courtie**.
- **Jack Rowan ('26)** completed a Civil Externship with the Leon County Attorney's Office, a Judicial Externship with the First District Court of Appeal, and is now a law clerk for Florida Supreme Court Justice **Adam S. Tanenbaum**.
- **Megan Hauck ('26)** completed a Criminal Clerking Externship with the U.S. Attorney's Office and received Judicial Externship credit while in the Florida Supreme Court Fellows Program. She now clerks for the Sixth District Court of Appeal in Lakeland with Chief Judge **Dan Traver**.

Our College is proud to offer a variety of Externship opportunities to our law students to improve their trial, negotiation, document drafting, advocacy, and other legal skills via hands-on practical experience while building their resumes for enhanced postgraduate job searches.

*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

### Annual Florida Bar Convention Alumni Reception

Join us for the **FL Bar Convention Alumni Reception**  
 Thursday, June 18  
 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
 Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek  
 Orlando, FL

Thank you to our sponsors!

Roadlyn Sia Baker-Barnes (00) of Searcy Denney Scordis Barnhart & Shipley  
 Jason Burnett (08)  
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 Terry Hill (06), Christopher Hill (18) & Savannah Hill (24)  
 Wayne Hogan (72) of Terrell Hogan Vogelweil, P.A.  
 Fred E. Karlinewsky (92)  
 King & Spalding LLP  
 Tara Price (12)  
 Hon. Heather Feder Rodriguez (06) & Diego "Woody" Rodriguez (95)  
 Margaret "Peggy" Rodondo (78)  
 Heidi Knapp Schindler (94)  
 Shafts & Bowen LLP  
 A.J. Tim Spauld (70)  
 Tom Spulak (82)  
 Hon. Jacqueline Stanton Steele (95)  
 Emerson K. Thompson, Jr. (73)

A reminder that you are invited to the **Annual Florida Bar Convention Alumni Reception** at the **Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek** in Orlando, Florida, on **June 18**.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors for their support in making this special event possible.

Please RSVP by Monday, June 8, by emailing [alumni@law.fsu.edu](mailto:alumni@law.fsu.edu) or calling the Alumni Office at **(850) 644-7260**.

### FSU Law Events

**Jake Linford**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Loula Fuller & Dan Myers Professor, and the College of Law are hosting a two-day **Florida Intellectual Property & Technology Law Workshop**.

The workshop will feature leading scholarship from accredited professors **Derek Bambauer** of the University of Florida Levin College of Law, **Mark Edward Blankenship Jr.** of St. Thomas University College of Law, **Brian Downing** of the University of Mississippi, and **Mike Schuster** of the Terry College of Business Legal Studies Program at the University of Georgia, along with Professor Linford's latest scholarly paper with **Justin Savitz**, Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation.

The **Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic** is proud to host the **2026 Claude Pepper Elder Law Moot Court Competition** at FSU College of Law. This national event welcomes teams from across the country to Tallahassee to compete in a series of rounds as they address this year's topic on Consumer Protection Issues within Nursing Facilities.

We are honored to, again, partner with the AARP Foundation in putting on this event to highlight critical issues affecting older adults while showcasing meaningful career paths for students dedicated to advocacy and public service.

The competition will take place **Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10**, in the **Advocacy Center**—formerly home to Florida's First District Court of Appeal—with an **awards dinner and ceremony** to follow. The final round will be **live-streamed**.

Serving as chief of staff for the competition this year is **2L Sarah Chair**, one of our very own moot court competitors. Through this role, Chair will hone her advocacy skills and be an asset to the overall organization of the competition to help ensure we meet the highest standards.

If you are an alumni interested in volunteering as a judge or brief grader for the competition, please email [elderlawmootcourt@gmail.com](mailto:elderlawmootcourt@gmail.com). Volunteer opportunities include both in-person and virtual options and CLE credit is offered.

### FSU Law Faculty News

**Panagiotis Takis Tridimas**, Distinguished Visiting Scholar, published an **Oxford University Press** book, *The Foundations of European Union Law*, which he co-authored with Professor **Trevor Hartley**, the Emeritus Professor of Law at The London School of Economics and Political Science.

The book provides an in-depth yet accessible explanation of the foundational principles of constitutional and administrative law in the European Union.

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

**Nadia Banteka**, the Gary & Sallyn Pajic Professor of Law, participated in the **2026 Carolina Law Scholarship Roundtable on Immigration, Policing, and Detention** at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Hosted and organized by Professor **Elisha Jain**, the roundtable convened a select group of the nation's leading scholars to workshop cutting-edge policing and immigration law scholarship.

Professor Banteka presented her latest paper, "Police-Created Suspicion," co-authored with Professor **Erika Nyborg-Burch**. The paper critiques modern Fourth Amendment doctrine, scrutinizing how law enforcement practices can inadvertently manufacture the very legal suspicion used to justify searches and seizures, and proposes a framework to protect civil liberties.

**Jacob Eisler**, the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, recently published an article in *Compact Magazine* titled, "Toward Race-Blind Democracy."

Professor Eisler expands on the Supreme Court's latest ruling on *Louisiana v. Cates*, the overall response from scholars and politicians, and an examination of Justice Elena Kagan's dissent.

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

**Ryan Owens**, Affiliate Faculty at the College of Law and Director of the **Institute for Governance and Civics (IGC)**, was recently quoted in an *Florida State University News* article titled, "FSU expert explains how interactive civics education can reconnect younger Americans with Memorial Day."

Director Owens shares how the IGC is incorporating immersive teaching methods to engage younger Americans with the holiday's history.

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

**Patricia Born**, Courtesy Professor of Law and the Payne H. & Charlotte Hodges Midyette Eminent Scholar in Risk Management & Insurance at the Herbert Wertheim College of Business, recently provided insight and was available for media commentary on her academic specialty in Risk Management and Insurance on the topic of the **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season** during a virtual media briefing.

### Save the Date: FSU AI Day 2027

We are proud to announce that the second annual **AI Day in the Capital** will be held at the Florida State University College of Law campus on **Friday, January 22, 2027**.

FSU's AI Day in the Capital brings together leaders in government, law, technology, and academics across disciplines to examine the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence and its implications for public institutions, civic infrastructure, and ethical governance.

Save the date on your calendars. More details on the day's program topics and schedule will be shared in the coming months. We look forward to your attendance!

### FSU Law Social Spotlight

The College of Law honors Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor's legacy from the beginning of her deanship to the present day.

Dean O'Hara O'Connor's leadership has shaped our community in lasting ways, and we are thankful for the compassion and support shown to our Dean from our legal community.

Join us on social media as we continue to celebrate all of the people, leadership, and milestones that define the legacy of FSU Law.



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.](#)